

Materials You'll Need:

- Paper (large sheets like construction paper or butcher paper work well)
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Ruler (optional)
- A small object to hide as 'treasure' (like a toy, coin, or special rock)
- Optional: Used, cooled, damp tea bag (for aging the map)
- Optional: Stickers or small cutouts

Let's Go on a Treasure Hunt! (By Making Our Own Map!)

Ahoy, matey! Have you ever seen a map in a pirate story? Maps help people find their way, and treasure maps lead to hidden treasures! Today, we're going to become map-makers, also known as cartographers, and create our very own treasure maps.

What Do Maps Need?

Good maps have special parts to help people understand them:

1. **A Key or Legend:** This is like a dictionary for your map. It shows small pictures or symbols and tells you what they stand for in the real world (like a drawing of a tree symbol = Real Tree).
2. **A Compass Rose:** This shows directions: North, South, East, and West. It helps people know which way to go. Let's practice! Point North! Point South! Point East! Point West! (You can decide which wall is North in your room for today!)

Let's Make Your Treasure Map!

1. **Choose Your Location:** Where will your treasure be hidden? Your bedroom? The backyard? The living room? Pick a place you know well.
2. **Draw the Area:** On your paper, draw the basic shape of the location. Is it a square room? An L-shaped yard?
3. **Add Landmarks:** What important things are in this area? Draw your bed, a big tree, a sofa, a door, a bookshelf, a swing set. These are your landmarks!
4. **Create Your Key/Legend:** In a corner of your map, draw a box for your key. Inside, draw each symbol you used (like a little square for the bed) and write what it represents ('Bed').
5. **Draw a Compass Rose:** Add a compass rose to your map showing N, S, E, W. Make sure it matches the directions you decided on in the real space!
6. **Mark the Start:** Decide where someone should start their treasure hunt. Mark it with a special symbol (maybe footprints?). Add this symbol to your key.
7. **Hide the Treasure & Mark the Spot:** Now, secretly choose a spot in your location to hide the treasure. Mark this spot on your map with a big 'X'! Don't add the 'X' to your key - it's the secret treasure spot!
8. **Optional - Make it Look Old!:** Gently rub the damp, cool tea bag over your map. Let it dry completely. It will look like an ancient treasure map! (Ask a grown-up for help if needed).

Time for the Treasure Hunt!

1. Give your map to someone else (a parent, sibling, or friend) or wait a bit and try to find your own treasure later!
2. The treasure hunter uses the map, the key, the compass rose, and the landmarks to follow the path from the starting point to the 'X'.
3. Did they find the treasure? Hooray!

Map Maker Discussion

What was the most fun part? Was anything tricky? How did the key and compass rose help? You did a great job being a cartographer today!