

Activity 5

MAP IT OUT

When exploring nature, it is important to know where you are so you don't get lost. Our ancestors followed the sun and stars for direction, but today we mostly use GPS or a map. Get familiar with your neighborhood so that you can explore safely. Drawing your own map is a great way to learn your way around. When walking to an unfamiliar place, try drawing or writing down landmarks along the way to help you find your way back. You may also want to map out the way to a special nature spot so you can revisit it easily. For this activity, we will practice mapping what you can see and hear.

Skills

NOTICING

ARTS AND CRAFTS

USING CAUTION

LANGUAGE ARTS

SURVIVAL

Materials

NATURE JOURNAL
OR PAPER

COLORED PENCILS
PENCIL

- 1 Gather your journaling supplies and find a comfortable spot outside. This could be in your backyard, at a neighbor's house, in a local park, downtown, or at your favorite spot in the woods.
- 2 First, map out the physical area. Choose one colored pencil to use for all of your physical landmarks. Are there any unique trees? These could be helpful landmarks! Be sure to add in houses, roads, bodies of water, and nearby buildings. Draw pictures to represent what you can see and write in any important details, such as the name on a building or words on a sign.
- 3 Listen to the sounds around you. The trickle of a creek to your left or car noises ahead can be helpful in giving you a sense of direction. Practice your listening skills by writing the sounds you hear on your map, using words like "people talking," "dog barking," "trickling water," "car horn," or "birds singing."



DID YOU KNOW?

Some of the first maps were created on driftwood, bone, animal skins, and pebbles. Early maps were often local, showing people where things were within a limited area. It was helpful to map out important rivers and common trading routes to share with other members of the community.