V...The Wandering Magnetic Pole

Purpose:
To investigate the nature of the magnetic North Pole, a position that is often thought of as constant but, in fact, moves significantly over the years.

Objective:
To develop perceptual abilities using polar coordinates, a frame of reference new to many students.

Procedure:
1) Make transparencies of any desired materials from the student activity pages in Activities VI, VII and VIII.
2) Copy and distribute the student activity pages.
3) Introduce the material in a manner suited to the class level:
   A) Ninth grade students may need some introduction to some (or each) separate activity.
   B) Twelfth grade students should be able to work all activities with no intervention by the teacher.
4) Go over some (or all) of the responses using a transparency key done by the teacher. Discuss the precision available in the data and maps in light of the variations in responses from students that may be considered equivalent.

Extension and Homework Assignments:
Blank map grids are provided for the teacher to create custom assignments similar to activities VI, VII and VIII.

Activity VIII can be used as a homework assignment by selecting a different pair of dates (for example 1500 – 1600) and having the students answer questions 1 to 4 in Activity VIII.