

Grades PreK–6



SKILL SHARPENERS

Geography

SAMPLER

**GRADES
PreK–6**

Connecting School and Home

Reading

Ring of Fire

Concept: Physical processes shape features on Earth's surface.

The Ring of Fire is a shaped area around the Many volcanic eruption in the Ring of Fire. Some active countries in the are Japan, Indonesia. Guatemala, New Zealand. These places are known as the Ring of Fire.

The Ring of Fire is made of slabs of solid rock. These plates sometimes move underneath each other. What do you think these plates do this for?

Visual Literacy

map skills

projects & activities

places & environments





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SKILL SHARPENERS

Geography

Contents

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Concept:

Maps provide information about the location of places or things.

What Is a Map?

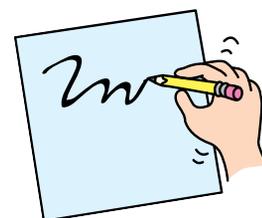
Sample
Grade
PreK

Read this geography text to your child.

A map is a drawing of a place from above.



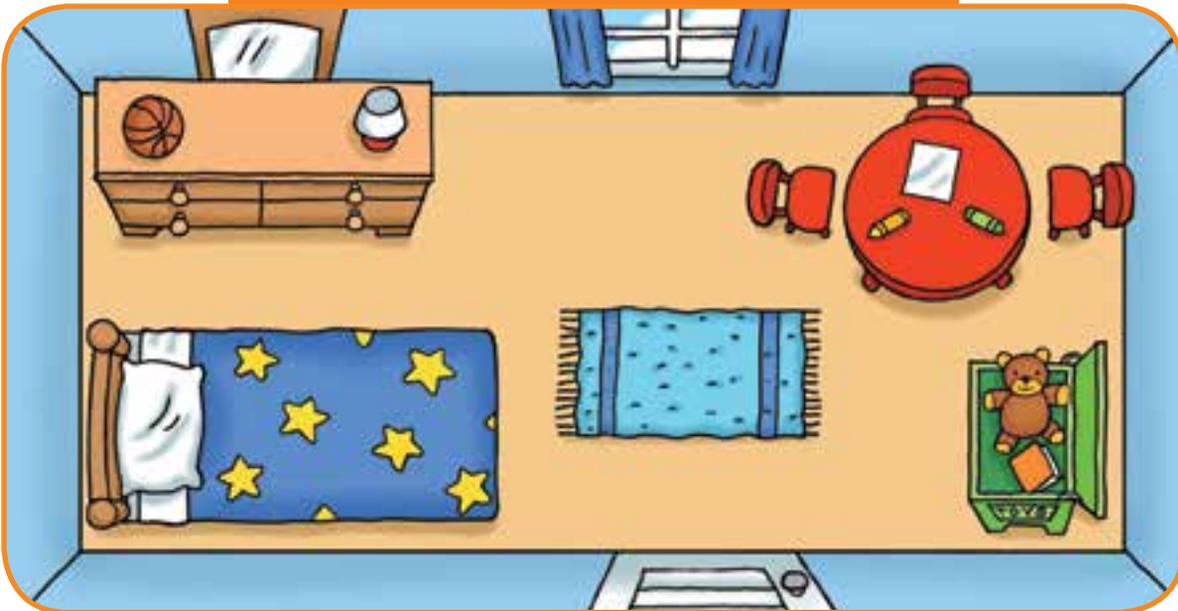
You can draw
a map of a bedroom.



Ben's room



A map of Ben's room



Talk with Your Child

Talk about the differences between the picture of Ben's room and the map of Ben's room. Ask your child to point to objects on the map. Remind your child that a map is a picture of a place from above.

Skills:

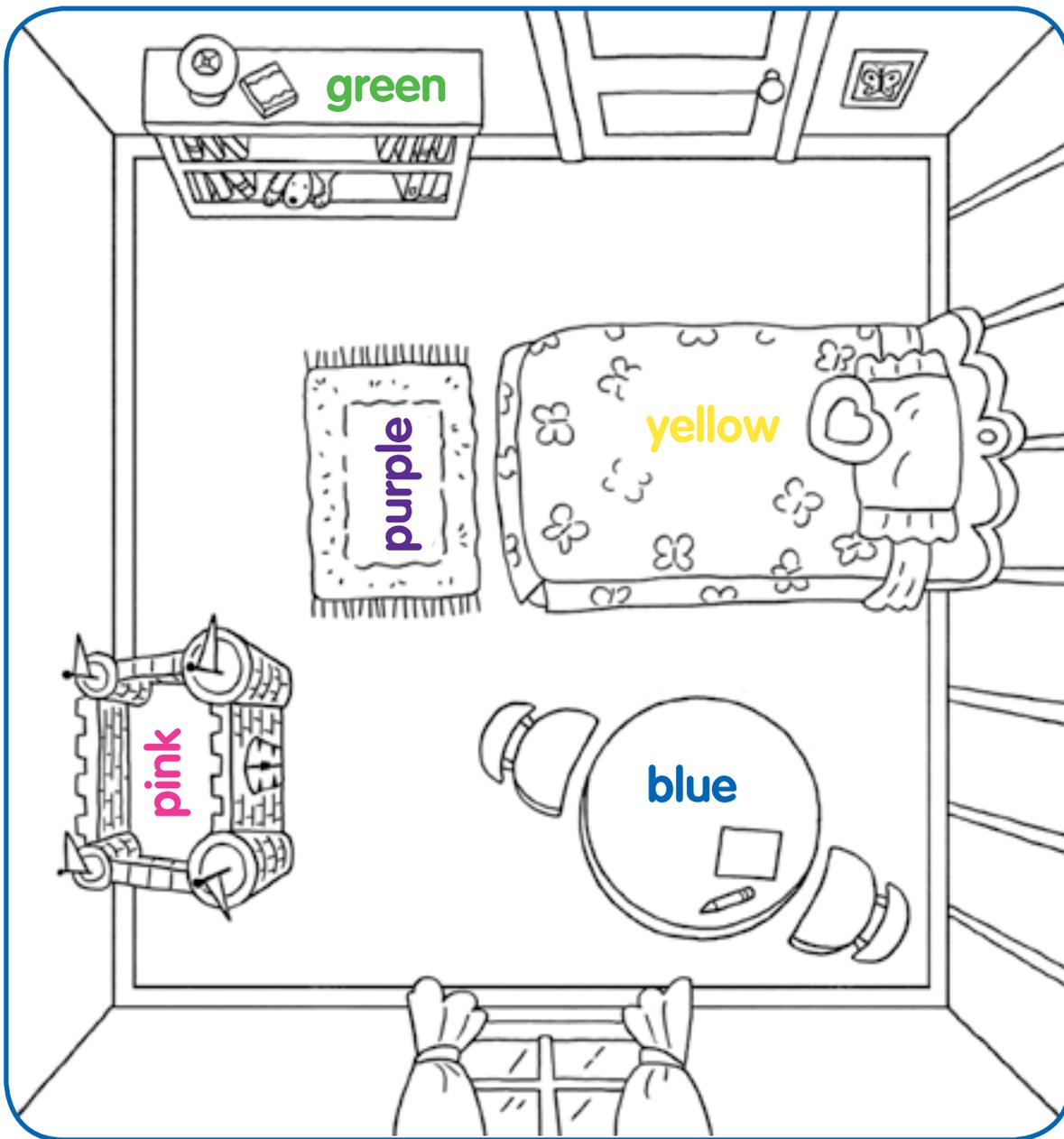
Fine motor skills; Visual discrimination; Colors and color words

Talk with Your Child

Read the color words aloud to your child. Point out the colors in the bedroom scene.

Bedroom Map

Color.

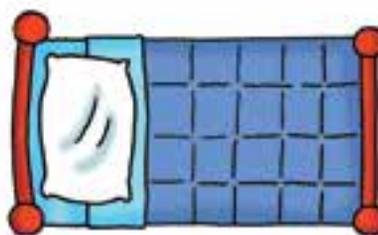
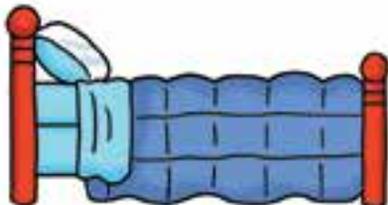


Trace.



A Different View

Draw a line to match.



Skills:

Fine motor skills; Visual discrimination

Talk with Your Child

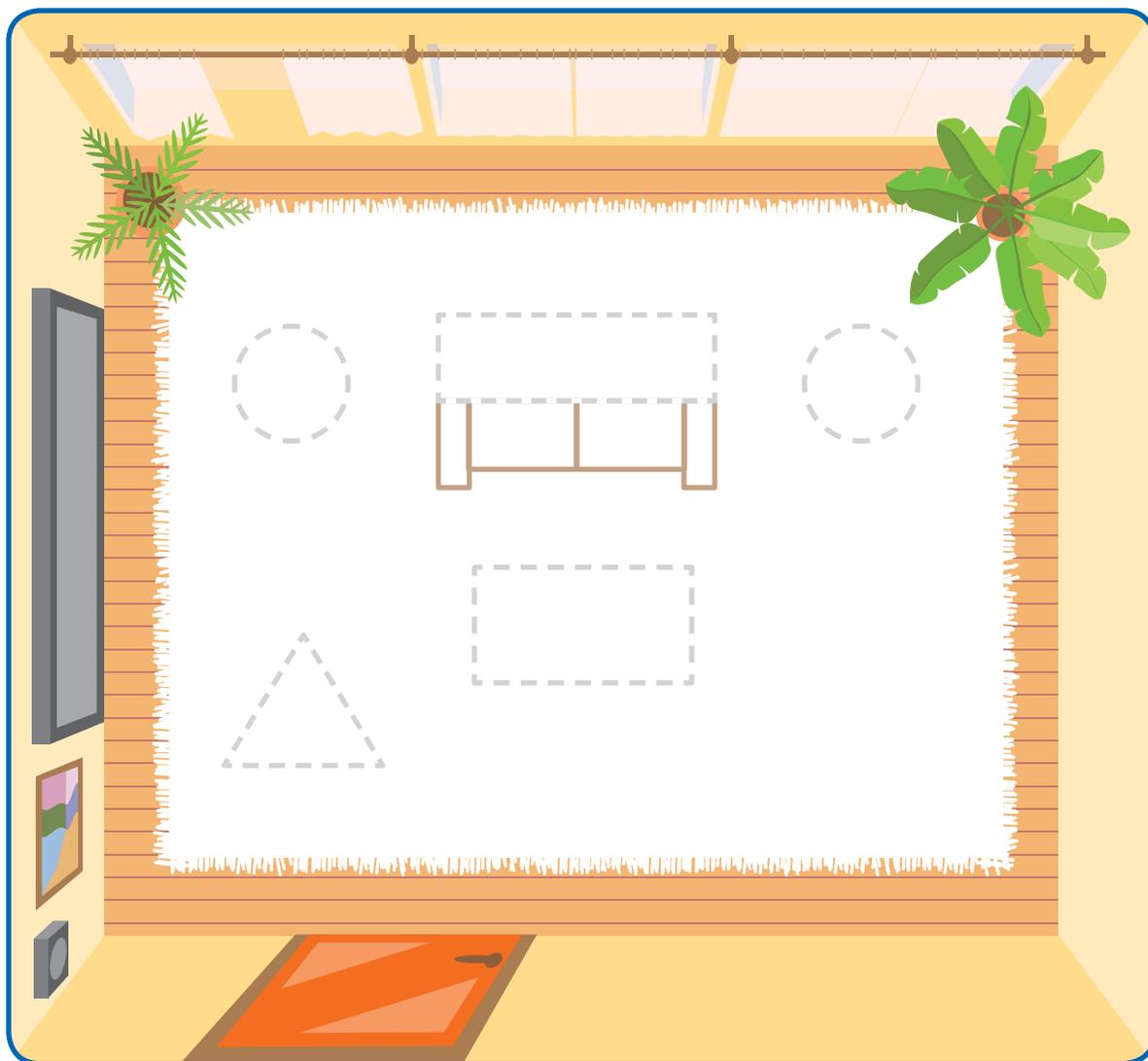
Have your child point to each pair of objects. Explain that the objects on the right are shown from above.

