

Map My Neighborhood

GEOGRAPHY



Overview

Students create a guided tour of their own neighborhood or community, practicing map skills and local geography while sharing their world with others.

Steps for Teachers

1. Discuss map skills: cardinal directions, landmarks, scale
2. Students sketch a simple map of their neighborhood
3. Students identify 5-6 important places to feature
4. Students write a tour script using directional language
5. Students create backgrounds representing local places
6. Students record their neighborhood tour using map vocabulary
7. Share tours to learn about classmates' communities

Example

A student tours their neighborhood. Character with a simple map: 'Welcome to my neighborhood! I live on Oak Street. If you go north, you'll find Lincoln Park—that's where I play soccer. East of the park is the library. I go there every Saturday! Head south on Main Street and you'll see my favorite bakery. To the west is my school—it takes 10 minutes to walk there. The fire station is on the corner—the firefighters wave when I walk by!'

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Developing
Directional Language	Consistently uses cardinal directions and spatial terms	Uses some directional language correctly	Little or incorrect directional language
Local Knowledge	Shows detailed knowledge of community features	Identifies main community features	Limited community knowledge shown
Map Representation	Tour clearly relates to a mental map of the area	Some spatial organization evident	No clear spatial organization
Personal Connection	Shares meaningful stories about the places	Some personal connection to places	Generic descriptions without personal meaning