

GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATION: 2-3  
GETTING AROUND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD  
CONTENT AREA: SOCIAL STUDIES

LESSON TIME:  
1+ class period

MATERIALS:  
1. Transparency of map of local area

2. Overhead projector and markers, if using map transparency or Smartboard

3. Pencils

4. Crayons or colored pencils

5. Dry Erase markers

6. Construction paper or large pieces of paper

TAKE HOME: Maps

OBJECTIVE:

Students will use maps to describe their neighborhoods and to map routes.

2ND GRADE STANDARDS:

2: Geography

1. Use geographic terms and tools to describe space and place

3RD GRADE STANDARDS:

2: Geography

1. Use various types of geographic tools to develop spatial thinking

NOTE: Prior to lesson, create transparency of a neighborhood map, or use 3-D mapping software such as Google Earth.

VOCABULARY: symbol, legend, key, compass rose

ACTIVITIES

1. Put up overhead transparency, or map. Ask students to describe what they see.

- What are the human built features?
- What are the physical features?

Tell students that they will be creating neighborhood maps of their own, using the provided materials. Each student's neighborhood map should include houses, a school, and other buildings of the student's choice. Students should include a compass rose and label the key on their maps to show the symbols that they used. (Maps need not be representative of students' actual neighborhoods.)

2. Ask students to to create their maps.

3. After students have completed their maps, bring their attention back to the map transparency. Tell students that a child living in house A will be riding his bike to school.

- Ask students which route the child should take. Draw that route on the transparency.
- Ask students what things might be hazards to the child riding his bike? (examples: no crosswalk, intersections, busy roadway, broken sidewalk, lack of sidewalk, lots of driveways, etc.)
- Are there other routes that she might take? Repeat with routes from houses B and C.

4. Have students mark the best routes on their own maps, from each house to the school, using a different colored pencil or crayon to distinguish the different routes and explain to a buddy or class why they chose the route.