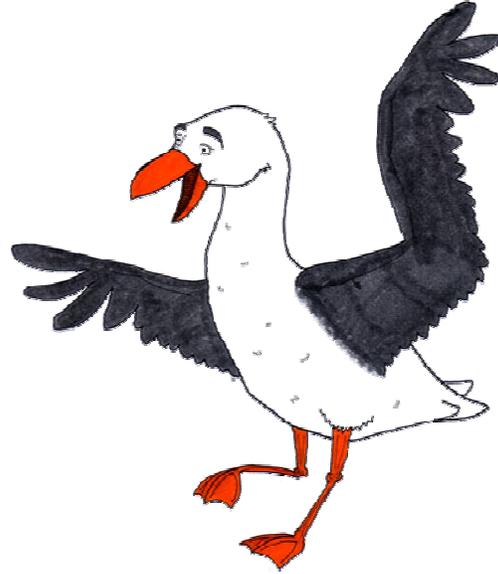


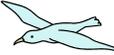


## READING MAPS

Maps are tools that help you learn about a place and find your way around a place.

**Herry the Herring Gull** is your guide. This booklet contains activities that will help you become a good map reader:



Page 3—A bird's eye view of things 

Page 4—Which way is up?  (orientation)

Page 6— How big are things on a map?  (scale)

Page 8— How do you show what things are on a map?  (legend)

Page 10—Reading a map of Massachusetts

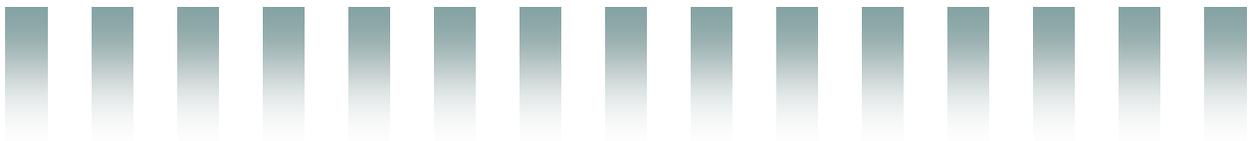


Page 11—Reading a map of Boston



Page 12—More Boston map questions





## A map shows us a place from far above

Most maps show us a place from far above, as if you were a bird flying overhead.

Herry is a herring gull— a resident of Boston and an expert on a **bird's eye view** of the world.



Pick a room. Sit in a chair in the middle of the room and draw what you see:

Imagine you are a bird flying above, looking down at the room. Draw what the bird sees:

