Name: _____ Date: _____

A Map Maker Picks What to Show

Circle group

A map is a small picture of a big place. A map maker cannot put in everything. The map would be too full. So she has to pick.

First, she asks what the map is for. Hikers need trails and hills. Drivers need roads. A zoo map shows paths and animals.

Next, she picks symbols. A tent can mean a campsite. A blue line can mean a river. She adds a key. A key is a box that tells what each symbol means.

Last, she checks her work. A good map must be right. Then no one gets lost.

She asks one thing. What does the reader need to find?

Questions

1. Why can a map maker not put in everything?

_____

_____

2. What do hikers need on a map?

_____

_____

3. What is a key on a map?

_____

_____

4. Why does a zoo map show paths and animals?

_____

_____

5. Why does a map maker check her work?

_____

_____

Words to know

symbol: a small picture that stands for something
trails: paths made for walking outdoors
key: a box on a map that explains the symbols

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: _____

A Map Maker Picks What to Show

Triangle group

A map is a small picture of a big place. A map maker cannot put everything on it. If she did, the map would be too crowded to read. So she has to choose.

First, she asks what the map is for. A map for hikers needs trails, hills, and streams. A map for drivers needs roads and road names. A map for a zoo shows paths, animals, and where to find a snack.

Next, she picks symbols. A small tent can mean a campsite. A blue line can mean a river. She adds a key, which is a little box that tells what each symbol means.

Last, she checks her work. A good map has to be right, so people do not get lost.

Map makers use computers today, but they still think about the same question. What does the reader need to find?

Questions

1. Why can a map maker not put everything on a map?

_____

_____

2. What does a map for hikers need?

_____

_____

3. What is a key on a map?

_____

_____

4. Why would a zoo map show paths and animals but not roads across the country?

_____

_____

5. Why does a map maker check her work at the end?

_____

_____

Words to know

crowded: too full, with too many things close together
symbol: a small picture that stands for something
trails: paths made for walking outdoors
key: a box on a map that explains the symbols

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: _____

A Map Maker Picks What to Show

Square group

A map is a small picture of an enormous place, and a map maker cannot possibly fit everything onto it. If she tried, the map would be far too crowded to read. Instead, she has to make careful choices.

To begin, she asks what the map is for. A map for hikers needs trails, hills, and streams, while a map for drivers needs roads and road names. A map of a zoo shows the paths, the animals, and the place to buy a snack.

Then she chooses symbols. A tiny tent might mean a campsite, and a blue line might mean a river. She also adds a key, a small box that explains what each symbol means.

Finally, she checks her work, because a good map has to be accurate so that people do not get lost.

Even though map makers now use computers, they still ask the same question. What does the reader need to find?

Questions

1. Why can a map maker not fit everything onto a map?

_____

_____

2. What does a map for hikers need?

_____

_____

3. What is a key on a map?

_____

_____

4. Why does a zoo map show paths and animals but not roads across the country?

_____

_____

5. Why does a map maker check her work at the end?

_____

Words to know

crowded: too full, with too many things close together
symbol: a small picture that stands for something
trails: paths made for walking outdoors
key: a box on a map that explains the symbols

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: A Map Maker Picks What to Show

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

Circle: A Map Maker Picks What to Show

Easier · 110 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.2

1. The map would be too full to read.
2. Trails and hills.
3. A box that tells what each symbol means.
4. It is made for visitors, so it shows what they need to find there.
5. A good map must be right so no one gets lost.

Triangle: A Map Maker Picks What to Show

This passage · 145 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.8

1. The map would be too crowded to read.
2. Trails, hills, and streams.
3. A little box that tells what each symbol means.
4. A zoo map is made for visitors in the zoo, so it shows only what they need to find there.
5. A good map has to be right so people do not get lost.

Square: A Map Maker Picks What to Show

Harder · 157 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.5

1. The map would be far too crowded to read.
2. Trails, hills, and streams.
3. A small box that explains what each symbol means.
4. It is made for visitors in the zoo, so it shows only what they need to find there.
5. A good map has to be accurate so that people do not get lost.