



Creative Map Making

4th-7th Grades

OVERVIEW:

In this activity you will create a map of a place from your imagination. You will learn about the things that a map includes and will gain knowledge about maps that can help you to read a map in the future.

Connections to NGSS:

This activity supports the crosscutting concept of how we can observe and develop models to understand the world around us. Students investigate evidence found in nature to better understand the relationships between biotic and abiotic things in an ecosystem.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to...

- Work creatively to make their own map
- Identify features of a map such as the compass and key, and what information they provide
- Apply their skills learned from creating a map to reading other maps

Materials List:

We recommend paper and some kind of writing utensil, but you can also do this project on a computer program that allows you to draw.

You are welcome to be creative and use what you have available.

Introduction

In this activity you will be creating a map of a place that you make up. It can be a real place that you have visited, or it can be a place that you make up from imagination. You may have looked at maps before, and if so you are welcome to use your knowledge of maps in this activity.

You will be creating a map of a place from your imagination, and it is up to you to decide what kind of place you create. Some examples could include an island, a country, a town, or a theme park. You should think creatively and include anything that you would want to have in your ideal place, providing that it is appropriate for school.

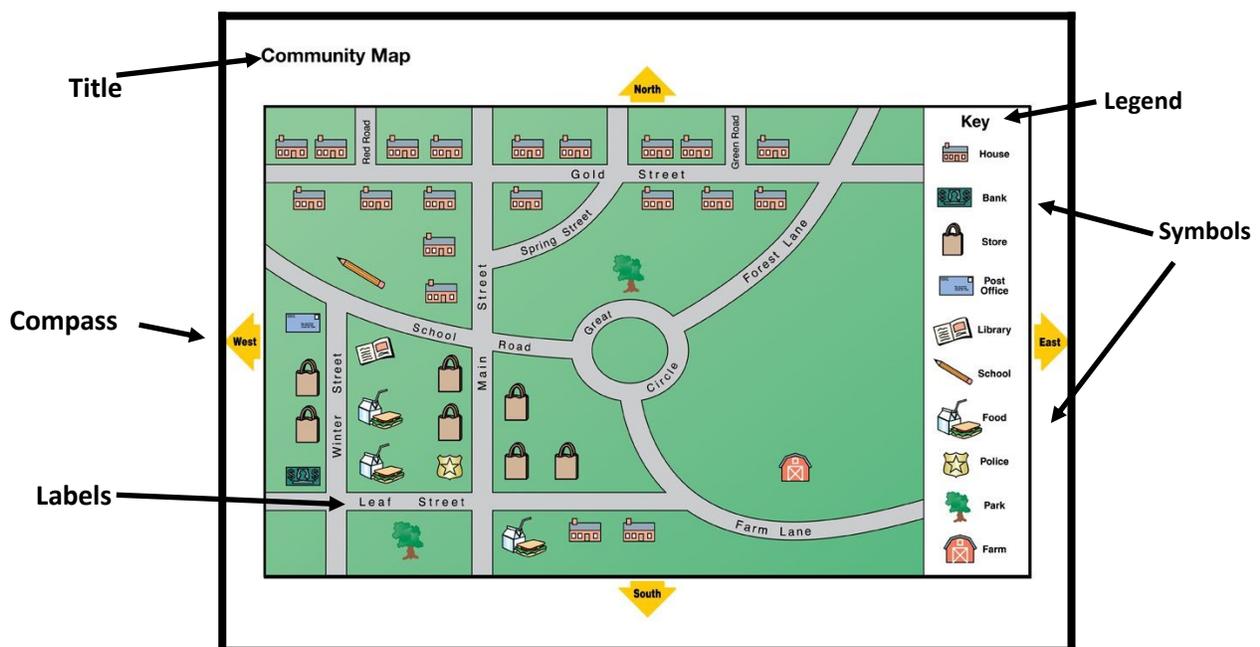
It might be helpful to brainstorm a list of your favorite things or places that you really like in order to gather some inspiration for your map.

When you are ready, you'll want to take some time to think about the required list of items for your map below. Read through the list and start to plan:

Required Elements

Your map must include the following components:

- A Title—give your map a title that describes your imaginary place. Feel free to be creative!
- A Compass—include a symbol to indicate the directions of North, South, East and West on your map
- A Legend—sometimes called a key. The legend is a box where you can define the meaning of the symbols on your map
- Symbols—use symbols to represent things, places or other features that you include on your map
- Labels—use labels to identify location names and other features



Making Your Map

When you are ready, create your map! You can do this on paper, in a notebook or even on a computer if you have a program for drawing.

