

LESSON 11:

MAP MASTERS

SUPPLIES

FOLDER

- Paper (40)


PENCIL BOX

- Pencils
- Markers
- Scissors

OBJECTIVES

- Students will explore how maps communicate spatial information.
- Students will use map keys and symbols as they design their own maps


HOOK

 2 min

Have you ever wanted to create your own map? Maps aren't just tools for finding your way, they're a way to tell a story about a place. Today, you get to be the cartographer!

- Consider this:
 - What important features would you include?
 - How would someone use your map to explore or understand the area?
 - What symbols or colors would make it easy to read?

INTRODUCTION

 5 min

One of the most important skills in understanding our world is learning how to read maps. Whether you're planning a trip, studying a new place, or simply trying to find your way, maps help us make sense of space, direction and the world around us.

Today, we'll dive into the exciting work of cartographers. Cartographers are the people who design and create maps. Cartography is both an art and a science, using symbols, scale, and careful design to communicate important information about various places.



But we won't just be reading maps, we'll be creating our own, using the tools and techniques real cartographers use to represent the world around them!



DISCUSSION 5 min

Today's task is all about thinking spatially, using symbols, and mastering the art of map making. With the help of a few map facts, you'll become a master cartographer, navigator and adventurous explorer!

ACTIVITY PART I: MAP FACTS 5-10 min



- Begin by discussing the map components below with the class. Then, allow students to observe and discuss.
 - Compass Rose:** A compass rose is a small picture on a map that shows directions. It indicates North, South, East, and West.
 - Map Key:** A map key is a special box that explains what the pictures or symbols on the map mean. It helps you understand what you're looking at. For example, a tiny tree might mean a park, and a star might mean a secret base!
 - Labels:** Labels are words on a map that name places or things. They tell you what each place is called, like "School."
 - Symbols:** Symbols are small pictures or shapes that stand for real places or things on a map. For example, a  might show where your spy clubhouse is, and a  might show a blocked area. The map key tells you what each symbol means.



Compass Rose:

- A compass rose shows cardinal directions: North, South, East, and West.
- The sun rises in the East and sets in the West.
- Once you find North, you are able to determine all directional points.
- Tip: "Never Eat Soggy Waffles" helps remember the order of your cardinal directions.

Symbols:

- Map symbols are tiny pictures on a map that show where different things are.
- Example: A  might mean a mountain, and  could mean a forest.
- You can find the meanings of map symbols in the map key or legend.



Map Key:

- A map key, or legend, labels each map symbol so that the map is clear and easy to read.
- Map keys are like the "secret code" that tells you what each symbol means on a map.

Map Scale:

- A map scale details how far apart things are on the map in real life. For example, 1 inch on the map might equal 1 mile in real life.
- A map scale helps to measure distance that is essential for navigation.



ACTIVITY PART 2: MAKING A MAP 25 min

1. Handout materials to students (Pencils, markers, scissors, paper)
2. Ask students to create a map of an imaginary place. This could be a park, a town, a school, a theme park, or even an imaginary location. Get creative!
3. Students should include a map key with at least 3 symbols (e.g. tree = forest) found within their map.
4. Students should add map elements like a compass rose and spatial scale to show direction.
5. Bonus: Encourage students to add fun bonus elements to their map like creative details, secret shortcuts or even a treasure hunt!



DISCUSS 5 min

Discuss as a class the process of map making:

- What did you learn about maps today?
- What makes a map difficult or easy to follow?
- How do symbols help navigators read maps?



Exit Ticket



Ask each student one of the following questions as they walk out the door.

- Q: What is cartography?
 - A: The science of making maps.
- Q: What is a location indicator?
 - A: A location indicator or location identifier is an arrow or a marker that uniquely identifies a specific place or location.
- Q: Can you name an example of a map symbol?
 - A: Examples can include a triangle for a mountain, a tree for a forest, a black dot for a town, a blue line for a river, and a star for a capital city.