Geocaching Glossary

archived - when a cache has been removed and is no longer available

benchmark - surveyor's mark or point of reference

CITO - Cache In Trash Out - picking up trash as you geocache. Can be an event.

cache - Pronounced "cash". It is a hidden container filled with a log book and pencil/pen. Caches were often used by explorers, miners, etc. to hid foodstuffs and other items for emergency purposes.

datum - something used as a basis for calculating and measuring. In the case of GPS, datums are different calculations for determining longitude and latitude for a given location.

disabled - when a cache owner needs to do maintenance or replace a lost container. The cache page will list it as "disabled".

Earth cache - A special place that people can visit to learn about a unique geoscience feature or aspect of our Earth.

FTF - first to find

geomuggle or muggle - a non-geocacher. Based on "Muggle" from the Harry Potter series, which is a nonmagical person.

GPS - Global Positioning System. It is a system of satellites that work with a GPS receiver to determine your location on the planet.

GPSr - Slang for GPS receiver.

hitchiker --See Travel Bug (TB)

latitude - Latitude and Latitude create a waypoint. Latitude is the angular distance north or south from the earth's equator measured through 90 degrees.

letterboxing - similar to geocaching, but you use a series of clues to find a container. Once you find the container, you take a carved stamp from the box and stamp your personal logbook. You then take your carved stamp and stamp the letterbox's log book.

letterbox hybrid - a container that is listed on the letterboxing website and also on the geocaching site.

longitude - Longitude is the angular distance measured on a great circle of reference from the intersection of the adopted zero meridian with this reference circle to the similar intersection of the meridian passing through the object.

micro - a very small cache

Markwelled - when a response to a new post in the forums points you to a similar topic in the past. Based on the user Markwell.

multi cache - a series of caches make up one "find".

NAD27 - Stands for North American Datum 1927. The precursor to WGS84. Many maps still use the NAD27 datum, so always check before using a GPS unit with a map.

nano - smaller than a micro cache.

spoiler - information that can give details away and ruin the experience of something. For example, telling someone the end of a movie before they see it. In geocaching, a spoiler gives away details of a cache location and can ruin the experience of the hunt.

TFTC - thanks for the cache

TNLNSL or TNSL - Took nothing. Left nothing. Signed log.   or   Took nothing. Signed log.

Travel Bug (TB) - An item that has a trackable tag or number. Sometimes left in a cache to be picked up, logged online, and moved to another cache.

Virtual - Adapted from "Virtual Reality," virtual means "nothing there." So a virtual cache means there is no cache container. It's the location that is the cache itself. Nothing is normally traded, except photos and experiences.

WAAS - stands for Wide Area Augmentation System.

watchlist - list of users that are watching a specific travel bug or cache.

waypoint - names coordinates representing points on the surface of the Earth.

WGS84 - The most current geodetic datum used for GPS is the World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84). The significance of WGS84 comes about because GPS receivers rely on WGS84. Geocaching uses the WGS84 datum by default. We also use the format HDDD MM.MM, which is standard for GPS receivers (like the eTrex).

HDD means Hemisphere and degrees. MM.MM are minutes in decimal format. It is critical that the format is correct.