

MYSTERY MAPPER

Draw a map, hide a treasure, and see if a buddy can find it!

DETAILS

- **Age:** 2nd – 6th grade (but could be adapted for any age)
- **Time:** 20 – 50 minutes
- **Materials:** paper, writing utensils, object to hide
 - Optional: clipboard, camera

MAP WORDS

LANDMARKS – items or locations that are easily noticed.

SYMBOLS – pictures or designs that are drawn on the map to show something in real life.

LEGEND/KEY – a space on the map where the symbols' meanings are listed.

VIRTUAL VARIATION

- Instead of hiding something, choose a mystery landmark, such as a special plant.
- Snap a pic of your map and send it to a nearby friend!
- They can reply with a pic of your mystery spot to prove they found it!

COVID PRECAUTIONS

When choosing a place to explore, please be mindful of the CDC's recommended social distancing protocols.

OBJECTIVES

- **OBSERVE** and **LOOK CLOSELY** at your surroundings
- **PRACTICE** using spacial awareness and thinking
- **INTERPRET** others' instructions and clues

ACTIVITY STEPS

DRAW YOUR MAP

- ☞ Choose a relatively small and defined space indoors or outdoors – a specific room, the whole house, a yard, a local park.
- ☞ Place yourself in the middle of the area and look around.
 - ☞ What items do you notice right away?
 - ☞ How far away can you easily see? Are there any important boundaries like walls, a fence or a road?
- ☞ These observations will help you choose the edges of your map and some of your first landmarks.
- ☞ Use symbols to draw these landmarks on your map. Put them in the place on your page that matches where you see them in real life.
 - ☞ No need to put every detail of the place on your map. Just choose enough so someone else can tell how the map matches real life.
 - ☞ Add labels, create a key, or even mark which direction is North.

MAKE YOUR MYSTERY!

- ☞ Hide an object of your choosing somewhere in the area you have drawn in your map.
- ☞ Place a symbol on your map showing the location of the hidden object.
- ☞ Hand over your map to a buddy to see if they can follow your map to the hidden object!

SHOW US YOUR MYSTERY MAPS!

Proud of your mystery map? Share it with us by posting it to Facebook with [#BOLCActivityToTry!](#)