

Shire Town Shuffle

Objective:

This activity is designed to identify Vermont's county seats (shire towns) by latitude and longitude.

Grade Level: 4-8

Materials Needed:

Shire Town Cards

Directions:

1. Before starting the activity, let students know that each county in Vermont has a "county seat" or town/city where the county court and possibly other county and state offices may be found. This town may also be called a "shire town".
2. Review with students the terms **latitude** and **longitude**. Ask students to stand on a line of latitude and ask for a few volunteers to share with the class what line they are standing on. Some students may need help in reading lines of latitude and longitude that include decimals.
3. Ask students to stand on a line of longitude and ask for a few volunteers to share the line they are standing on.
4. Ask all students to stand on 45.0 degrees North. Let students know this line is halfway between the Equator and North Pole.
5. Distribute the 15 shire town cards so that each group or student (depending on the number of students participating) has one.
6. Each group should take a turn finding the location identified on the card and stand on the city.
7. Groups will take turns sharing out their location (latitude/longitude), county seat, and county.



What about Bennington County?

Bennington County has two county seats. Bennington is known as the "South Shire" and Manchester is known as the "North Shire." Most state and county business now takes place only in Bennington. Students can research the history of the county and the reason for having two different county seats.

Card #	Latitude/Longitude	City	County
1	44.41°N 72.03°W	St. Johnsbury	Caledonia
2	43.61°N 72.97°W	Rutland (City)	Rutland
3	44.47°N 73.2°W	Burlington	Chittenden
4	44.26°N 72.58°W	Montpelier	Washington
5	44.59°N 72.62°W	Hyde Park	Lamoille
6	44.94°N 72.21°W	Newport (City)	Orleans
7	44°N 73.15°W	Middlebury	Addison
8	43.62°N 72.52°W	Woodstock	Windsor
9	44.54°N 71.6°W	Guildhall	Essex
10	44.8°N 73.31°W	North Hero	Grand Isle
11	43.99°N 72.46°W	Chelsea	Orange
12	42.87°N 73.2°W	Bennington	Bennington
13	44.8°N 73.09°W	St. Albans (City)	Franklin
14	42.98°N 72.66°W	Newfane	Windham
15	43.18°N 73.07°W	Manchester	Bennington

