

Map Skills Review — Using Map Keys, Scale, and Compass Rose

Base Sheet

The child reviews essential map skills: reading a map key/legend, understanding scale (near/far, big/small on maps), and using the compass rose for cardinal directions. They apply these skills to read a real map of their town or neighborhood.

What You Need:

- Local area map (printed or from an atlas)
- Blank paper for child's map
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Colored pencils
- Compass (optional)

Steps:

1. 'Maps are tools that help us understand places. Today we review the skills of a master map reader!'
2. Map key/legend. 'Symbols on a map represent real things. The KEY tells us what each symbol means.' Practice reading a map key.
3. Compass rose. 'North, South, East, West. North is usually at the top. If you face North, East is to your right.'
4. Scale. 'Maps are much smaller than the real world. The SCALE tells us how far apart things really are.'
5. Apply to a real map: find your home (approximate), the nearest park, a store, a body of water.
6. Give directions using cardinal directions: 'To get to the park, go North on Main Street, then East on Oak Road.'
7. The child creates a simple map of their neighborhood with key, compass rose, and labels.

Work Space:

