

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.

All standard maps are oriented 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

Turn each fragment into a complete sentence.

1. oriented with north at the top

2. the scale of the map and real distances

Activity 2

Because / But / So Complete each sentence three different ways.

A map uses scale because

A map uses scale but

A map uses scale so

Activity 3

Circle True or False for each statement.

1. **True / False** A map is a bird's-eye view of an area drawn to scale.
2. **True / False** Scale means every object on a map is drawn at its real-life size.
3. **True / False** You can use a map's scale to figure out real distances.
4. **True / False** North is always shown at the top of a map.