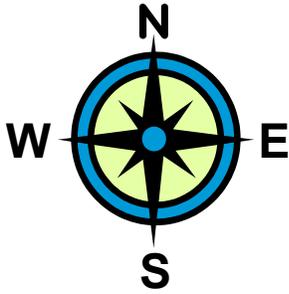
### Person's view

*You can use a big sheet of paper to draw these maps, too!*

### Bird's eye view (MAP)

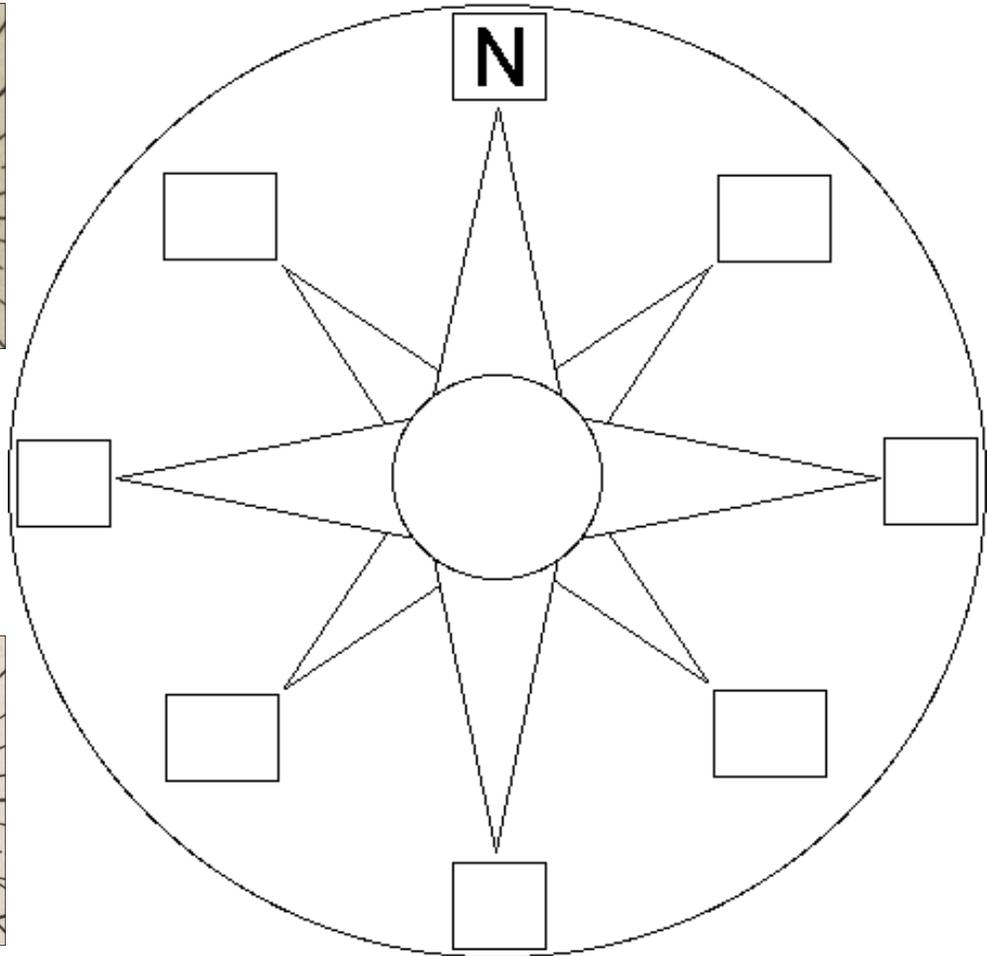
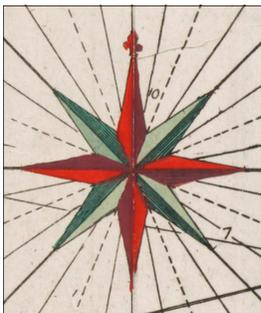
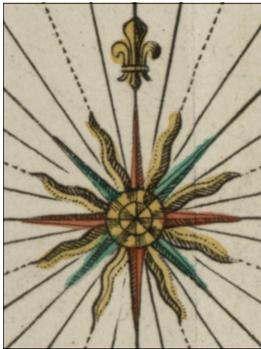


**Which way is up on a map? Use a Compass Rose!**



Maps include a **COMPASS ROSE** to show you where **NORTH**, **SOUTH**, **EAST**, and **WEST** are. **North** is usually at the top of a map.

