



# How to...

## DID YOU KNOW?

A cartographer is a person whose job it is to create maps.



# Navigate with a map

This important skill can also be a lot of fun to practice.

You may frequently see adults following directions on a map on their smartphone to navigate getting from one place to another. But before it was common for maps to be customized online, people would study individual paper maps or a collection of maps in a book to help them get to know an area or how to get there. Maps can also reveal more than directions. You can more clearly get a full picture of an area—its shape, for example, and where roads and waterways are located. Here's how to get started.

### Begin with your town

If you want to get more familiar with paper maps, try first looking at one that represents your town. Since you already know the area, it may be easier for you to identify roads, large intersections, and neighborhoods. Ask an adult to help you find a map of your town online and print it out. Or check with your school or local library for town maps that can be checked out.

### Examine the legend

The legend, typically located in a box in a corner of the map, contains information about what different symbols on the map represent. For example, the legend may reveal that a solid black line represents a road, while a blue line represents a river. There may also be symbols for hospitals, schools, historic buildings, and more.

### Check scale and direction

The map's scale is usually located by the legend. The scale will state how large of an area the map represents. For example, a half inch on the map could equal one mile of land. A compass rose is usually included and it looks like a star with a circle in the middle. A compass rose's arrows show which way is north, south, west, and east.

### Consider topography and more

Some maps also include topographic information about an area's landscape. A mountain may be shown as a large circle with smaller circles inside of it. A forest might appear as a green block. Older maps can also show you how an area has changed. For example, a map of your town from 20 years ago may have different roads or be missing newer parks or neighborhoods.



Find places you've been.

### Use the map

Once you're familiar with your town map, ask an adult to go on a map walk with you.

Using only the map, try to get from one place to another. You can set challenges for yourself on the walk. For instance, try using the map to get to every body of water in your town. Once you are able to use a map to get around your own town, you could try using one in other areas. Ask an adult if you could visit local parks that have maps for exploring the area.

## 4 fun facts about the history of maps

Maps have been used for thousands of years to help people understand and navigate the world.

### They were made of clay.

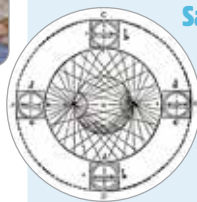
One of the oldest known maps was carved into clay around 700 to 500 BCE. It shows Mesopotamia, a historical region in Western Asia.



### Sailors made them better.

Starting in the 15th century, maps became more accurate

because more sailors were traveling the seas and recording the routes they used to go from country to country to trade goods.



### Some are valuable.

The first known map to mark "America" on what is now the US was created in 1507 by a German mapmaker. There is only one surviving copy, which is worth \$10 million.



### They can be misleading.

Some historical maps include places that never existed. Some mapmakers drew in fake towns in order to catch people who copied their maps and tried to sell them.

