

Map key maker

Suggested: Years 2-4 | Pupil page

Name: _____ Date: _____

Create consistent symbols and use a key to read a simple invented place.

Invented park brief: Show a gate, a pond, two benches and a path. A map key explains what each symbol means. Symbols are choices, so a key is needed rather than guessing their meaning.

1. Choose and draw one symbol for each feature in a four-entry key.

2. Draw the park plan. Use the bench symbol twice and keep the symbols consistent.

3. Ask a partner to locate the pond using only your key. Record one change that would make it clearer.

4. Why might using the same symbol for both gate and bench confuse a reader?

Map key maker | Teacher guide

Suggested: Years 2-4 | Teacher page

Learning focus

Create consistent symbols and use a key to read a simple invented place.

Model and use

Choose a simple bench symbol and use exactly the same symbol in the key and twice on the map.

Read or explore the example together. Let the learner try the task using an accessible response method, then discuss the reasoning. Use the check below to decide whether to revisit a step.

Answers / review criteria

Open-ended. The key has four distinct labelled entries; the plan contains a gate, pond, two benches and a path using matching symbols.

A successful revision improves readability for another reader. Symbols need not look realistic.

The same unqualified symbol for two features makes the key ambiguous. A distinct shape, pattern or added label can resolve it.

Support

Provide four symbol choices to label, then add them to a pre-drawn park boundary.

Challenge

Make a version that remains readable in black and white and explain one design choice.

What to look for

Can another reader identify a feature by consulting the key rather than relying on the creator's explanation?

Print page 1 for the activity; keep page 2 for teaching. Suggested age ranges are selection aids, not curriculum alignment claims. Responses may be spoken, drawn, pointed to, typed or recorded through the learner's usual communication method.