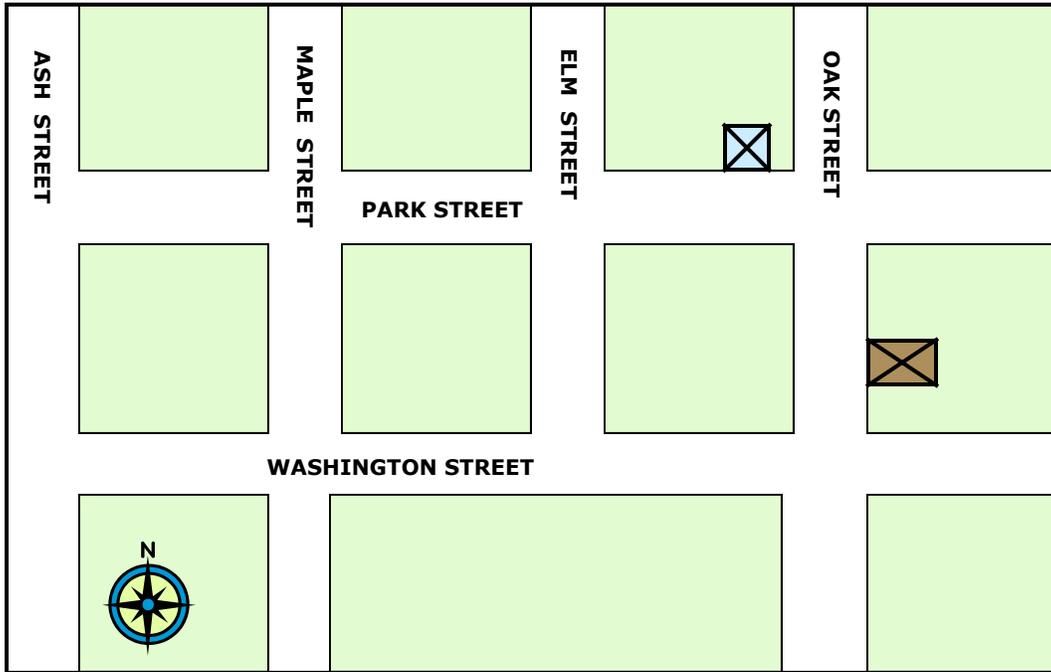
Mapmakers often designed a beautiful compass rose for their maps. What kind of compass rose would you design for a map of your neighborhood?



**ORIENTATION: North South East West**

North ↑ South ↓ East → West ←

Use the compass directions to fill in the map.



The  house is on the north side of Park Street.

The  house is on the east side of \_\_\_\_\_ street?

What street is 2 blocks east of Ash Street? \_\_\_\_\_

Draw a  store on the south side of Washington Street.

Draw a  house on Elm Street, north of Park Street.

Draw a  school on Park Street, west of Oak Street.

Draw a  playground north of the school.



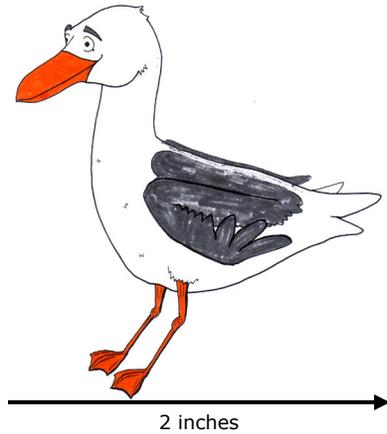
*Fill in the map with other buildings. Can you give directions from one place to another, using North, South, East and West?*



## How big are things on a map?

A map shows you a place on the earth. A map must be small, but accurate. Everything on a map is reduced in size by the same amount. This is called the **MAP SCALE**.

A herring gull like Herry is 20 inches long. In this picture, he is 2 inches long. Every inch = 10 inches in real life.



The scale of the Herry drawing is  
1 inch = 10 inches.

Herry's wingspan is 55 inches. Using the Herry scale (1 inch = 10 inches), how big would the drawing of his open wings be? \_\_\_\_\_

### On a map with a scale of 1 inch = 20 miles, how big would these things be?

A road that is 5 inches long on the map is really \_\_\_\_\_

A river that is 8 inches long on the map is really \_\_\_\_\_

A beach that is 1/2 inch long on the map is really \_\_\_\_\_

If something is really 75 miles, how long would it be on the map?

If two places are 200 miles apart, how long would this be on the map?

*Extra hard!* If the map itself is 12 inches square, what is the longest distance you could have on the map?





**How do you show what things are on a map?**

Maps use symbols to represent things. These symbols are placed in a box on the map. This is the **MAP LEGEND** or **MAP KEY**.

A small road might look like this: - - - - -

A big road might look like this: — — — — —

Mountains might look like this: 

A building might look like this: 



An airport might look like this: 

What might  represent? \_\_\_\_\_

What might  represent? \_\_\_\_\_

How could you show water?

How could you show a bridge?

