Walmart’s Introduction to Geocaching and GPS Handheld Devices
Background

- **What is Geocaching?**
  Geocaching is a technology-based outdoor activity that challenges players to find hidden objects (small waterproof objects) with a GPS (Global Positioning System) receiver.

One player hides a cache and then posts GPS coordinates of the location on a geocaching site such as www.geocaching.com, owned by a profit-driven company called Groundspeak, Inc. Registered members who are close to the coordinates search for the cache.
Background

• History

According to Wikipedia, the first cache was placed on May 3, 2000, by Dave Ulmer of Beavercreek, Oregon. Groundspeak had not been formed and he used the Usenet newsgroup sci.geo.satellite-nav to post his GPS coordinates. Usenet is a text-based e-group format established in 1980.
Background

• **Groundspeak**
  According to *Wikipedia*, Groundspeak has about 80 employees, called in-house Lackeys, who take care of the website as well as financial and legal matters, marketing and advertising. They are also assisted by a group of over 450 Groundspeak volunteers.
Background

• **Growth**

According to *Wikipedia*, *Groundspeak* was formed in September 2000 and headquartered in Seattle, Washington. It is the operator of the largest geocaching platform on the Internet, *Geocaching.com*. By its own account, more than 15 million geocachers are registered on the portal (as of February 2016).
Equipment

• **GPS Receiver**

  Handheld GPS receivers have existed since the devices were used by military personnel serving in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia during the 1991 Gulf War. Following the war, the manufacturer, named Garmin, introduced personal GPS devices for recreation. The Garmin eTrex line is considered geocaching friendly.
Equipment

- **Smartphone Wireless-Assisted GPS**
  A GPS-enabled phone requires a calling plan that supports transmission of maps and GPS data as well as a service plan or software that provides the actual maps and directions or provides information about the phone’s location.

Smartphones are not as durable as recreational GPS devices and less flexible batteries (GPS devices use AA batteries).
Equipment

When Garmin published this video showcasing the Garmin eTrex10 (Aug 1, 2012), this handheld was considered an entry level handheld GPS receiver. The eTrex 10 is still sold at Walmart for $81.82

A Beginner’s Guide to GPS produced in association with Garmin
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4GA0SKlf4s
Today, the Garmin’s eTrex20 is considered an entry level handheld GPS receiver.

- 2.2” color display, 240 x 320 pixels
- 3.7GB internal memory
- High-sensitivity, WAAS-enabled GPS receiver with HotFix and GLONASS support
- Worldwide basemap with shaded relief
- Durable and waterproof
- Turn-by-turn driving directions
- Auto and rugged mounts
- microSD card slot
- Garmin HuntView
User Support

Cris Hazzard has produced a helpful video that explains how to download free maps for the Garmin eTrex20.

Cris’ site can be found at:
https://hikingguy.com

How To Get Free Garmin GPS Maps For Hiking
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDYtbo45YgE
User Support

For general guidance on how to set up and use a GPS unit, see Lyle Brotherton’s guide in the June 2012 issue of Trail Magazine.

Configuring Your eTrex