

My Fantastic City Map Adventure!

Let's Explore Maps! (Introduction - 10 mins)

Start by asking: How do people know how to get from one place to another in a big city they've never visited before? What if you wanted to find the library or the park? Introduce the idea of a map! Spread out the example city maps. Say, "A map is like a bird's-eye view drawing of a place." Look at the maps together. What do you see? (Lines, shapes, words, pictures). Talk about how maps help us find our way.

Decoding the Clues: The Map Key! (Explore & Explain - 15 mins)

Point to the box with symbols on one of the example maps. "This is super important! It's called a Map Key or Legend. It's like a secret code decoder for the map!" Look at a symbol in the key (like a tree for a park, or a small building shape for a library). Then, find that symbol on the main map. Practice finding a few different places on the example maps using the key. Identify streets (usually lines), major buildings or landmarks (often special symbols or shapes), and maybe parks or water (often colored green or blue).

Become a Map Maker! (Activity - 25 mins)

Time to create your own map! You can map:

- Our street or neighborhood
- A made-up dream city!
- A map for your toys

Start by drawing the main roads or paths. Then, add important places – your house, a park, a store, a friend's house, a dragon's lair – whatever fits your map! Use simple shapes or drawings for these places.

Crucial Step: Make Your Key! In one corner of your map, draw a box for your Map Key. Inside the key, draw each symbol you used on your map, and write what it stands for next to it (e.g., draw a small square, and write '= House'; draw a green blob, and write '= Park').

Optional Fun: Use a ruler to draw straight roads. Use toy cars to 'drive' on your finished map. Use small blocks to represent buildings.

Show and Tell Map Tour (Wrap-up & Assessment - 10 mins)

Let's see your amazing map! Can you give a tour using your map? Point to a symbol on the map, then show me what it means in your map key. Where is the park? How would you get from your house to the store on your map? Ask: Why are map keys so helpful? Why do people use maps? Briefly review what was learned: maps show places from above, symbols stand for real things, and the key tells us what symbols mean.