

TelecomPioneers Playground Maps - Teaching the Value of Geography

What If Geography Were Fun?

What if you could travel across country, without leaving your school playground?

What if your teacher asked you to toss a beanbag to Texas, all the way from Seattle?

What if you wanted to stand at the lowest point in the United States, but you lived in Atlanta?

What if you want to visit the home of Alexander Graham Bell in Nova Scotia, but your home is in Vancouver?

All those “what ifs” have the same answer: Your school needs a Pioneer Playground map!

What If Geography Were Easy?

The Pioneers developed the playground map project to help elementary school children in Canada and the United States gain a better understanding of geography.

By painting a large (20 by 30 foot), colorful map on playground asphalt or concrete, Pioneers provide students and their teachers with a tangible method of learning geography through games and challenges.



How Is The Map Created?

Hours of preliminary planning and enlistment of 15 or more volunteers are critical to the Pioneer map project.

Pioneers meet with school officials to determine where playground space is available. A survey of the grounds and the collection of supplies – extended handle paint rollers, disposable roller covers and sponge brushes, plus the paint itself – must be completed well in advance.

Ground surface temperatures must be above 50 degrees Fahrenheit or 10 degrees Centigrade for more than 12 hours prior to painting. The surface must be thoroughly cleaned before work can begin.

A special template, or heavy plastic sheet, is supplied to the volunteers. It contains a dotted outline of the country and its states or provinces. Water-filled milk jugs or other plastic containers hold the template in place, while white spray paint creates the dotted pattern on the surface.



Who Are These Volunteers?

The Pioneers make up the world's largest industry-related volunteer organization. Members apply skills learned in the telecommunications industry to the communities in which they live.

Connect the dots, paint each territory a different color and, suddenly, there is your nation in living color! The process can take up to four days for completion.

The **Sherwin-Williams** paint company generously offers Pioneers a significant discount on paint, brushes and other paint products. The discount plan has been added to the S-W discount database, thus making it easy for all stores to verify the partnership.

For additional information on the partnership and discounts, please call: 1-800-872-5995.



Putting Youth on the Map!

TelecomPioneers **PLAYGROUND**

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In 2002-2003, the TelecomPioneers contributed over \$52.5 million dollars in volunteer time back to our communities!