

Maps and Real-World Directions

READ ALOUD PASSAGE

Left and right depend on which way your body is facing, so they cannot give directions another person can reliably follow. North, East, South, and West are fixed and the same for everyone. You can find them using the sunrise or a compass.

A compass works because the Earth itself behaves like a giant magnet, and the needle lines up with that field. A map is a bird's-eye drawing that keeps direction and relative position and drops everything else. It needs a compass rose to be read correctly.

A round Earth cannot flatten into a map without distortion. Mercator sacrifices size, Gall-Peters sacrifices shape, and Robinson compromises on both a little. Because of Mercator-style stretching near the poles, Africa looks small on many classroom maps. It is actually about 14 times the size of Greenland.

Activity 1: Word Builder

Answer each question with your own words.

1. List four nouns you might find on a map.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

2. List three adjectives that describe a map.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Activity 2: Sentence Scramble

These words are mixed up. Put them in order to make a sentence. Start with a capital letter and end with a period.

1. needs / read / to / it / compass / rose / a / correctly / be

Activity 3: Grow a Sentence

This sentence is very short. Answer each question to add more information. Then put your answers together into one longer sentence.

START WITH THIS SENTENCE

The needle points.

When?

Where?

How?

Why?

Write your expanded sentence:

Activity 4: Statement or Question?

Read each sentence. Write S if it is a statement or Q if it is a question. Then add the correct end mark on the line.

- ☐ 1. Why does a compass needle point north ____
- ☐ 2. Africa is much bigger than Greenland ____
- ☐ 3. Can a round Earth flatten without stretching ____
- ☐ 4. A compass rose shows directions ____

Activity 5: Sentence Scramble

These words are mixed up. Put them in order to make a sentence. Start with a capital letter and end with a period.

1. them / the / can / you / or / using / find / a / compass / sunrise

2. is / times / the / actually / size / 14 / of / Greenland / about / it

3. Earth / distortion / round / a / cannot / without / a / into / flatten / map
