

Lesson Title: Map Language

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Grade(s):

1 and 2

Standard/Benchmark:

V. Geography

B. Maps and Globes

Standard

1. The student will use and create maps and globes to locate people, places and things.

Benchmark

3. Students will create and interpret simple maps using the map elements of title, direction, symbols, and a map key or legend.

Objectives:

Time Needed: Two 20-minute periods or 40 minutes

Overview: Given various symbols for common classroom objects, students will work in groups to correctly locate the real objects on the floor according to a diagram on the chalkboard.

Objectives: Students will be able to:

1. Understand that maps use symbols.
 2. Define and understand the meaning of "symbol".
 3. Interpret symbols in an elementary classroom.
 4. Complete a mapping exercise.
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Materials:

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Classroom objects such as books, pencils, chalkboard eraser, ruler, coin, scissors, etc.

Preparation:

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Gather and prepare materials.

Activities:

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1. Write the word "lake" on the board. Ask students to describe what a lake looks like.
2. Have the students use as many descriptive words as possible.
3. Ask if anyone can "show" the word lake in the language of maps. A student may come up to the chalkboard and write or draw an idea.
4. Ask students, "What are words in maps called?" (symbols) Help students realize that these symbols are pictures that show the shape of objects. Look at maps and show a lake in the key.
5. Draw a rough outline of the classroom on the board, such as a rectangle.
6. Explain to the class that what you have drawn represents your classroom as though you were looking down from the ceiling.
7. Divide the class into groups of three or four.
8. Distribute identical sets of three or four objects commonly found in classrooms to each group.
9. Ask the students to suggest a symbol for each object. Keep this key on the board at one side for easy reference.
10. Explain that you will draw an object symbol on the chalkboard and each group is to decide where the real object should be located on the floor.
11. When the correct location is found, explain why.
12. Circulate around the room as this is a good time to evaluate students' understanding of symbol-object and map-writing concepts.

Evaluation:

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Students should be able to create a symbol for a classroom object and draw where it is located on a simple diagram of the classroom.