

Your point is interesting and solicits further discussion. I wrote the following “depends on your point of view piece” for consideration only to catch heck from the Elisabethian on the other end of the couch. She is not keen on my prose and suggests it makes women look weak or stupid. Unfortunately, I have not figured out a politically correct way to get the point across. My point is that one of the fundamental differences between male and female is special orientation not that women are in any way less intelligent.

Let’s change hats for a minute and look at this oral navigation system from the perspective of behavioural psychology. Prehistoric boating was a higher risk venture than today’s harbour cruise. No life jackets, no charts no compass. While it is true our prehistoric copper miners could navigate by the stars the open lake is a dangerous place for a canoe.

Diving instructors are familiar with the term “surface” dependency. Our prehistoric mariner miners had “shore dependency.” It could also be said that they are “field” dependent. People do not find their way around the world, or the parking lot, the same way. The hunters operate a little differently than the gatherers. This is not a universal, but women are generally more field dependent than men. Ask a woman how to get to McDonalds and you will, understand my point. Alternatively, when a woman asks a man for directions they may find it just as confusing.

If you ask a woman how to get to McDonalds you might get an answer something like this.

Turn right out of the driveway and drive until you reach the stop sign next to the house with a red roof and turn right and drive until you go over the overpass then you keep going. You pass the store that sells nuts on the right and keep going until you reach town. You will go through several sets of traffic lights but it is the ones on the corner that the drug store is on. You turn right here and McDonalds is on the same side of the road as Tim Hortons but past the Pita place.

Male directions:

Turn right out of the driveway head east turn right, south at the stop sign and turn right, east, at highway three, McDonalds is on the North side of the road a kilometre from the intersection.

It is one of those men are from Mars, Women are from Venus things. Women are generally more field dependent than men. Men use more abstract often math dependent forms of special orientation such as longitude, latitude, Street Names, Street numbers, North, South, East, West as apposed travelling from landmark to landmark. If however, your wife likes to have a GPS in her car because it gives her someone new to argue with she may be taking things a little too far.

The safest way to travel long distances with the technology available was via this “shore dependent” oral chart and “coasting” the North Shore of Georgian Bay and Lake Superior. If you are doing a little copper mining at Isle Royale this works great until you reach the Sleeping Giant in the area of the Sea Lion rock formation that we find so interesting. From this area you head South across the open lake to Isle Royale. It would have been one of the most challenging parts of the journey and if that is *Misshepezhieu* there is a reason he is associated with death on the lake.