

Primary Geography: Explain this...

Maps

When we go somewhere new, it's not easy to find our way around.

Child: Let's find the beach!

Child: It's this way!

Child: No, it's this way!

That's why we use maps. A map is a picture of a place, usually drawn from above. We have big giant maps ... and small maps with lots of detail. Maps can be printed on paper and folded, they can be three dimensional - like this globe - or even on a phone. The closer you look at a map, the more detail you see. Those green areas are national parks. If you get even closer, you'll be able to see the roads.

To help us find the important places - like the train station - we use symbols. There are all sorts of symbols used on maps - like an envelope for a post office, a shopping trolley for a market and even a paw print for a zoo! A good map will show you everything a place has to offer.

Child: And then the beach should be...

Child: This is not the beach.

Child: I don't understand.

Child: We had it upside down!

To help make sure you don't get the map upside down most maps have one of these... It shows you which way is north, south, east and west on the map. Maps also use co-ordinates to help you find what you're looking for. Co-ordinates work by drawing lines over the map and dividing it into sections which are numbered or lettered.

This line is called the X-axis and this is where you find the first number or letter from a co-ordinate. This line is the Y-axis and this is where you find the second number or letter from a co-ordinate. Think of it as crossing the hallway and then climbing the stairs. You need to cross the hallway first before you climb up the stairs.

Child: Where do we go now.

Child: I would quite like to go to the waterfall.

Child: The waterfall is here, which is B7.

Child: Alright then, lets go that way!