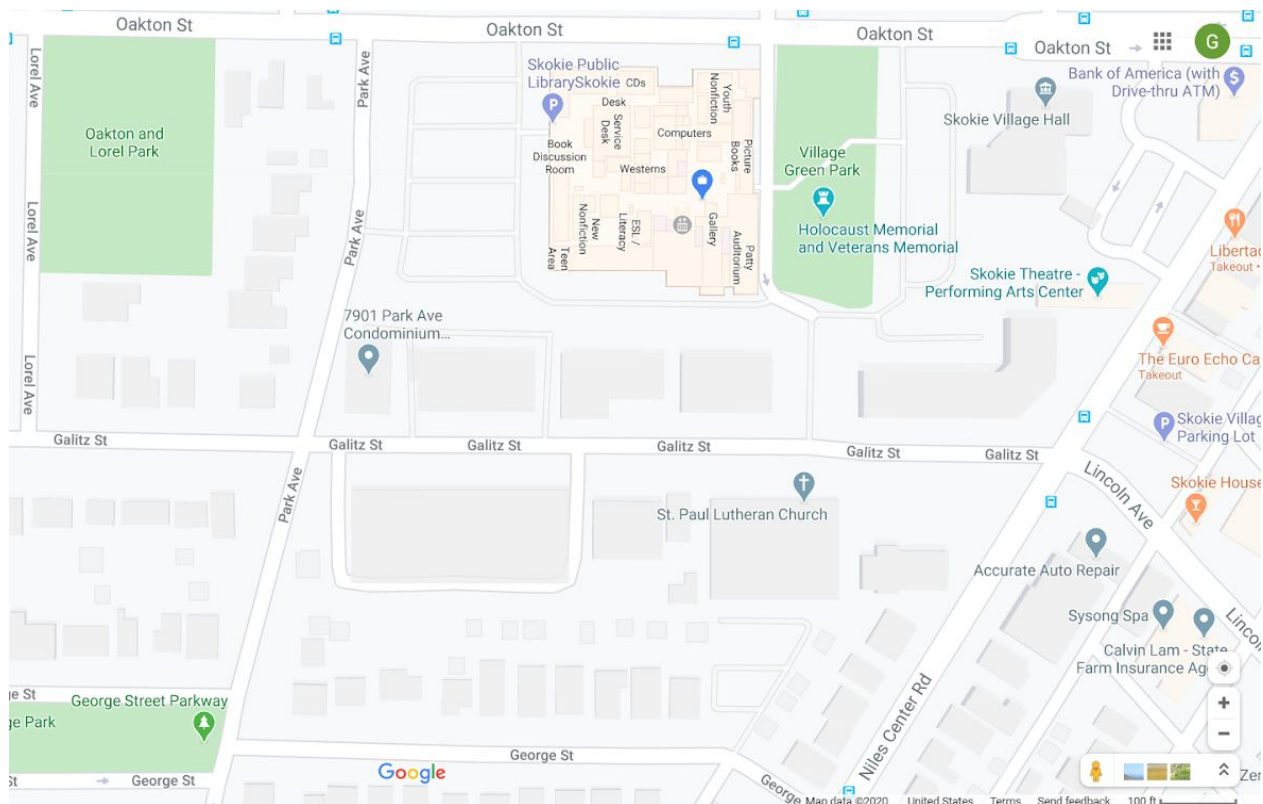


DIY Science Club Jr.

Maps

A map is a drawing of a place. It's most often a drawing of a real physical place, like your town or state or country, but it can also be an imaginary place, or even a map of your thoughts or your body. It's useful to find your way around, and it might even lead you to hidden treasure.

Look at this map of Skokie with your grownup. Can you find the library and maybe even your street? What else do you see?



There is not enough room on maps for every little detail, but colors and symbols give us an idea what something is. Parks or playgrounds, for example, are usually green, while rivers, lakes, and oceans are blue. Buildings on this map are grey or brown and you can tell which streets are bigger by their size.

Most maps have a “key” that explains what all the colors and symbols mean.

Design Your Own Map

Do you think there are enough playgrounds and parks where you live? What would your neighborhood look like if you were in charge? Let's design a map of a place where you would really like to live. Would it be by an ocean, a lake, a river, or mountains?

Supplies

- painter tape
- construction paper or other colored paper in different colors
- scissors
- pencil, crayon or marker for the map key
- a place to draw and tape things (this could be a table, the floor, or a large piece of paper)

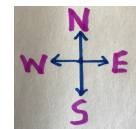
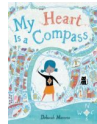
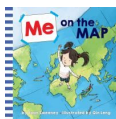
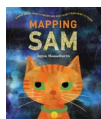
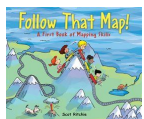


Instructions

1. Use tape to mark out streets and sidewalks or bike paths.
2. Cut out pieces of construction paper in different colors and tape them to your map to add parks, bodies of water, buildings, or anything you like. If you want, you can write names on these.
3. Have your grownup help you draw up a map key.
4. Tell your family or friends about your finished map. Practice spatial thinking skills (important not just for geography and earth sciences, but also for math) by asking questions like: What is near the library? Is the park or the store closer to the lake? How many streets do you have to cross to get from one place to another? Can you ride your bike from the library to the store?
5. You can add a "rose compass" to your map that shows the north, south, east, and west directions.



Want to Learn More?



Follow That Map by Scot Richie (Youth/Easy Nonfiction/912.014 R)

Mapping Sam by Joyce Hesselberth (Youth/Little Learner Books/Science)

Me on the Map by Joan Sweeney (Youth/Easy Nonfiction/912.014 S)

My Heart is a Compass by Deborah Marcero (Youth Picture Books MAR)