



From finding food, water and shelter to traveling for trade and eventually exploring the world, humans have always had to find their way from one place to another. Our earliest ancestors relied on built-in navigation systems in our brains and followed clues, like star patterns and animal behavior. Then came the invention of maps, faster transportation and eventually technology, like satellites and GPS. Where will we go next?



Photo credit: Grace McDonald

About the Author

Maria Birmingham is the award-winning author of several books for young people, including *Are We Having Fun Yet?*, *The Human Quest for a Good Time* and *Snooze-O-Rama: The Strange Ways That Animals Sleep*. She lives in Brampton, Ontario, with her family.

1. The title of this book is *Are We There Yet? How Humans Find Their Way*. Why do you think the author chose this title? What does it mean to you?
2. In chapter 1, what did you learn about the human brain's role in navigation? Do you consider yourself to have a good sense of direction? Why or why not? Do you have any tricks to keep from getting lost when you're in a new place?
3. Humans have been creating maps for over 25,000 years. Were you surprised by some of the examples of the earliest maps?
4. Today, we can use our smartphones to find our way. What were some of the unique tools and strategies that early humans used to navigate throughout the world beside maps?
5. In recent years, how has technology changed the way we get around in our surroundings? Can you imagine what future inventions might be used to help us navigate?
6. What methods of transportation have been used or invented to make it easier for humans to get around? Can you come up with a time line of these modes of transportation? How do you think transportation affected humans and their relationships with the world and each other?
7. What do you think about all the efforts being made to send people into space? Would you ever consider a flight or long journey into orbit? Why or why not?
8. What do you think travel will look like in the future? Can you imagine any new modes of transportation? Or some kind of technology that will speed up how we get from here to there?
9. What surprised you most as you read through this book?
10. Did the book make you think differently about how humans find their way around their cities, countries or the world and beyond?