Skills:

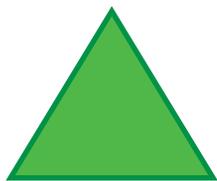
Fine motor skills; Visual discrimination; Counting; Writing numbers

Living Room Shapes

Find the shapes. Trace them. Color them.

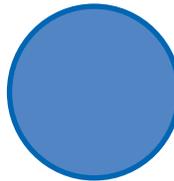


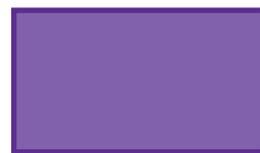
Count the shapes. Write the numbers.



1





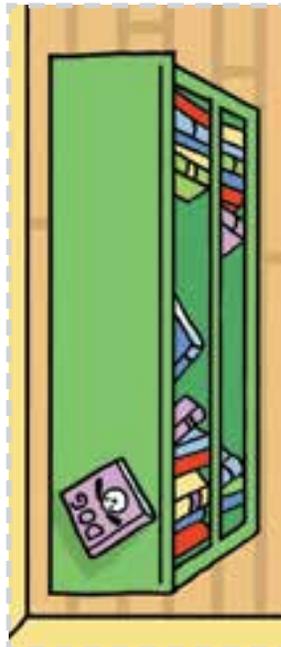
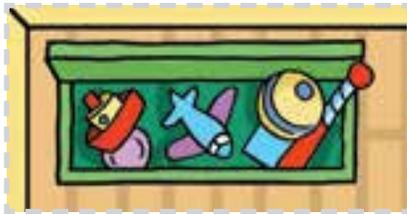


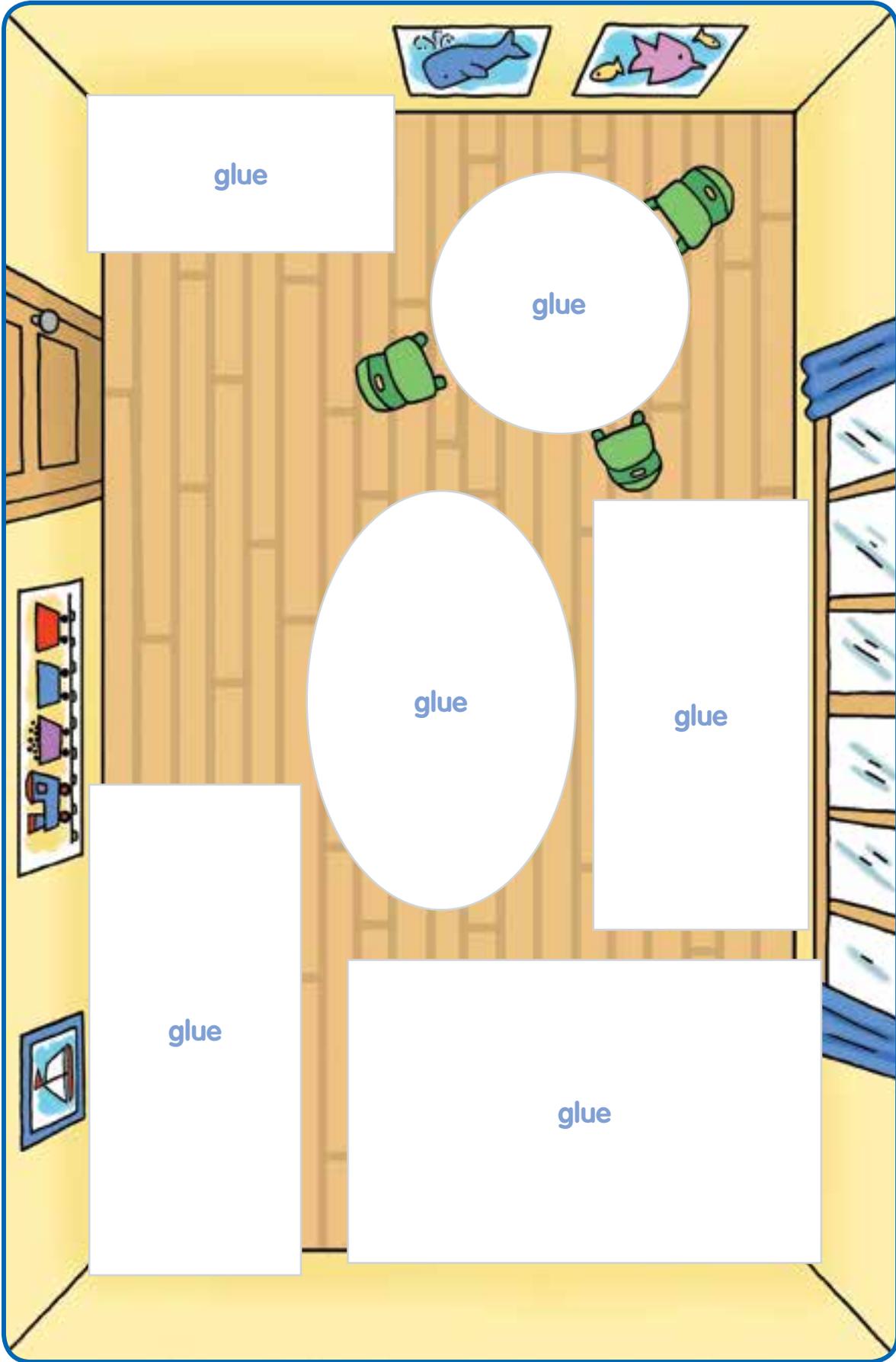
Map of a Bedroom

Skills:

Fine motor skills; Applying geography concepts

Cut out the pictures. Glue them on page 15 to make a map of a bedroom.





Concept:

A map is used to show places and locations.

What Is a Map?

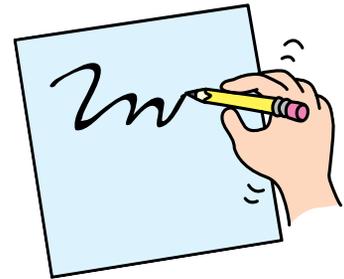
**Sample
Grade K**

Read this geography text to your child.

A **map**



is a drawing



of a place

from above.



You can draw a map of the rooms in your house.

Living room



A map of the living room



Talk with Your Child

Talk about the differences between the picture of the living room and the map of the living room. Ask your child to point to objects on the map. Remind your child that a map is a drawing of a place from above.

Skills:

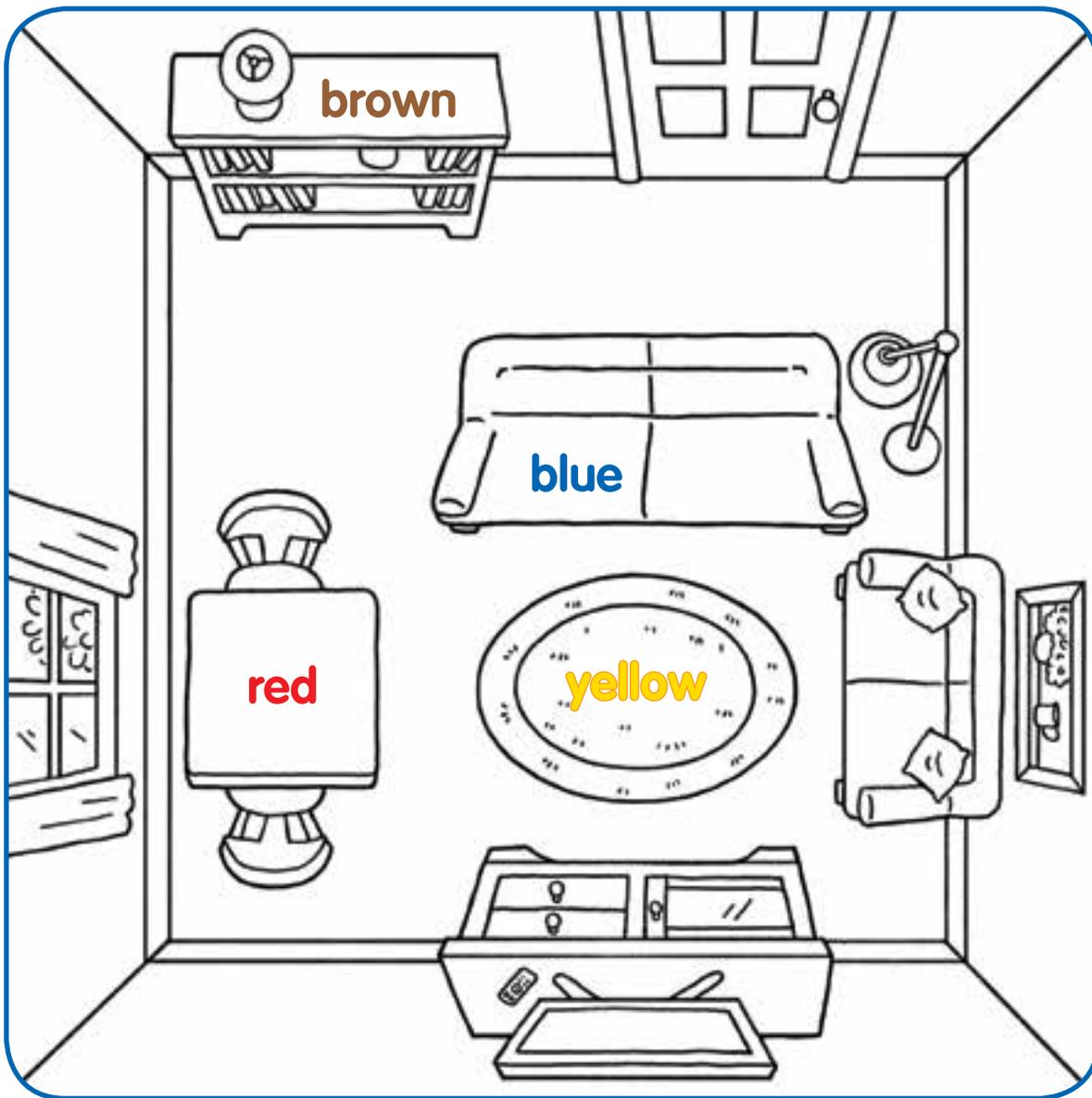
Fine motor skills; Visual discrimination; Colors and color words; Letter formation

Talk with Your Child

Read the color words aloud to your child. Point out the colors in the bedroom scene.

Living Room Map

Color.



Trace.



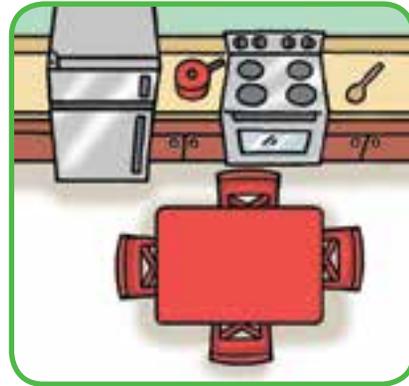
Same Room, Different View

Skills:
Fine motor skills; Visual discrimination

Draw a line to match.

Talk with Your Child

Help your child distinguish between a side view and a view from above.



Skills:

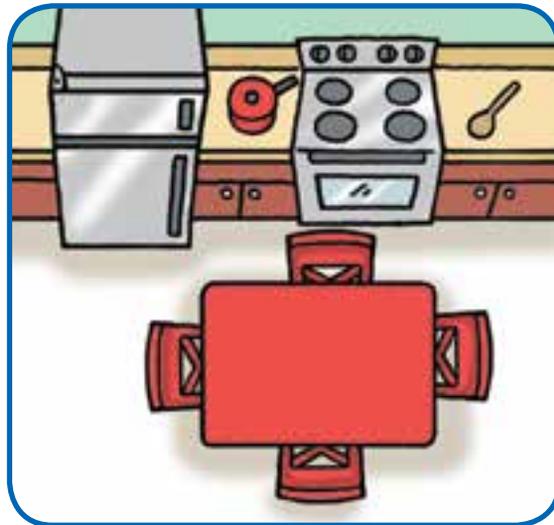
Fine motor skills; Visual discrimination

Talk with Your Child

Remind your child that a map is a drawing of a place from above.

Maps of Rooms

Draw an **X** over the picture if it is **not** a map.

