



Introduction to Mapping: K-5 Activity Sheet

Activity 1: Mapping Close to Home

Grades K-2 Differentiation

Suggested materials: White paper, stickers, markers, pencils, pens

A mental map represents your personal perspective of an area you interact with. With your student, help them draw a map of the floor plan of the house. Their map should include some of the key map elements we learned about in the lesson, including a title and a legend.

Work through the following questions with your student:

1. Where do you spend most of your time?
 - Place a sticker or draw a star on the room where you spend the most time.
2. Right now, which room has the most people in it? Which room has the least?
3. Which direction does your front door face?
 - Suggested method: Use a compass app on your parent's smartphone. If able to find the orientation of the house, add a North Arrow to the map.
4. Which rooms have changed purpose now that you are learning from home?

Grades 3-5 Differentiation

Materials needed: White paper, stickers, markers, pencils, pens

A mental map represents your personal perspective of an area you interact with. Create a mental map of your route to school, starting from home. The maps should include a legend showing natural features (rivers, mountains) and human-made features (roads, buildings). Your mental map should also include other key map features like a title. If you are working with someone else, compare your map with theirs to see how your perspectives of the same landscape may differ or be the same. Remember, this mental map represents your perspective, so get creative and have fun!

Work through the following questions with your student:

1. What natural features did you put on your map?
2. What human-made features did you put on your map?
3. How does the landscape change throughout your route to school?
4. How does the landscape affect the route you take to school?

5. Think back on the different types of maps we learned about in the lesson. What type of map have you drawn?
6. Optional: What direction(s) does your route follow?
 - Suggested method: Using a parent’s smartphone, use the compass app to find the orientation of your map (North, South, East, West). Add a North Arrow to the map.

Activity 2: Claim your Castle (K-5)

Materials: Paper, markers, colored pencils or pens

This activity should introduce the students to spatial thinking. Have the student carry the tally box below around with them for the day or a few hours, marking each time they enter that room. If there are rooms in your house that you use a lot that are not listed below, add them in the blank rows.

Room	Tally
Living Room	
Bedroom	
Kitchen	
Bedroom	

Work through the following questions with your student:

- Which room can you claim as your castle (which do you use the most)?
- Which room do you use the least?
- What other patterns do you notice in your data?
- What are some possible factors that could have influenced which room got the most tallies?
 - Did you only keep track of your movement from room to room for a short period of time? How might your map look different if you recorded your movements for a shorter or longer period of time?
 - Were other people using certain rooms, making you less likely to frequent them?
 - Did the time of day affect your results? You may use your bedroom a lot at nighttime, but have no need to go there during the day. This could affect your results.