

Reading Maps: Scale and Legend

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Student will be able to read map scale and legend/symbols accurately and create their own scaled map with a legend.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Ruler
- graph paper
- pencil
- colored pencils
- a real map (atlas page, road map, or printed online map) for reference

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Look at a real map and identify its scale (e.g., '1 inch = 10 miles') and at least 4 legend symbols; write them down.
2. Choose a familiar outdoor space (backyard, park, or a room) to map using graph paper.
3. Measure the space's key dimensions with your ruler (or pace it off in steps if outdoors) and choose a scale for your map (e.g., 1 square = 2 feet).
4. Draw the space accurately to scale, including at least 5 features (trees, furniture, paths, structures).
5. Create your own legend in the corner of your map with at least 4 symbols and their meanings.

QUESTIONS

1. What scale did you choose for your map, and why did you pick it?
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2. List two symbols from your legend and what they represent.
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3. If your map used a scale of 1 inch = 10 miles and two cities were 3.5 inches apart on the map, how far apart are they in real life?
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4. Why is it important for every map to include both a scale and a legend?