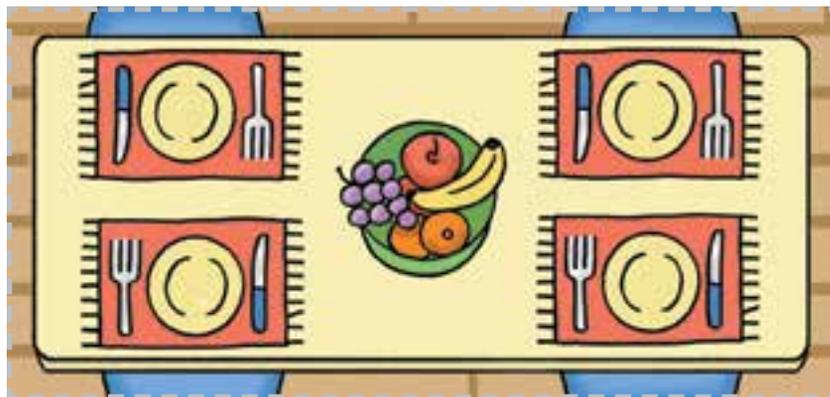
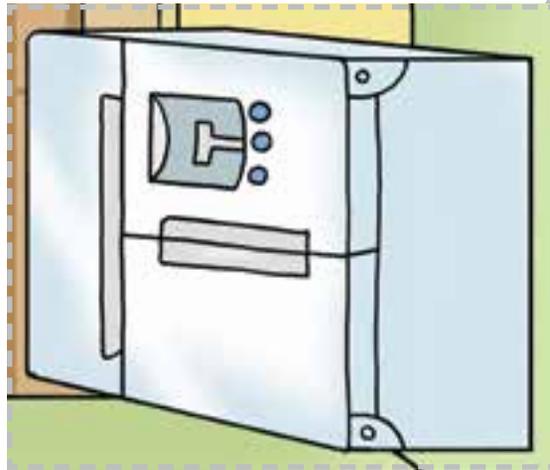
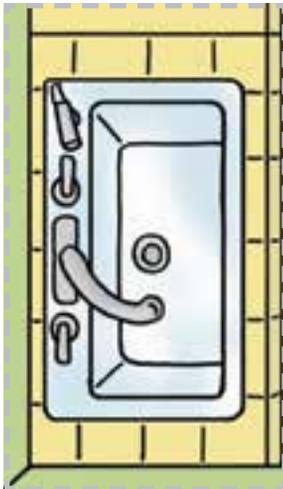
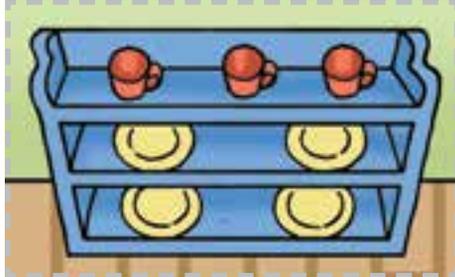


My Kitchen Map

Skills:

Fine motor skills; Visual discrimination; Shapes

Cut out the pictures. Glue them to page 15 to complete the map.



glue

glue

glue

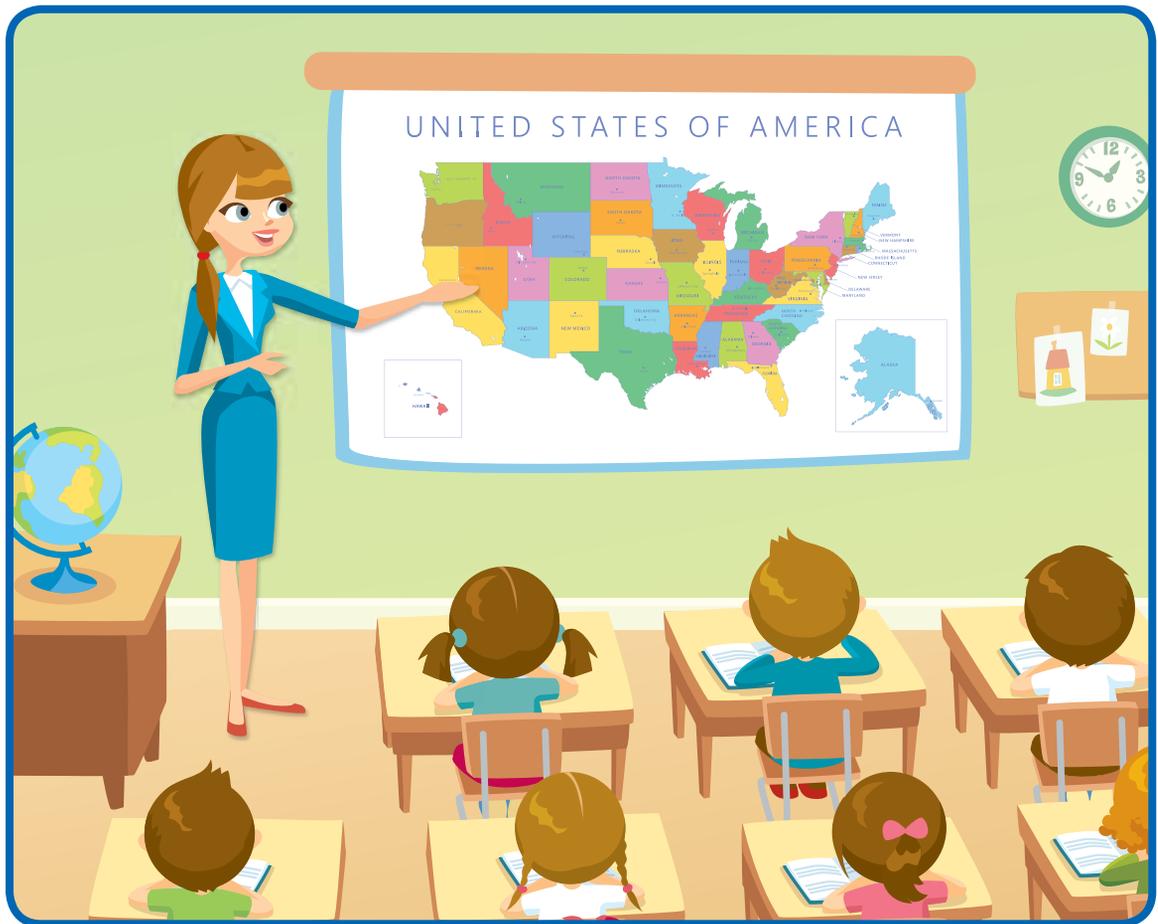
glue

Concept:

Maps are geographic representations.

What Is a Map?

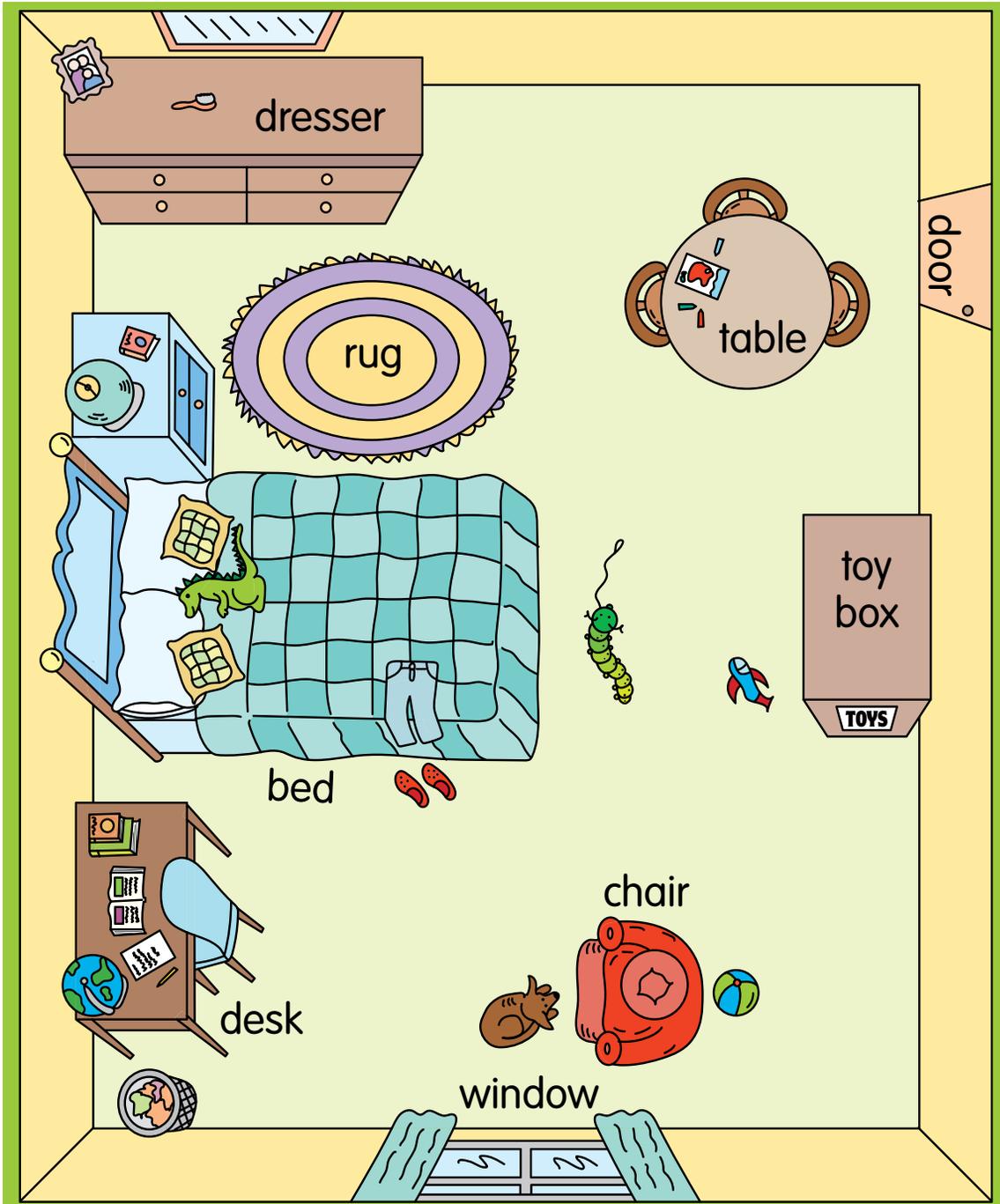
A map is a drawing of a place from above. A map shows where things are. A map can show large places like the United States of America.



A map can also show smaller places like a bedroom, a playground, or a school.

Maps help people find places. Maps also help people find things such as the bathroom at a playground.

This is a map of Joey's bedroom. It shows where the window and the door are. It shows where the bed and the toy box are. This map helps you know where things are in Joey's bedroom.



Skill:
Visual
discrimination

Using a Map



Find the  and draw a  on it.

Find the  and draw a  on it.

Find the  and draw a  on it.

.....

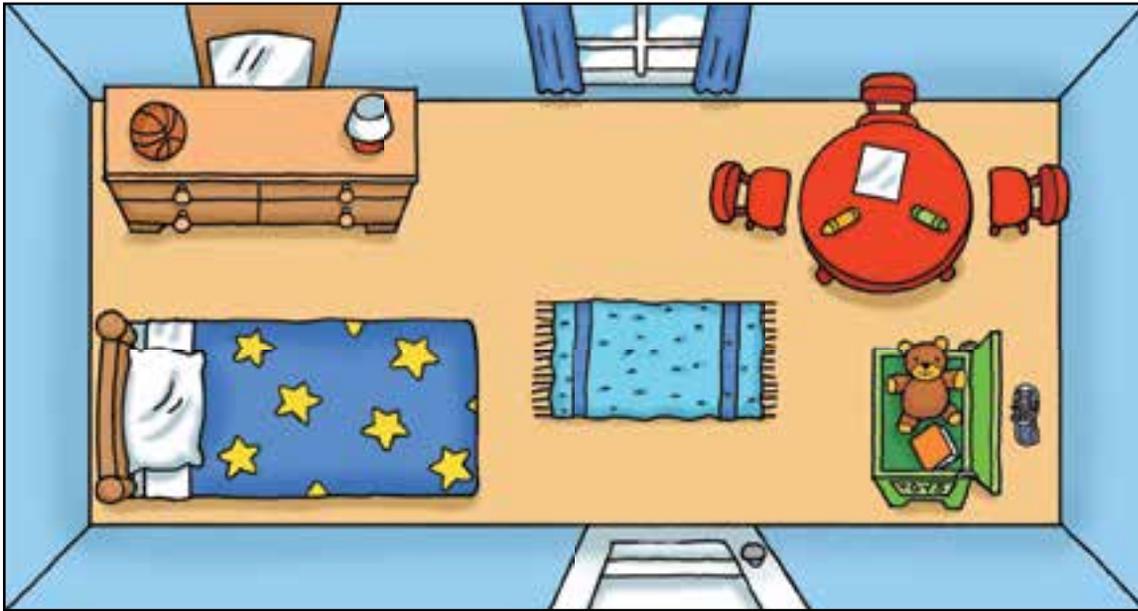
Finish the sentence.

