

30 - 45
Minute
Activity
For
Everyone

Community Mapping

For thousands of years, maps have been used as a tool to interpret geographical areas and navigate our way through the world. In the modern age of Google maps, the practice of creating hand drawn maps have decreased in popularity, however creating your own map is still a useful practice to deepen your sense of place. Follow this activity to create your own community map. You will connect with your neighborhood and be surprised at what you find that you didn't see before.



Additional Map Features:

Legend

A legend is a key or visual explanation of the symbols used throughout the map such as roads, water, forest, trails, etc. Create a legend to help others understand your map.

Compass Rose

A compass rose is a symbol indicating which direction the map is oriented.

Follow Up Activity/ Reflective Questions

- When you are out next in your neighborhood, bring your map with you and go to all the features shown on your map. When visiting each feature, ask yourself how accurate your map is and if there are any features that you forgot to put on your map. If you did forget something, why do you think that is?
- Consider making additional themed maps such as trees, colours or sounds of your neighborhood.

Activity:

- Gather the materials listed.
- Make a list of the places that make your community special to you. *To spark your thoughts on your favourite community places, ask yourself the following questions: What do you like to do? Where does your family shop? How do you get to school? Where does your family go out for dinner? Where is the nearest park? What is your favourite tree? Where is the biggest rock in your neighborhood, etc.*
- Once you've completed your list, draw a rough draft of your map. Focus on the geography of your local community such as roads, rivers, parks, etc.
- Draw in all the places you wrote down on your list. Make sure to label each place and add colour to your map, bringing it to life.
- Continue to add different places and features you want to include until you are satisfied with your map.
- After your map is complete, share it with your family and explain all the places you included and why they are important to you.

Materials Needed:

- Markers
- Coloured Pencils
- 2-3 Sheets of Paper
- Ruler
- Optional: Stickers, Art Supplies, etc.