

Reading and Drawing Maps

READ ALOUD PASSAGE

A map is a bird's-eye view of an area drawn to scale. Scale means that everything on the map is made smaller by the same amount. If one inch on the map equals one mile in real life, that is the scale. Using scale, you can use a map to figure out real distances.

Making a map requires deciding what to include, choosing a scale, and keeping everything proportional. You can make a map of something small, like a classroom or a schoolyard, or something large, like a city or a country. The same rules apply no matter the size.

Reading a map requires understanding a few important things. A compass rose shows which direction is north, south, east, and west on the map. A legend or key explains what the symbols on the map mean. Contour lines on some maps show elevation, which is how high or low the land is.

Most maps are drawn with north at the top. This makes it easy to match a map with a compass. When you combine a map with a compass, you can navigate, which means you can figure out where you are and how to get where you are going.

Activity 1: Finish with a Joining Word

Finish each sentence. The word in bold tells you what kind of idea to add.

1. You can figure out real distances **when** _____.

2. Choose a scale **before** _____.

3. Check the compass rose **if** _____.

Activity 2: Brainstorm Details

Read the topic sentence. Write four key words or phrases that could support it. Do not write full sentences.

TOPIC SENTENCE

A map has parts that help you read it.

Key words and phrases:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Activity 3: 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. the / no / rules / apply / the / matter / size / same

2. reading / a / map / things / requires / important / a / understanding / few

Science Mad Lib

Fold the page on the dashed line so the story is hidden. Write a word for each blank. Then unfold the page, copy your words into the story, and read it aloud.

1 _____
A name

2 _____
A noun

3 _____
A number

4 _____
A noun

5 _____
A noun

FOLD HERE

THE STORY

_____ drew a map of their _____. On the map, one inch stood for
_____ feet. That's the scale. They added a compass rose with north at the
top and a legend to explain the symbols. In the legend, a tiny _____ meant
"tree." Then _____ buried _____ and marked the spot with an X.
Their friend used the map and a compass to find it in two minutes flat.