A map is a drawing from _____.

Directional Words

Some words help us read maps.
Some words help us make maps.

Skill:
Use positional words



The toy box is **next to** the table.
The bed is **in front of** the dresser.
The shoe is **behind** the toy box.
The mirror is **above** the dresser.

.....
Finish the sentences.

1. The rug is _____ the door.
2. The mirror is _____ the dresser.
3. The table is _____ the toy box.

Skills:

Make real-world observations;
Use positional words

What's in Your Room?

Your bedroom is different from any other bedroom. Go into your bedroom and draw four things in the boxes below that are in your room. Write where each item is. Use words such as **in front of** and **next to**.

A large yellow rounded rectangle containing a white box with an orange border for drawing. Below the box is a horizontal line for writing.

A large green rounded rectangle containing a white box with a green border for drawing. Below the box is a horizontal line for writing.

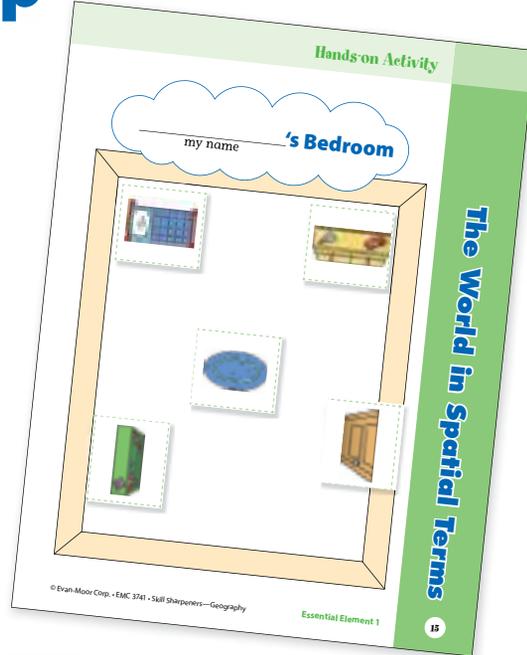
Make Your Own Map

What You Need

- scissors
- glue
- crayons
- pencil

What You Do

- 1 Cut out the pictures.
- 2 Glue the pictures to page 15 to make a map of your bedroom.
- 3 Use crayons to draw any other items in your bedroom.
- 4 Use your pencil to write the name of each item on your map.

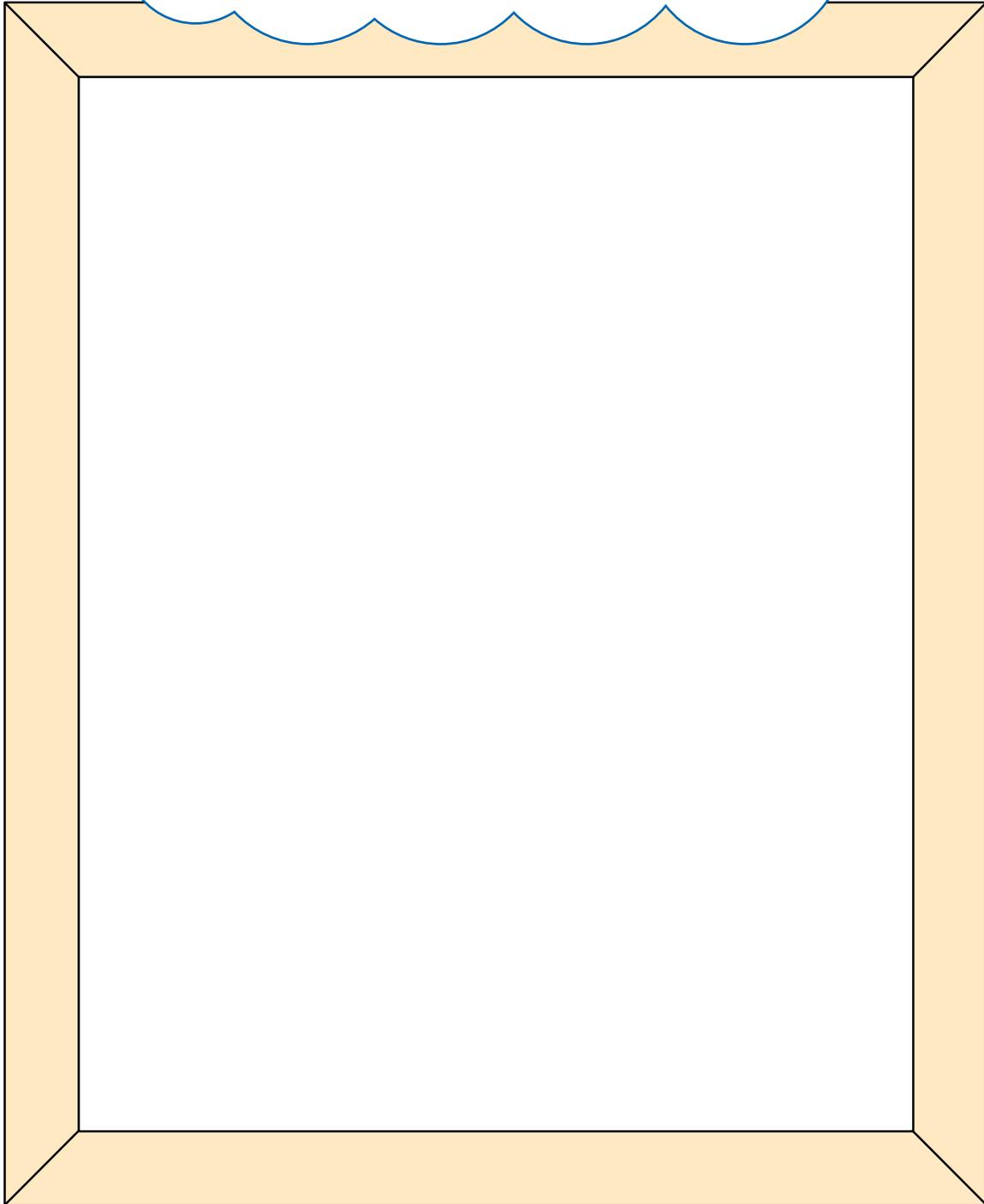


Skill:

Make a geographic representation of a bedroom

The World in Spatial Terms

_____ **'s Bedroom**
my name

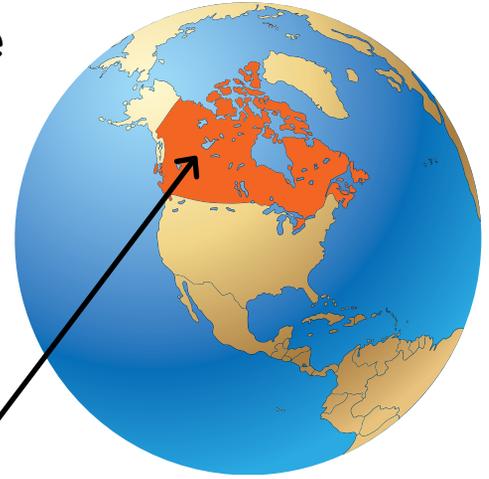


Concept:

A map is a picture from above that shows locations of places and things.

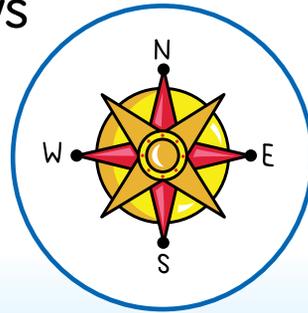
What Is a Map?

A map is a drawing of a place from above. A map can show all or parts of Earth. This map shows a place on Earth. It is the country of Canada.



A Compass Rose and a Map Key

A compass rose is a symbol that shows directions on a map. A direction shows where something is found. **North**, **south**, **east**, and **west** are directions.



Australia



A map key has symbols that stand for real things. A map key helps people find things on a map.

Skill:
Apply content
vocabulary

Word Play

Read the clue. Then write the word or words.

1. a direction tells where something is _____

2. a drawing from above

1 3

3. a symbol that shows directions

_____ 2 _____

4. what **north**, **south**, **east**, and **west** are called

_____ 4 _____

Write the numbered letters to solve the puzzle.

Geography Puzzle

It has symbols that stand for real things.

 k y
1 2 3 4

Map Sentences

Mark the sentence that goes with each picture.

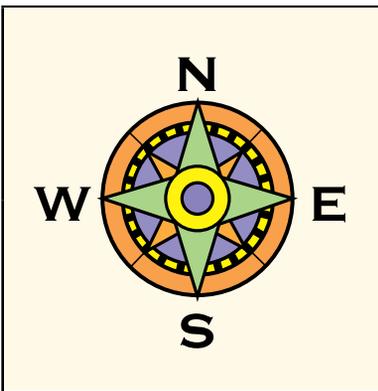
Skill:

Demonstrate an understanding of geography concepts



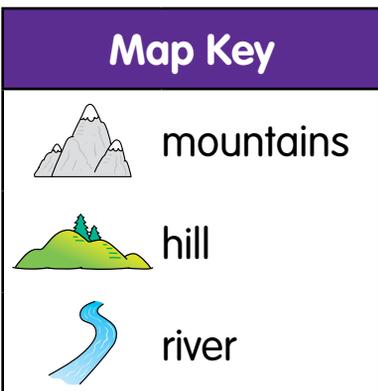
A map is a drawing from above.

A map is a photo from above.



There are five directions on a compass rose.

North, south, east, and west are directions.



A map key shows directions.

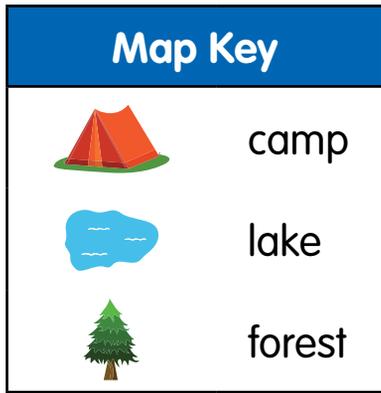
A map key has symbols that stand for real things.

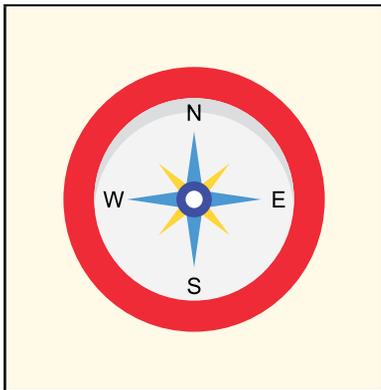
Skill:
Apply content
vocabulary

I Know About Maps

Write a sentence about each picture.







