MAP SKILLS

A map is a picture of a place. We use maps to help us know where things are. In order to use a map, you need to know a few things.

This is a compass rose. It shows the four cardinal directions (north, south, east, and west) and the four secondary directions. When you look at a map, you will know which way is north by looking at the compass.

The legend or key will tell you what the symbols on a map mean. It might tell you the symbol for a road, an airport, a school, a park, or a city.

The scale will help you find out distances on the map. Here is an example. The scale tells you that one inch on the map equals 150 miles. You want to travel from Benton to Portville. So you take out a ruler and measure the distance from Benton to Portville. It measures two inches. How many miles is Portville from Benton?

Scale: 1 inch = 150 miles
2 inches = ________ miles
This map has a grid on it. The lines that run north-south are called longitude lines. The lines that run east-west are called latitude lines. These lines are a way to name where something is located.

There are many different kinds of maps:

- **topographic map** - It uses contour lines to show elevation.
- **road map** - It shows you how to travel. It has roads, cities, towns, parks, counties, and state lines on it.
- **shaded relief map** - It shows the physical features of an area.
- **product map** - It shows the things that are grown or produced here.

Try This!

Which map would help you find your way to the airport?
A] road map  
B] election map  
C] product map  
D] topographic map

Which map would help you find the elevation of a mountain?
A] bus route map  
B] topographic map  
C] product map  
D] election map

Scale: 1 inch = 5 miles

3 inches = ______ miles