



HUMBER ARBORETUM ECO CENTRE MASTERING MAPS COOL ACTIVITIES



INTERESTING FACTS

- ✦ The oldest known world map is the *Imago Mundi* of 6th century BC Babylonia.
- ✦ Greek philosophers believed the earth to be round well before the voyages of Christopher Columbus. In fact it was Aristotle that first put forth proof that the earth was round.
- ✦ Cartography or mapmaking (in Greek *chartis* = map and *graphein* = write) has been an integral part of the human story for a long time (maybe 8,000 years - nobody knows exactly, but longer than written words).
- ✦ From cave paintings to ancient maps of Babylon, Greece and Asia, through the Age of Exploration, and on into the 21st century, people have created and used maps as the essential tools to help them define, explain and navigate their way through the world (and beyond).
- ✦ The first known maps are of the stars in the night sky, not the earth.



Human Map

- ✦ Briefly go over the parts of the Map with your students. Now set out your map boundaries.
- ✦ Divide students into five different groups
Title, Compass, legend, Scale, Landmark.
The ideal breakdown for each group Title(3), Compass(4), Scale(2), Legend (One legend symbol for every two land marks that are the same. For example, 2 trees on the map would be represented by one tree in the legend), Landmarks (minimum 2 landmarks for every one legend symbol).
- ✦ Move the groups into the playing area so they are standing where they would be traditionally placed on a map (Title: top middle, Legend: bottom left, Scale: bottom right or middle, Landmarks: scattered in the middle).
- ✦ Assign actions and sayings to each group;
Title (say title while spreading their arms wide), Compass (turning North, East, South, West while calling out the direction at each point) Scale (counts by thousands while walking back and forth along the bottom) Legend and Landmarks (Legend calls out its name while the landmark does the action. For example, those students representing the river in the legend would call out "river" while the landmarks say "woosh woosh" and move their arms like a flowing river).
- ✦ Point to one group at a time for a quick practice for their chosen action or call.
- ✦ Once everyone has their action mastered, do it as a chorus, starting one group at a time until they are all going at once.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the most important thing to have on a map? (Ans: The title is the most important thing to put on a map because without it the map has no meaning.)
2. What are the 4 things that need to go on every map? (Ans: Title, Legend, Landmarks, and Compass Rose are things that have to be on a map. Scale is a mathematical calculation and can be very difficult to figure out especially when making your own map. An interesting way to show children scale is to measure their pacing factor. Have them stand with toes touching a line. Have them take two steps and stop bringing both feet side by side. Measure the distance between the start line and where the toes land. Now the student will be able to determine the approximate distance just by walking. This information can be added to their map scale.)
3. What colour is water on a map? (Ans: Water is one thing on a map that the colour never changes. It will always be blue!)
4. What do we use as a model of the earth? (Ans: a globe) What shape is it? (Ans: a sphere)