**Create some other map symbols**



Symbol for \_\_\_\_\_

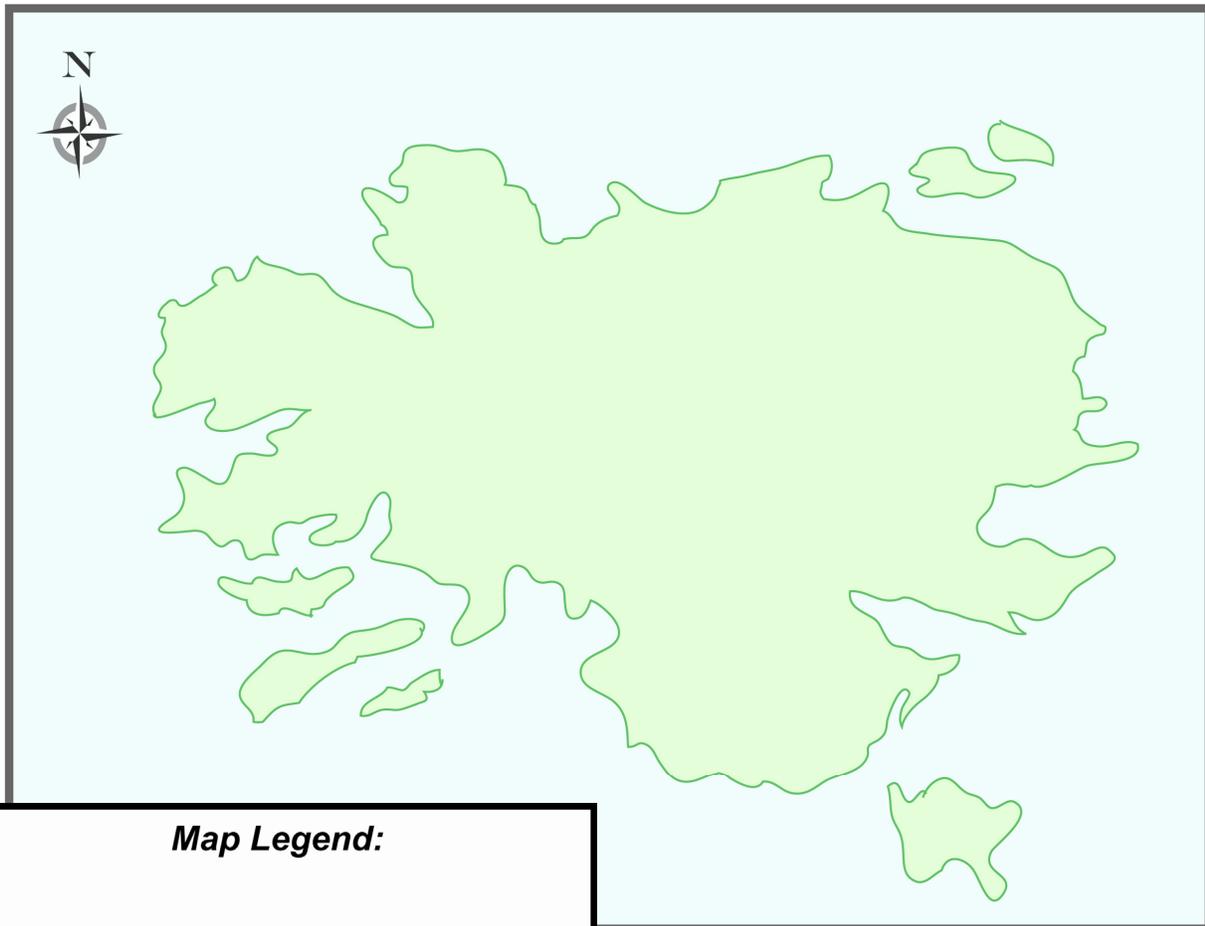
Symbol for \_\_\_\_\_

Symbol for \_\_\_\_\_



## Map LEGEND or KEY

This is a fantasy map—for an imaginary place. Add some features to the map. Roads? Mountains? Rivers? Forests? Cities or Towns? Create a legend or key for your map.



**Map Legend:**

What does your map tell you about this imaginary place?

