



Where are we?



Using a GPS.



Is it here?



Found it!

Hi-tech Hide-and-Seek

by **Fiona Bayrock**

Evan Morelli is a treasure hunter. He's found more than 127 treasures, in forests, up mountains, along rivers, and in towns. Evan is just nine years old.

Evan and his family are part of a new sport called geocaching (GEE-oh-CASH-ing). "Geo" means "earth", and "caching" means "hiding something for later". Geocachers are people who look for things (caches) that other people have hidden.

"You use maps, but they're built into a computer called a GPS," explains Evan. GPS is short for global positioning system. A GPS is about the size of half a sandwich. Satellites orbiting Earth send signals to Evan's GPS to tell him where he is anywhere on the planet. A GPS also tells Evan how to get to another place, such as where a cache is hidden.

Evan and his dad look up their postal code at www.geocaching.com for a list of nearby caches. They pick one. "The GPS tells us which way to go and how far," says Evan.

A cache is usually right next to a public path. But it's hidden — maybe inside a tree stump, behind a log, or under a footbridge. You've probably walked past a cache without knowing it! A cache might be a peanut butter jar or other waterproof container full of small treasures, such as toys, coins, CDs, or keychains. When geocachers find a cache, they take something. They leave something else in return, though. Then, they sign the logbook and hide the cache for the next treasure hunter.

Geocachers are kind to the environment. Many geocachers take a garbage bag along and pick up garbage as they go. Go CITO-ing (Cache In, Trash Out)!