Name: _____ Date: _____

The Map Key Is a Secret Decoder

Circle group

A map is a picture of a place. It shows the place from high above. It has small pictures called symbols. A tree can mean a park. A blue line can mean a river.

How do you know what a symbol means? Look at the map key. The key is a box on the map. It shows each symbol. It tells you what it means.

Find the school symbol in the key. Then look for that symbol on the map. There it is!

Questions

1. What is a map?

_____

_____

2. What can a blue line mean?

_____

_____

3. Where do you look to learn what a symbol means?

_____

_____

4. What does the key tell you?

_____

_____

5. Why do you need a map key?

_____

_____

Words to know

symbol: a small picture that stands for something else
key: a box on a map that explains the symbols
river: a long stream of water that flows across land

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Map Key Is a Secret Decoder

Triangle group

A map shows land as if you were a bird up high. It uses small drawings called symbols. A tiny tree might mean a park. A blue line might mean a river.

How can you tell what each symbol means? Look for the map key. The key is a little box on the map. It lists each symbol and tells you its meaning.

Say you want to find a school. Look in the key for the school symbol. Then look on the map for the same symbol. You found it!

Questions

1. What is a map?

_____

_____

2. What might a blue line mean?

_____

_____

3. Where do you look to learn what a symbol means?

_____

_____

4. What does the map key show?

_____

_____

5. Why is a map key helpful?

_____

_____

Words to know

symbol: a small picture that stands for something else
key: a box on a map that explains the symbols
river: a long stream of water that flows across land
meaning: what something tells you or stands for

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Map Key Is a Secret Decoder

Square group

A map is a drawing of a place as it would look from far above. Instead of showing every detail, a map uses small pictures called symbols. A tiny tree might stand for a park, and a blue line might stand for a river.

How can you tell what each symbol means? You can study the map key, which is a small box somewhere on the map. The key shows every symbol and explains what each one means.

Suppose you are trying to find a school. First, look in the key for the school symbol. Then search the map for the matching symbol. Now you know exactly where the school is!

Questions

1. What is a map, and how does it show a place?

_____

_____

2. What might a blue line stand for?

_____

_____

3. Where can you study what each symbol means?

_____

_____

4. What does the map key show and explain?

_____

_____

5. Why would a map be hard to read without a key?

_____

_____

Words to know

symbol: a small picture that stands for something else
key: a box on a map that explains the symbols
river: a long stream of water that flows across land

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: The Map Key Is a Secret Decoder

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: The Map Key Is a Secret Decoder

Easier · 83 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0

1. A picture of a place.
2. A river.
3. In the map key.
4. What each symbol means.
5. It tells you what the symbols mean.

Triangle: The Map Key Is a Secret Decoder

This passage · 90 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.6

1. A drawing of land as if seen from up high.
2. A river.
3. In the map key.
4. Each symbol and its meaning.
5. Without it, you would not know what the symbols mean.

Square: The Map Key Is a Secret Decoder

Harder · 111 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.3

1. A drawing of a place as seen from far above.
2. A river.
3. In the map key.
4. Every symbol and what each one means.
5. You would not know what the symbols stand for.