A Compass Rose

Skill:

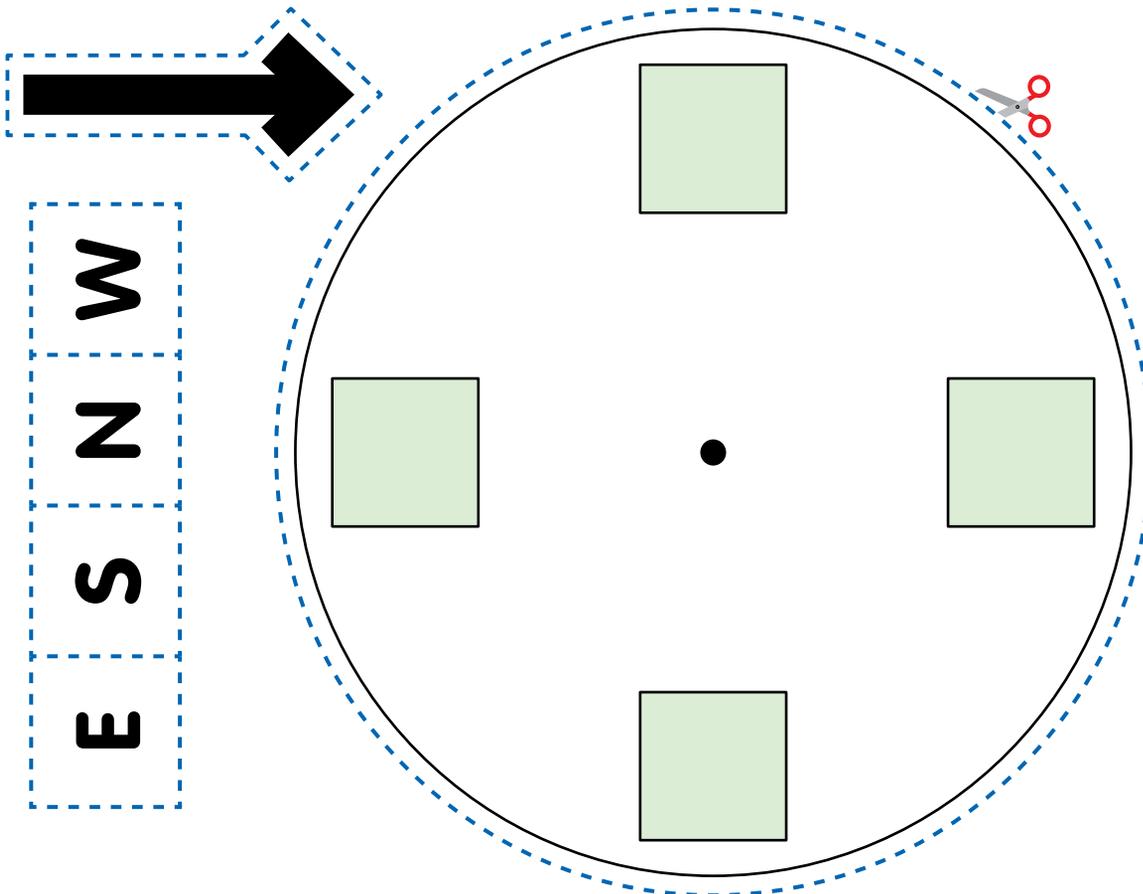
Apply content knowledge

What You Need

- scissors
- pin or brad
- glue

What You Do

- 1 Cut out the circle and the arrow.
- 2 Cut out the letters. Glue them in the correct squares to make a compass rose.
- 3 Put the arrow on the black dot. Put a pin or brad in it.
- 4 Use the compass rose to play the game on page 15.



The World in Spatial Terms

Let's Play

- 1 You are going on a road trip. You are in Utah. Spin the compass rose.
- 2 Say the direction the arrow is pointing to.
- 3 Circle the state you will drive to.
- 4 Write where you will go.
- 5 Repeat two or more times.



The first place I will go is _____.

The second place I will go is _____.

The third place I will go is _____.

Super Volcano

Concept:

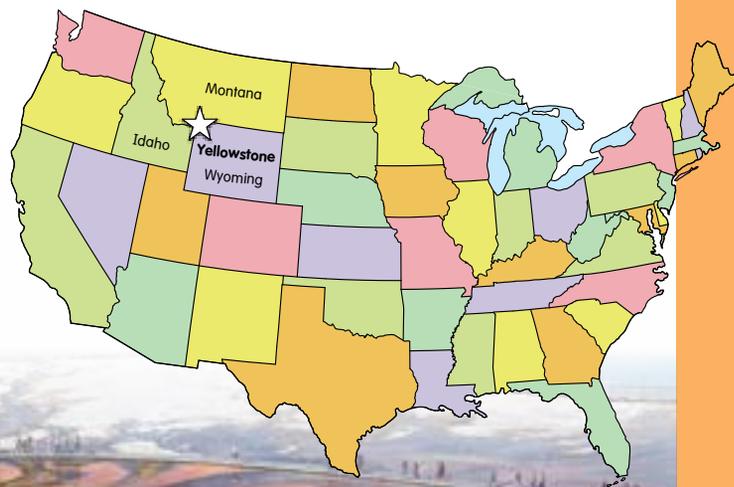
Physical processes shape features on Earth's surface.

My family and I visited Yellowstone National Park some years ago. We were fascinated by the fact that Yellowstone was the first national park in the world. Upon arriving, we quickly set up our tent at the campground, and then rushed off to a “ranger talk” to learn more about the park. The ranger started speaking about what happened at Yellowstone long before it was ever a national park.

“About 600,000 years ago, a huge volcanic eruption occurred right here at Yellowstone. Because of that super volcano, most of the Earth’s crust was blown away here. That left the Yellowstone area with some of the thinnest crust on the planet. That means the hot core, or center of the Earth, isn’t that far below where we are now.

Water trickles below the Earth’s surface from rain or snow. It reaches that hot core, heats up, and rises back up to the surface as hot-water spots called thermals. There are over 10,000 of them here at Yellowstone—making this place the coolest hot place on Earth.”

My family and I looked at each other with big eyes—this was going to be some camping trip!



Concept:

Physical processes shape features on Earth's surface.

Yellowstone Is Hot!

The ground beneath Yellowstone National Park is part of a caldera, or a collapsed volcano. The eruption that occurred at Yellowstone just over 600,000 years ago made the crust, or top layer of the Earth, there incredibly thin.

Hot water beneath the ground at Yellowstone rises up toward the Earth's surface. It reaches the surface in amazing ways. The most famous hot-water feature at the park is Old Faithful Geyser. A geyser is where boiling water sprays up out of the ground. Old Faithful Geyser shoots water up to 180 feet (55 m) into the air once every hour or so. There are over 300 geysers at Yellowstone. There are also many steam vents called fumaroles. These are places where steam hisses through a hole in the ground. Yellowstone also has deep, hot pools and large boiling springs. There are also pits of boiling and plopping mud.

There are over 10,000 of these hot-water features at Yellowstone, which is more than any place in the world. Many people come from all over the world to see them.

Define It!

caldera: a collapsed volcano

fumarole: a hole in the ground that lets out steam and other gases

geyser: a place where very hot to boiling water sprays out of the ground

Answer the items.

1. Why is there so much hot water coming out of the ground at Yellowstone?

2. How would you make sure visitors stay safe around the hot water?

**Old Faithful during summer
in Yellowstone National Park,
Wyoming**



**Colorful Morning Glory
Pool in Yellowstone
National Park**



**Bisons in the fumaroles of
Black Sand Basin in winter,
Yellowstone National Park**

Concept:

Physical processes shape features on Earth's surface.

Ring of Fire

The Ring of Fire is a horseshoe-shaped area around the Pacific Ocean. Many volcanic eruptions have occurred in the Ring of Fire. Some of the most active countries in the Ring of Fire are Japan, Indonesia, Mexico, Chile, Guatemala, New Zealand, the Philippines, and Ecuador. These places are known for their frequent volcanic activity.

The Ring of Fire was created by tectonic plates, or huge slabs of solid rock, moving like giant rafts on the Earth's surface. These plates sometimes slide next to, collide with, and are forced underneath each other. The Pacific Plate and the surrounding plates do this often, causing earthquakes. When the plates collide, this also creates a huge amount of energy. The energy melts rocks into magma, or hot, molten rock. This magma then rises to the surface as lava and forms volcanoes. There are more than 450 volcanoes along the Ring of Fire.

Define It!

tectonic plates: huge slabs of the Earth's crust that move slowly

earthquake: when Earth's plates collide, it causes the ground to shake

volcano: a mountain with a hole in it that sometimes sends out gases or lava

Answer the items.

1. What is the difference between an earthquake and a volcano?

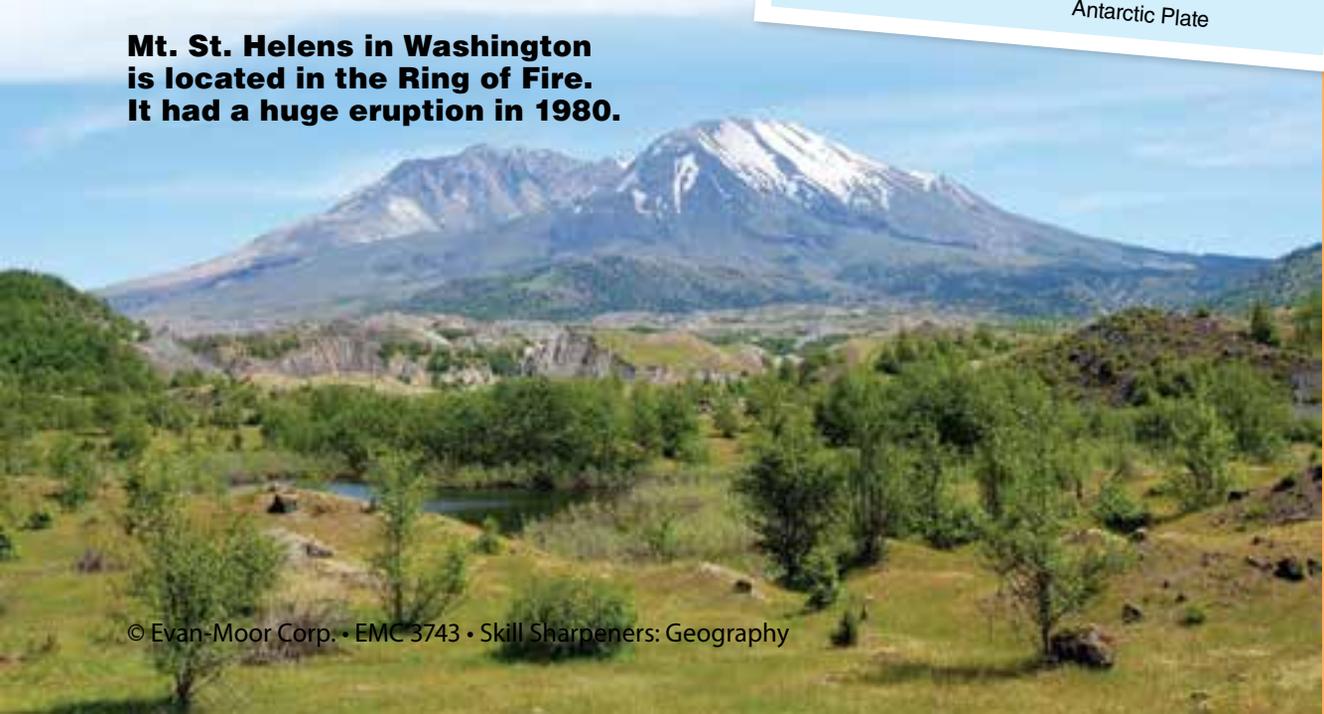
2. Which would you be more afraid of: an earthquake or a volcano?

3. How close do you live to the Ring of Fire?

Mt. Fuji in Japan is located in the Ring of Fire. It last erupted in 1707.



Mt. St. Helens in Washington is located in the Ring of Fire. It had a huge eruption in 1980.