There are no directions or rules for making your map except that you need to include the required items on the first page. The rest is open to your creativity.

You can refer to the examples of maps attached to this activity description to help inspire you.

If you have worked with maps before, feel free to draw on your prior knowledge of maps! There are all kinds of maps that you could think about creating:

- Trail map for hiking
- City map to navigate through streets
- Country or continent map
- Event map of a place such as a concert or theme park
- Site map of a place such as an apartment complex or campsite
- Town map

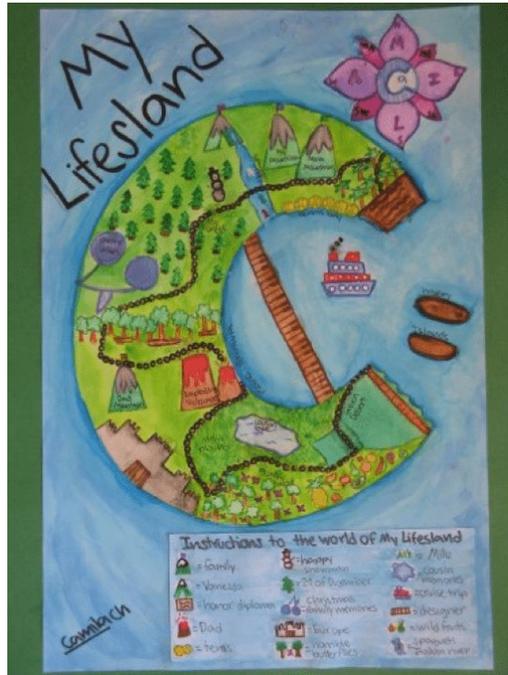
Take as much time as you need to complete your map. Feel free to use color if you would like. When you have completed it, take some time to answer the reflection questions below to reflect on your creation.

Reflection

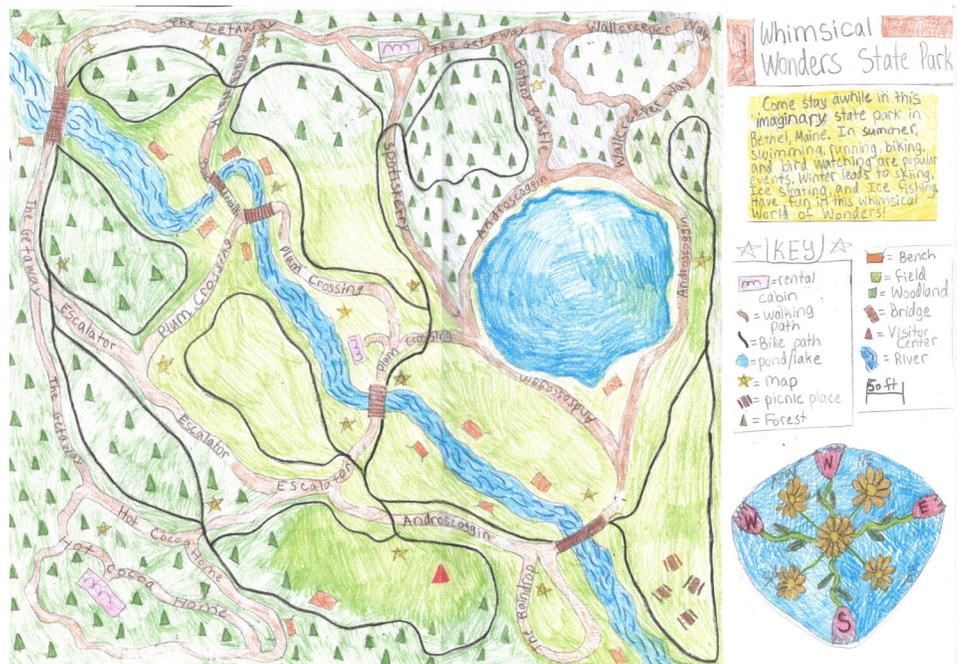
1. What is your favorite part of your map?
2. How difficult or easy was it to create your map? Why?
3. If you have ever seen or used maps before, how is your map similar or different to maps you have used?
4. Why did you decide to create a map of the place that you chose?
5. If someone were to use your map to explore your fictional land, do you think they would be able to navigate it accurately? Why or why not?
6. Are maps useful in everyday life? Why or why not?

Map Examples

Here are some examples of drawings of maps of fictional places that may help to inspire you.



<https://oscarlearnoscarteach.tumblr.com/search/autobiography-island?og=1>



<https://oshernmaps.org/contest/>