



From [The Community Maps Project](#)

Draw a Map of Your Community

WHAT IS A MAP? A map is a picture of a place. There can be many different maps of the same place. A map cannot show everything about a place. For a map to communicate clearly, it must show a limited number of things. In this activity, you will get to make a map that shows the things that make your community a special place to live.

Maps are made for different reasons and show different information. Some maps are made to show property lines and other maps show us how to get where we want to go (like road maps). There are also weather maps that show precipitation (rain, sleet, snow) and cold fronts in a particular region.

The most important function of a map is to show location—where certain things are. Maps also show the characteristics and features of a place that make it unique and different from other places. Another feature a lot of maps have in common is that they show distances between things.

Materials you will need: 12x18-inch white or black construction paper (any large drawing paper will do), a light-colored pencil, and an assortment of cray-pas or colored markers.

Getting Started: Before you start drawing, make a list of the places and things in your community that you want to include on your map? Think about places you go to regularly in your community, places where your relatives or friends live, and your favorite places. How do you get to these places? By bus? car? bicycle? What roads or paths do you take? What kinds of things do you see along the way?

The Activity: Draw a map of your community. Include places and things on your map that you feel make your community a special place to live. Show the roads or pathways you use to get to these places. Your map doesn't have to be exactly how it is in real life. You can add more things to see to make your map fun to look at.

On a large sheet of drawing paper, draw (with a light-colored pencil) pictures of the places and things you decided to include on your map.

Then lightly draw in roads or pathways that show how you get to these places. Make sure that you label all the features of your map so that others can tell what they are.

Next, fill in the shapes of the places and roads with light-colored cray-pas. Try using two or more colors on each feature of your map. You can blend these colors to make you map more interesting to look at.

Using darker colors, fill in the areas between the features and roads on your map. You can also blend these colors to make you map more interesting to look at. Every area of your map should be filled in with color.

When your map is finished, sign, date and title it in the bottom right-hand corner. Show it to your friends.

Want To Do More? Read *My Map Book* by Sara Fanelli (1995). Try these map-making activities:

- Invent an instrument to map something invisible.
- Make a map of something you cannot see.
- Create a map for a heart surgeon. Make a map of your bedroom.
- Make a map of your backyard.
- Create a treasure map.

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