

## Make A Map!

Most maps have the same basic elements, which include the map's scale and any symbols used.

### Scale

Scale shows the relationship between distances on the map and the real distances on Earth.

For example, a map could say, "one inch represents eight miles." Most maps use a visual scale that looks like a ruler. It is simply a horizontal line marked off in miles (or kilometers).

If a map shows an area in detail, it is called a *large-scale map* because the objects shown are relatively large. For example, a street map of a neighborhood is a large-scale map. If a map shows a larger area, like a continent, it is called a *small-scale map*. In this case, objects on the map are small compared to the real-life continent.

### Symbols

A symbol is something that stands for something else. Cartographers use symbols to represent geographic features. For example, black dots represent cities and circled stars represent capital cities. Different sorts of lines represent boundaries, roads, highways, and rivers. Colors are often used as symbols, too. Green is usually used for forests, tan for deserts, and blue for water.

### Legend

Maps usually have a legend. A legend is a key that shows the scale and also explains what the symbols mean.

### Make your map

Explore your house, your neighborhood or a place in your town.  
Draw the map of that place on the back of this sheet, making sure to include things like scale, a compass, and symbols of things you want to highlight on your map.

Share your map! Upload it to social media with the hashtag #kennebunkcartographer or email it to us at [info@brickstoremuseum.org](mailto:info@brickstoremuseum.org)!

Ready for the next step? Use what the scientists use to make maps. The free, downloadable tool: [QGIS](#)

**Map Name:** \_\_\_\_\_