

Name _____

Date _____



Map Skills

"Mappy Maps"

Y'know, maps are pretty cool. They can tell us what something looks like, how to get somewhere and can give us information about places and people. You know, a map is kind of like a book. You need to know how to read it, or it doesn't make sense. But it's not that hard. Let's get it...

People ask me, "What's a map?"

A map is a drawing or photograph

That shows us any place from above,

It's a bird's-eye view that I love.

You can map any place, small or huge,

Here's a map of the world, and here's a map of my room.

Political maps have the borders of countries,

There's the US, there's Canada, trust me.

Maps color countries so they're easy to see,

And they have labels where the cities would be.

That dot is New York, that star is DC,

Because our capital is Washington, DC.

How did I know that capitals were stars?

I looked down at the legend, it's not far.

The legend, sometimes called the key,

Tells us what the symbols mean.

See, it says a dot is a big city,

A star is the capital city, now come with me.

There are more symbols that I'm counting,

That triangle means there's a mountain.

The blue line is a river,

There's a river by a mountain, go figure!

Now as you can see, a map is much smaller
Than the thing it represents, yeah holler!
“Oh, so New York’s not really an inch from DC?”
Nah it’s farther than that, trust me.
What’s the actual distance? Check the scale,
Which shows how big it is for real.
That’s the real distance, that’s the map distance,
200 miles, that’s what one inch is.
But the scale on each map is different,
So check the legend when you need assistance.
Physical maps show what the land is like,
And the color shows us the height.
So I can tell from looking at the map,
That this area is mountains, and this is flat.
Which way’s North? “Want me to ask ask Columbus?”
Nah, you can look at the compass rose,
Yeah that’s how you know.
Which way’s north, east, south, west, let’s go!

Mappy map, you know what to do with that,
Taking trips? here’s a tip: You could use a map.
Mappy map, and the legend has your back,
Here’s the key, follow me, now we’re using maps.

Mappy map, mappy mappy mappy map,
Taking trips? here’s a tip: You could use a map.
Mappy map, mappy mappy mappy map,
Here’s the key, follow me, now we’re using maps.

Yeah. And there are so many different kinds of maps! There are climate and weather maps that show us

storms. Some show us temperature. There are road maps that show roads. There are agricultural maps that show us where different plants or animals are raised. There are military maps that show us where battles happened and where armies marched. There are historical maps that show us what people thought the world looked like. There are maps of the moon, maps that show sports teams, a blueprint is like a map of a building, there are maps of galaxies, maps of every place in my house I hid a pickle, maps of how to get to my secret stash of Halloween candy from five years ago, maps of all the cute dogs in my neighborhood, maps of all the scary dogs in my neighborhood, maps of where to find the best maps, maps of where they filmed the TV show Mutant Ant Power Squad, you know M.A.P.S....