



1st Grade

Unit 2: Explore My Neighborhood

Essential Question #3: How do we explore the natural world in my neighborhood?

Lesson Title: Map Symbols

SS Standard III, Objective 1

Implementation Time: 30 minutes

Media Resources Needed: *Nystrom Block Buddy Atlas*

Resources Needed: “Map Symbols” handout (1 per student); document camera

Materials Needed:

Crayons
Pencils
White board
White board markers

Procedure:

1. Activate students’ background knowledge of maps and globes. Project/show an example of a map and a globe and ask them to tell you what they show (land, water, mountains, oceans, countries, etc.). See *Nystrom Block Buddy Atlas* for examples. Point out North America, the United States, and Utah on the map and globe.
2. Point to the map key and compass rose. Talk about the ways the map key helps you understand and find information on a map or globe. Call on students to take turns using the map key and symbols to find specific features and locations as you call for them.
3. Ask students how they think a map would show mountains. Have someone come to the board and draw how they think mountains might look on a map/globe. Repeat for hills, rivers, lakes, flatlands (plains), and deserts. Compare and contrast with different symbols.
4. Pass out the “Map Symbols” handout (1 per student). Have students draw the symbols in the boxes and color them. Clarify any misconceptions.



5. Reiterate how important symbols are on maps. Project pages 18-19 in the *Nystrom Block Buddy Atlas*. Discuss.

Assessment:

Draw symbols for mountains, hills, rivers, flatlands (plains), lakes, and deserts on the board and number them 1-6. Write the names of the symbols on sentence strips and place them on the board/pocket chart near the drawings. Read the words to students and help them read them aloud. Have students number a blank piece of paper 1-6. Tell them to write the word they think corresponds to each numbered picture. Review.



Map Symbols

Draw a map symbol for the physical features listed below.

| | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| mountains | hills |
| river | flatlands (plains) |
| lake | desert |