Map Tools

Maps help us find places when we travel. They show us how many miles one place is from another place. They show how land areas look from above.

Markings on a map stand for real things in the world. Many maps have a tool called a key. The key tells us what the markings mean. For example, blue lines might show rivers.

Most maps have a tool called a compass rose. This tool shows a map’s directions: north, east, south, and west.

Reading a map may seem difficult. But a map’s tools make it easier to use.