Physical Systems

Skill:

Apply content vocabulary

Active Earth

Solve the crossword puzzle with words you now know!

caldera ring of fire tectonic plate core
 volcano geyser earthquake



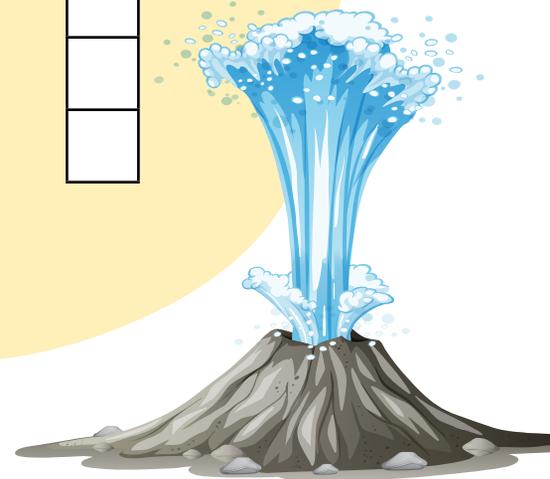
Across

- 3. a giant slab of rock that moves
- 4. lava pours out of a crack in the Earth
- 6. a collapsed volcano
- 7. when very hot water sprays out of the ground



Down

- 1. when the ground shakes
- 2. where most volcanoes happen
- 5. the hot center of the Earth

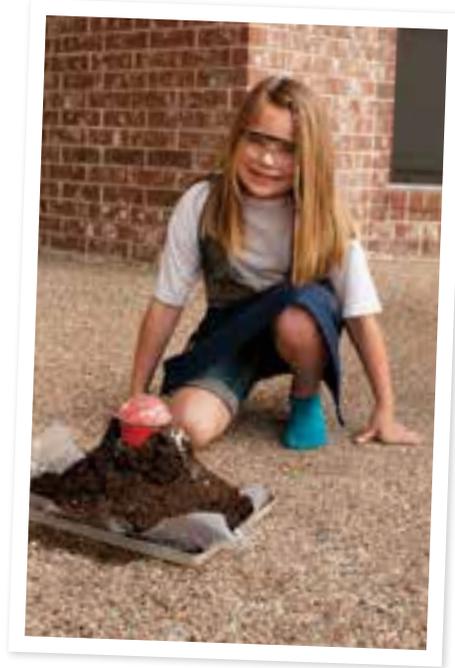


Eruption!

In this activity, you will make a miniature volcano erupt.

What You Need

- tray
- 16-ounce plastic cup
- spoon
- water
- 4 to 6 tablespoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon dish soap
- 1 ounce washable red paint
- 1 cup (8 ounces) vinegar
- dirt



Skill:

Apply geography concepts in context

What You Do

1. Pour water into the cup until it is two-thirds full.
2. Add in the baking soda, dish soap, and paint.
3. Stir the ingredients.
4. On the tray, make a cone-shaped volcano with the dirt until it is about 1 foot (30 cm) high.
5. Dig a hole at the top of the volcano just big enough to hold the cup.
6. Place the cup in the hole. Pat the dirt close to the cup's rim.
7. Pour the vinegar into the mixture and watch the eruption!

Thousands of Living Things

**Concept:**

Different biomes exist on Earth's surface.

My family and I were seated in a meadow in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We

were inspecting the ground for living things. We had been seeing so many bugs and insects all week long. I'll never forget the crazy-colored moths that gathered around the bathrooms' walls at the campground. Or the butterflies that huddled together in clumps.

My sister noticed an orange caterpillar crawling along the ground. "It looks macaroni and cheese colored," she called out. The ranger came over, bent down, and inspected it. "Those are imperial moth caterpillars, one of the thousands of moth and butterfly species in the park."

The ranger took a picture of the brightly colored bug. Then she called everyone over and announced, "Thank you so much for helping identify and count species of living things here in the annual Smokies BioBlitz! Because of volunteers like you, we have added hundreds of creatures to our lists of living things at the park. We didn't even know some of them existed until now! Let's take a break for lunch!"

Everyone began to walk to the picnic area. Suddenly, my sister exclaimed, "Hey, look at this salamander!" We ran over, wondering if she had found another creature to add to our list!

Reading

Concept:

Different biomes exist on Earth's surface.

Plants As Medicine

The word *biodiversity* means “the variety of living things in one area.” The Amazon Rainforest of South America is the most biologically diverse place on the planet. It is located close to the equator, so that means the weather there is hot and wet most of the year. It is in parts of nine different countries, including Brazil, Ecuador, and Peru.

The Amazon Rainforest surrounds the Amazon River. There are over 40,000 plant species growing in the Amazon. The Amazon also has the largest variety of tree species growing in the world. In some sections of the rainforest, there are over 100 different types of trees within a very small area of land.

Some of the plants growing in the Amazon are called medicinals. Medicinals are plants used by native people for healing. Modern doctors and scientists are continuing to discover that the Amazon's plants can help with many illnesses. Some of these plants can cure diseases such as malaria, which causes asthma, a condition that makes it difficult to breathe. Many of the medicinals of the Amazon have yet to be discovered by scientists, who are convinced there are more growing in the region.

Define It!

biodiversity: the variety of living things in an area

medicinals: plants used for making medicines

malaria: a disease spread by mosquitoes

Answer the items.

1. If the weather in the Amazon changed, do you think the biodiversity would change? Explain your answer.

2. Why do you think scientists are convinced there are more medicinals in the region?



Interior of tropical rainforest in Yasuni National Park, Ecuador

Xylaria telfairii - The liquid inside this fungus is used for earaches by the Quichua Indians in the Ecuadorian Amazon.



Amazon Rainforest in Brazil, South America



Concept:

Different biomes exist on Earth's surface.

The Amazon

In the Amazon Rainforest, the trees are so thick that little sunlight reaches the ground. This covering creates the canopy. In and under

the canopy are an incredible number of living things. Many of them are endemic, meaning they don't live anywhere else on the planet.

Scientists have counted about 3,000 species of fish in the Amazon. One interesting type is the piranha, which hunts in packs and quickly eats the flesh of its victims.

There are literally thousands of types of insects and spiders in the Amazon. One unique example is leaf-cutter ants. These ants cut up leaves and carry them home over their heads.

The Amazon is also well known for its reptiles and amphibians. Amphibians are frogs, toads, newts, and salamanders. There are about 500 different types of amphibians in the Amazon. One type is the brightly colored poison dart frog. Native people use the poison from its skin to coat their darts or arrowheads when hunting.

There are 1,300 or more different types of birds in the Amazon, too. A famous one is the toucan with its long, colorful beak.

Define It!

canopy: a protective covering of trees and other tall plants

endemic: living only in one location

amphibian: frogs, toads, newts, and salamanders

Answer the items.

- 1. What do you imagine you would see if you sat on the ground in the rainforest?

- 2. Do you think the rainforest could be a dangerous place? Explain your answer.



piranhas



leaf-cutter ant



poison dart frog



toco toucan

Physical Systems

Skill:

Apply content vocabulary in context

Amazing Region

The Amazon Rainforest is a unique and amazing place. Read the description and write the word it describes.

endemic medicinals biodiversity malaria
canopy species tropical

1. an area that is hot and rainy and near the equator _____
2. the tall covering that rainforest trees create _____
3. living in one certain place or area _____
4. plants used to cure diseases _____
5. a disease spread by mosquitoes _____
6. the variety of living things in an area _____
7. many living things of one type, such as birds _____

Think About It

What is the biodiversity in your area? Make a list of **all** the categories of living things you can think of.

Do Your Own BioBlitz!

Observe and document all the living things in a part of your yard or nearby park.



Skill:

Apply geography concepts in context

What You Need

- outdoor space
- yardstick or tape measure
- string
- hand lens/magnifying glass
- tweezers or a plastic spoon
- small plastic containers
- paper and pencil
- clock or timer



What You Do

1. Find an outdoor space that has a lot of plants and appears wild.
2. Measure an area 4 feet by 4 feet (1.2 m by 1.2 m). Mark it off with string.
3. Quietly observe all the living things in that area for 30 minutes. List each type of living thing—plants, insects, and anything else you observe.
4. Consider carefully collecting some of the specimens, using tweezers or a plastic spoon and a container. After making your observations, return each specimen to the place you found it.
5. Report your findings of biodiversity to your friends and family.



Krakatoa

Concept:

Physical processes shape features on Earth's surface.

Sometimes I imagine myself going back in time to witness past events. The other day, the news covered a volcano erupting in Hawaii. That grabbed my attention and led me to this daydream about being a reporter...

“This is Maggie Alexander Graf on an island in Indonesia. Krakatoa behind me has been active for months, but especially lately. The plume of smoke coming from the volcano now is at least ten miles high. Experts are regularly monitoring every detail of the situation. They say Krakatoa may soon blast its final stage in the eruption. But while I have a minute, let me show you an example of what the volcano produced.”

I bend down and pick up a large rock... *“This is pumice. Several weeks ago, it was thrown out of the cone of the volcano and landed here, miles away. That’s how powerful this thing is. We weren’t able to touch the rock for days, but it recently cooled off enough to hold.”* At that moment, the ground starts shaking violently. A large explosion comes from the volcano. Tons of smoke and ash blast out of the cone. The whole sky is quickly covered with smoke and ash. I say back into the camera...

“I have just been informed that everyone is going to have to evacuate immediately... Krakatoa is about to blow!”

I jump into the TV station’s helicopter and fly away. Of course, this is only a daydream. Helicopters were not invented back then. Krakatoa, one of the world’s most violent volcanic eruptions, occurred in Indonesia in 1883.



Define It!

magma: hot lava

cataclysmic: extremely violent

lahar: mudflow caused by a volcano

Concept:

Physical processes shape features on Earth's surface.

Mt. St. Helens

Mount St. Helens is in the Cascade Range of mountains in North America.

Mt. St. Helens is the most active volcano in the range. In March of 1980, hundreds of small earthquakes started occurring near the mountain. This was followed by several steam explosions. Soon after, the crater at Mt. St. Helens began to grow, and a bulge was seen where magma, or hot lava, had built up. This led to the cataclysmic event of May 18, 1980.

First, a large earthquake created the biggest landslide in Earth's history. Then rock, ash, and volcanic gas blew out of the mountain at 300 miles per hour (483 kph). This triggered an avalanche of hot ash, gas, and pumice, which is a very lightweight volcanic rock. Over 500 million tons (454 million metric tons) of ash blew into the atmosphere. Spokane, Washington, located 250 miles (402 km) to the east, was in total darkness during the day. The hot rocks and gas rapidly melted glaciers on the mountain, creating massive mudflows, or lahars, from the volcano. The mudflows ripped down trees, tore up roads and bridges, and destroyed homes. Mt. St. Helens' eruption was the most destructive ever in the United States.

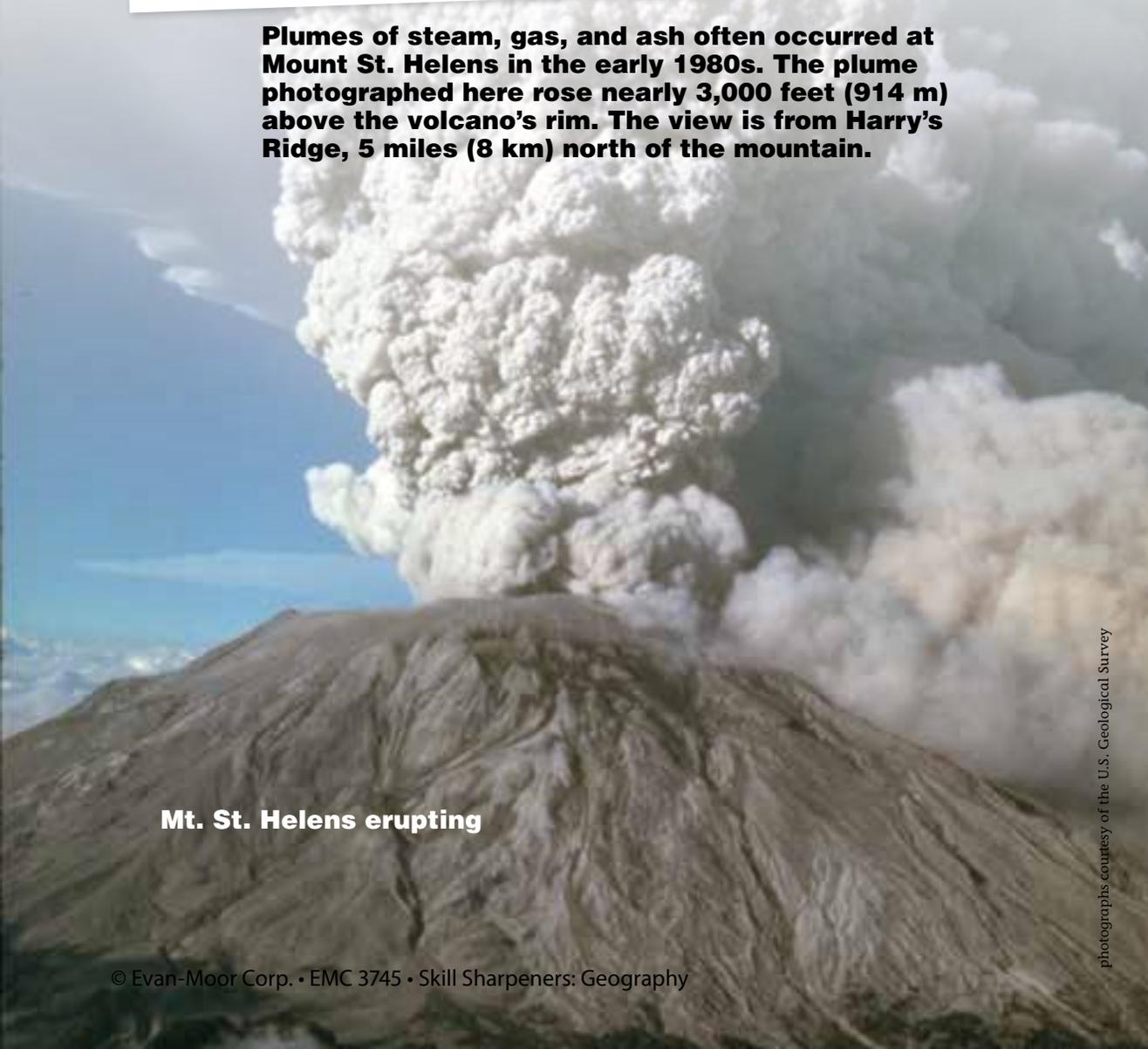
Answer the items.