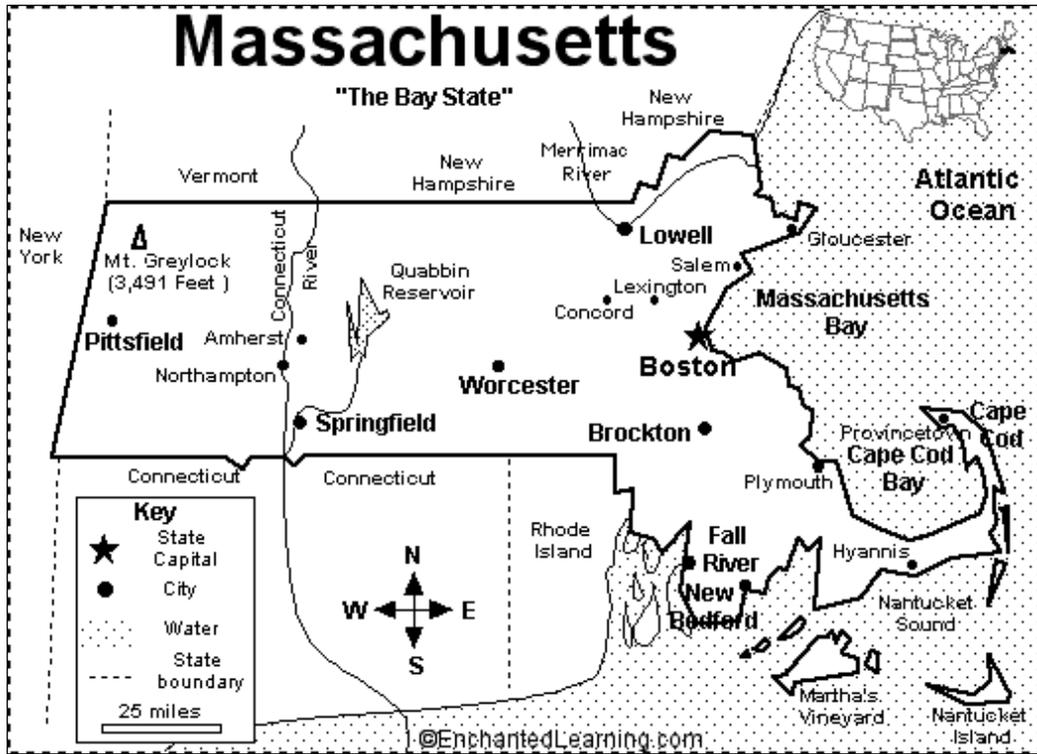
Who lives there?

What stories could you tell?

Explain your map to a friend.



## Reading a map of Massachusetts



### Examine these maps!

Can you find the compass, legend, key and scale?

Find Boston on the Massachusetts map. What other towns do you know?

What town is at the tip of Cape Cod?

What city is the capital of Massachusetts?

Make your own list of map questions about these maps, and share the answers with a friend!



# Reading a map of Boston



© 2007 City Maps Inc.

Find City Hall on the Boston map.  
 How far is it from Boston Common?  
 There are more Boston map questions  
 on the back page.

- **The T** (subway)
- **T station** (subway)
- **Main road**

**SCALE:**     1/2 mile  
                       |  
                       .8 Km

© 2007 City Maps Inc.



**You can find out all kinds of things about Boston from looking at the map.**

How many T stations are there on the Boston map?

Can you find streets named after people?

What river is in Boston?

What city is across the river from Boston?

How can you get to the airport?

Can you find Fenway Park?

**AND NOW... You can draw your own maps!**

A map of your house

A map of your neighborhood

A map of Boston

A map of Massachusetts

A map of anywhere! Even imaginary places...



**You need:**

A big sheet of paper, pencils or markers, and to pretend you are Herry. What would the place look like from a bird's-eye view?

Don't forget to include the **map scale** to show how far places are from each other, a **compass rose** to show which way is North, and a **legend or key** to show what the symbols on your map mean.



Norman B. Leventhal  
Map & Education Center  
at the Boston Public Library



BNY MELLON.

ARTHUR F. BLANCHARD TRUST

Administered by the BNY Mellon Charitable Giving Program