1. Why do you think Spokane, Washington, was in total darkness the day after Mt. St. Helens erupted?

2. In your opinion, how much distance should houses be from a volcano?



Plumes of steam, gas, and ash often occurred at Mount St. Helens in the early 1980s. The plume photographed here rose nearly 3,000 feet (914 m) above the volcano's rim. The view is from Harry's Ridge, 5 miles (8 km) north of the mountain.



Mt. St. Helens erupting

photographs courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey

Define It!

Concept:

Physical processes shape features on Earth's surface.

Mt. Vesuvius

Volcanoes are found all over Earth. Most of the active ones are along the horseshoe-shaped Ring of Fire, which wraps around the Pacific Ocean. The movement and collision of Earth's plates in this area causes most of the world's earthquakes and volcanoes.

A volcano that is not in the Ring of Fire is Mt. Vesuvius in southern Italy. It is considered to be one of the most dangerous volcanoes in the world. About three million people live close enough to the volcano to be in danger should it erupt. The volcano did erupt in AD 79, and the lava flow buried the nearby village of Pompeii. It also destroyed other villages and farms for miles around.

Mt. Vesuvius last erupted in 1944, but it is constantly being monitored. Some signs the volcano may soon erupt are changes in the topography, or makeup of the land, nearby; gas and steam releases; and temperature changes of water around the mountain. Seismic, or earthquake, activity is also watched carefully. Towns nearby have disaster evacuation plans in place should such an emergency occur.

Ring of Fire: where most of the world's earthquakes and volcanoes are

topography: the makeup of the land

seismic: earthquake activity

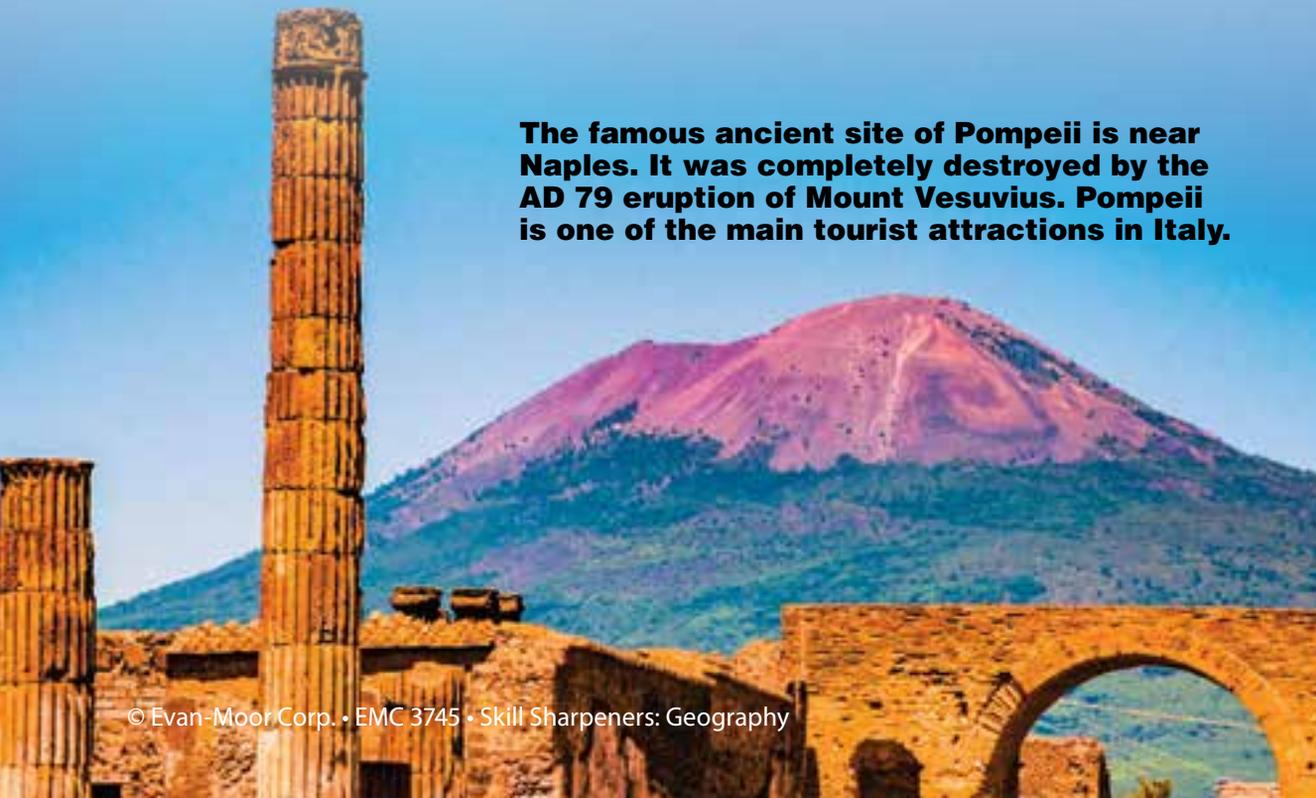
Answer the items.

1. What other precautions might towns near Mt. Vesuvius take to keep people safe in the event of an eruption?

2. What would be needed to evacuate an area near a volcano?



The famous ancient site of Pompeii is near Naples. It was completely destroyed by the AD 79 eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Pompeii is one of the main tourist attractions in Italy.



Skill:

Apply content vocabulary

Major Volcanoes

Solve this crossword puzzle using words related to volcanoes.

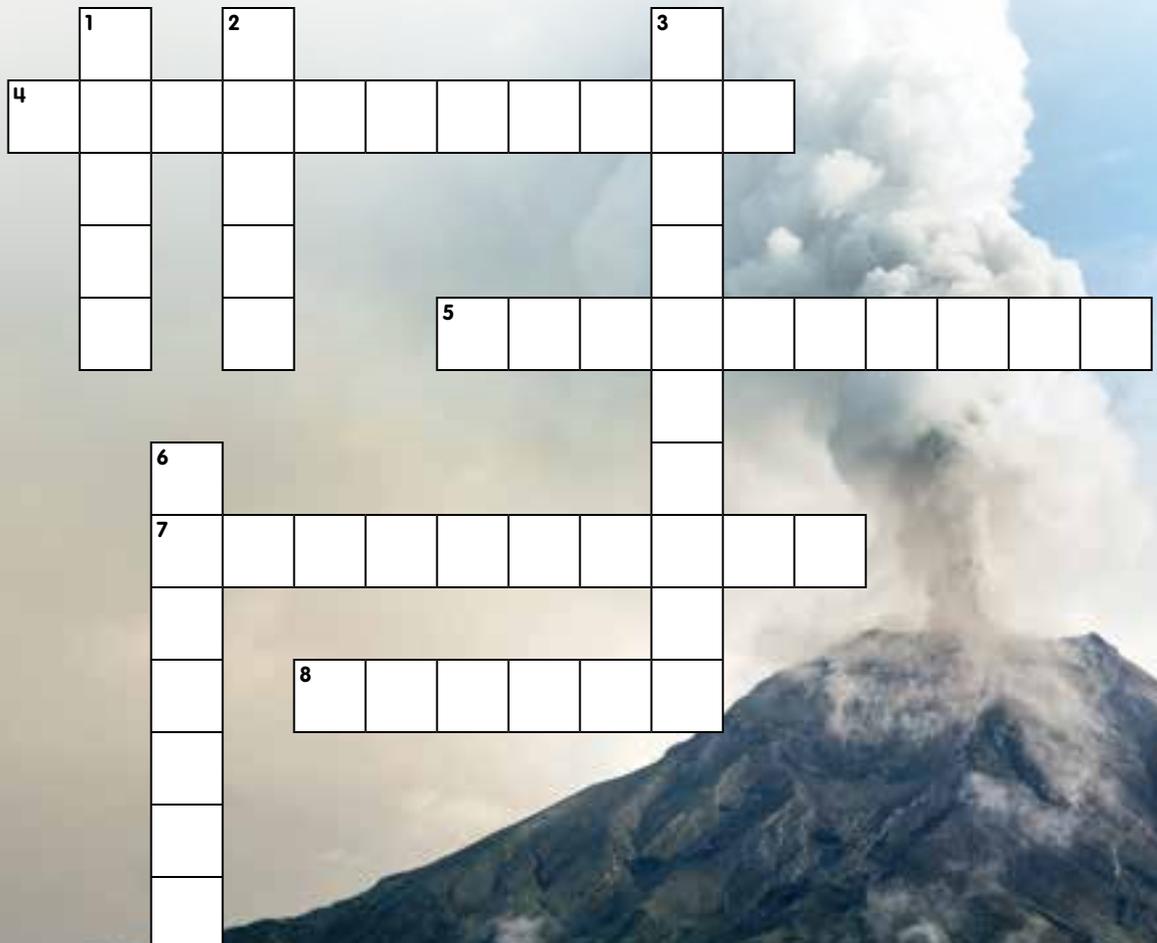
- | | | | |
|--------------|-------|---------|-------------|
| ring of fire | magma | seismic | evacuation |
| topography | lahar | pumice | cataclysmic |

Across

- 4. extremely violent event
- 5. shape of the land
- 7. emergency need to move people
- 8. lightweight volcanic rock

Down

- 1. hot lava
- 2. mudflow from an erupting volcano
- 3. area that gets many volcanoes
- 6. earthquake activity



Evacuation Plan

Make a map of a town that is near a volcano and plan an evacuation route from the school to a safe area out of town.

What You Need

- 11" x 17" (28 x 43 cm) sheet of white construction paper
- pencil
- ruler
- colored pencils
- highlighter



What You Do

1. In the middle of the construction paper, draw a map of a small town. Include streets, a downtown area, stores, shops, a park, a library, and at least one school.
2. Next, draw several highways or freeways and roads that lead out of town.
3. Finally, draw a large cone-shaped volcano outside of town. Color a snowcapped peak on the volcano.
4. Plan an evacuation route that could be used if the volcano erupts. Start the route at the school. First sketch the route in pencil and then highlight it.
5. Make a map key at the bottom of the map showing landmarks in the town such as the park and school. Include the evacuation route in the key.
6. Share your map with your family and explain why you chose the evacuation route you did.



Skill:

Apply geography concepts in context

Skill:

Write and reflect for the purposes of planning

Alerting Others

If a town needs to evacuate due to an erupting volcano, what are the best ways to alert all of the people who live there? Consider people who are hearing impaired or may not have a TV. Make a list of how to get the information out as quickly as possible.

A large, green spiral-bound notebook with a white cover and a silver spiral binding on the left side. The notebook is open to a page with 15 horizontal lines for writing.

Mexico City

My family and I just spent a month in Mexico City. Our relatives live in different places all around the city. They shared some of Mexico City's history with me.

Mexico City, or Ciudad de México, was built by the Aztecs on an island on Lake Texcoco in 1325. The city was originally called Tenochtitlán, but it was destroyed by a siege, or invasion, in 1521. Soon thereafter, Mexico City was built on the same spot, and it became the center of the Spanish empire. Eventually, the lake was drained and the city expanded. Now, hundreds of years later, Mexico City is one of the largest cities in the world with a population of over 21 million people!

Mexico City is in a basin, or valley, surrounded by tall mountains and volcanoes. One volcano, Popocatepetl, is active, and it is 17,877 feet (5,449 m) high. The city's elevation is around 7,350 feet (2,240 m). It took my family and I some time to get used to the altitude. Because the valley is surrounded by tall mountains, air pollution gets trapped there. My relatives told me that Mexico's people and government are finding ways to reduce the pollution.

When we weren't having our family gatherings, we often took the metro to see the sights. There were many museums, parks, gardens, and palaces to visit. We also saw archaeological ruins, ate great international food, and watched soccer games and bullfights.

Concept:

There is a spatial organization to people on Earth's surface.



Reading

Concept:

There is a spatial organization to people on Earth's surface.

Three Cities in Asia

Tokyo, Japan, is the most populated metropolitan area in the world. Founded in 1150, about 38 million people live there.

Tokyo is also Japan's center of finances, or business and money transactions, as well as government. Nearly the whole population of Tokyo is Japanese, so it is a monoculture. Tokyo is known for having over 6,000 parks and gardens.

Delhi, India, is the second most populated city in the world. About 26 million people live in Delhi. It is one of the world's oldest cities, at almost 5,000 years old. The city is famous for its rickshaws. These three-wheeled, no-doored vehicles are used as taxis all over the city. New Delhi, the capital of India, was built by the British Empire. India gained independence from Great Britain in 1947.

The third most populated city in the world is Shanghai, China. There are about 24 million people living in Shanghai. It was built on an estuary of the Yangtze River. Shanghai is the trade center for China, which means that China sends its products to other countries and receives products from other countries. Shanghai is known for its towering skyscrapers and shopping districts with restaurants.

Define It!

finances: business transactions

empire: territories or peoples under the rule of one government

estuary: an area where a river flows into the sea and is filled with fresh and salt water

trade: the action of buying and selling goods and services

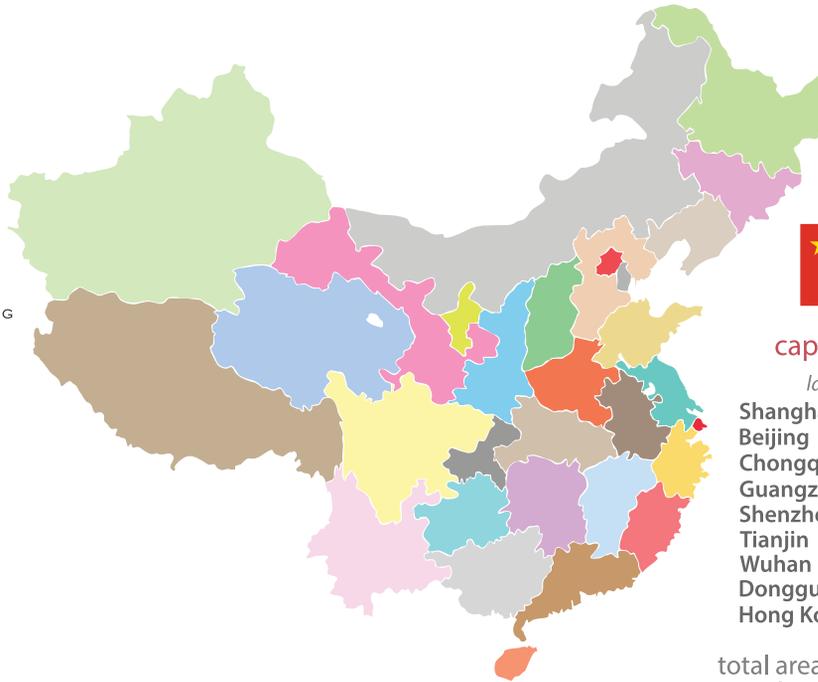
Answer the items.

- 1. Do you think there should be a limit on how many people can live within one city? Explain your answer.

- 2. Which of the three cities above would you want to visit first and why?

A population map of People's Republic of China

- SHANGHAI
- BEIJING
- FUJIAN
- ANHUI
- GUANGDONG
- TIBET
- HUBEI
- LIAONING
- HEBEI
- SHANDONG
- SICHUAN
- ZHEJIANG
- NINGXIA
- XINJIANG
- HEILONGJIANG
- SHANXI
- JIANGSU
- GUIZHOU
- SHAANXI
- QINGHAI
- JIANGXI
- YUNNAN
- JILIN
- HUNAN
- GANSU
- HAINAN
- CHONGQING
- TIANJIN
- INNER MONGOLIA
- GUANGXI



capital Beijing

largest cities

Shanghai	20,217,700
Beijing	16,446,900
Chongqing	11,871,200
Guangzhou	10,641,400
Shenzhen	10,358,400
Tianjin	9,562,300
Wuhan	7,541,500
Dongguan	7,271,300
Hong Kong	7,055,071

total area 9,596,961 km²
population 1,376,049,000

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS OF CHINA

Yuyuan Garden - a traditional shopping area in Shanghai, China



Concept:

There is a spatial organization to people on Earth's surface.

Not a Soul in Sight

The three least populated regions on Earth are alpine zones, deserts, and polar areas. Alpine regions are high in the mountains. Another sparsely populated area is deserts. Some examples include the world's largest hot desert, the Sahara in Africa, and the world's driest desert, the Atacama in Chile. Polar regions are land-based areas near the poles. This includes the single least populated continent on Earth, Antarctica. The continent only has up to 4,000 part-time residents through the summer and about 1,000 over winter. There are no permanent citizens. Most of the continent is so harsh that it is devoid of, or absent of, life—even bacteria.

Sparsely populated polar climate areas outside of Antarctica are Northern Canada, Greenland, and Siberia. The soil in these regions has what is called permafrost, or a layer of soil that is frozen all year.

The least populated country in the world is the large island of Greenland. Greenland has over 836,000 square miles (over 2 million square kilometers) of land, but only a small population of about 56,000 people. That means in Greenland there is approximately one person per 15 square miles (40 square kilometers) of land.

Define It!

alpine: high in the mountains

polar: near the North or South Poles

bacteria: microscopic one-celled organisms

permafrost: a frozen layer of soil beneath the topsoil

Answer the items.

1. Do you think more people should try to live in places that have small populations? Explain your answer.

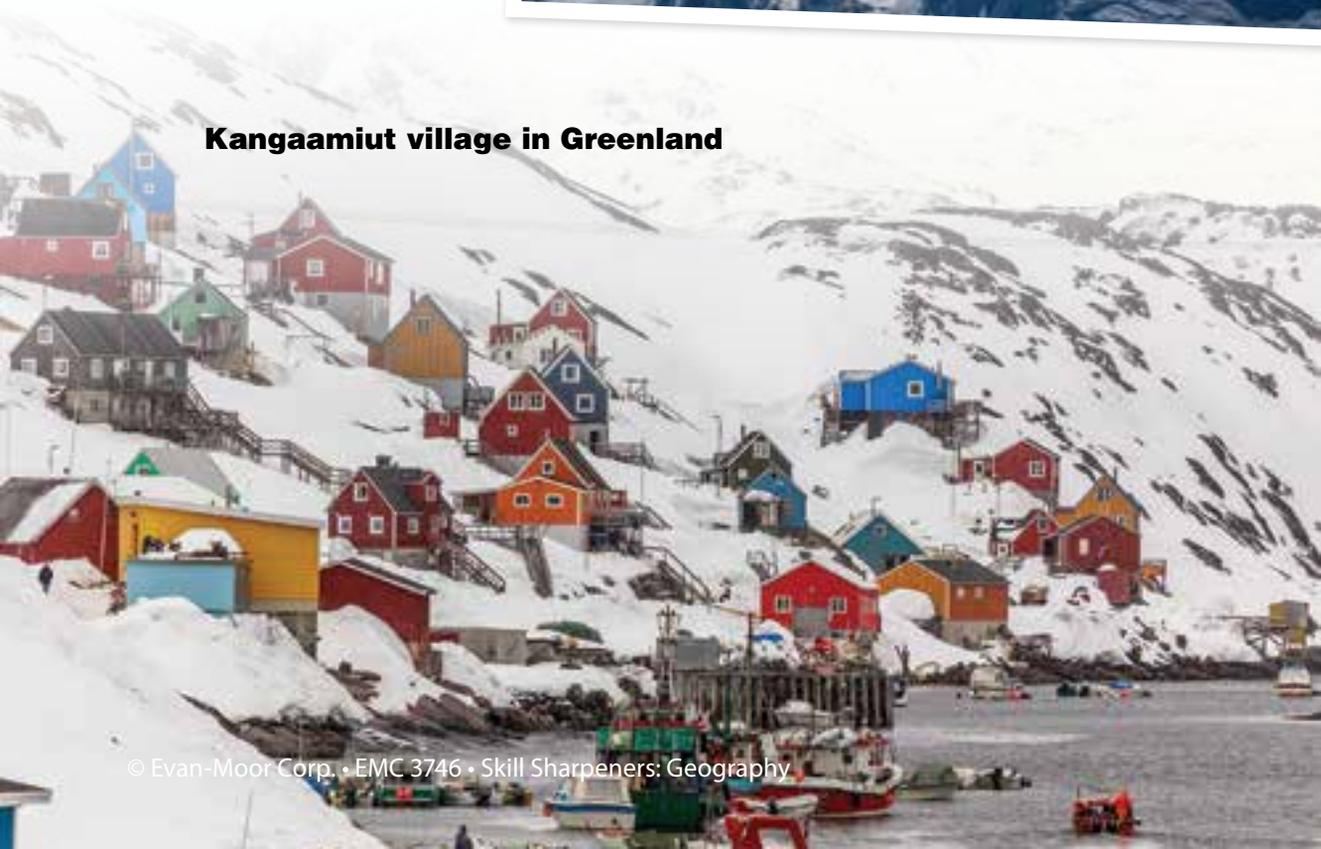
2. Considering the population, do you think there is a lot of pollution in Greenland? Explain your answer.



Moon Valley in the Atacama Desert, Chile



Antarctica ice desert landscape



Kangaamiut village in Greenland

The World in Spatial Terms

Skill:

Demonstrate understanding of geography concepts

Lots of People or Not?

Read the statement. Write *true* or *false*.

- 1. *Ciudad de México* is Spanish for Mexico City. _____
- 2. Trade means products that go to and from a country. _____
- 3. Finances are business and money transactions. _____
- 4. An empire is a group of cities working together. _____
- 5. An estuary is where a river and the sea meet that has both fresh water and salt water. _____
- 6. Alpine regions are in deserts. _____
- 7. Polar regions are located near the poles. _____
- 8. Permafrost is a layer of soil on top of the ground that is frozen. _____
- 9. Bacteria are microscopic multicelled organisms. _____
- 10. *Monoculture* means that several cultures share the area. _____

Think About It

Highly populated cities were deliberately built in specific locations. What do you think would make an area a likely place to hold a large population? What features would that area have to have?

I Want to Visit...

Create a slideshow of a place you read about in this unit.

What You Need

- Internet access
- computer software program to create and show text and pictures



Palacio de Bellas Artes (Palace of Fine Arts) – a famous theater, museum, and music venue in Mexico City

What You Do

1. Choose one of the locations you read about in this unit.
2. Use the Internet to research tourist attractions and areas of nature in that location.
3. Save pictures of the attractions you find. Write details about those areas, including their specific locations in the city or country.
4. Make a slideshow. Write captions that include the name of the attraction, where it is, what to do there, and its history.
5. If possible, add a map of the city or country and also a regional or world map showing its location.
6. Present your slideshow to your family and friends.



Skill:

Apply geography concepts in context

More Free Samplers!

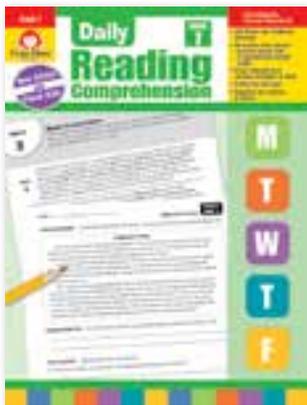
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