

# Finding Places with a Map

by Kate Paixão



Maps help people understand the world. A *world map* shows where places are on Earth. That map helps us see how close or far one country is from another. A *road map* includes streets and highways. It helps travelers figure out how to get where they want to go.

Maps use symbols. A dot may stand for a city. A swing may represent a park. Maps include a key, or legend, listing those symbols. The legend

tells what each symbol means.

Finding places on a map is not always simple. That is why maps use numbers, letters, and lists to make the search easier.

Here is an example. Most maps use a grid, which is like a checkerboard. Along one edge of the grid, small letters are spaced evenly. On another side, numbers are printed in the same way.

Those maps include a list of places. Next to the name of each place will be a letter and a number-such as "A7." To find that place, you look for "A" on the letter side of the map, and "7" on the number side. Finally, you locate the area where the letter and the number meet. Nearby, you should find the place you're looking for!

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1.** What do maps help people do?

- A. Maps help people understand the world.
- B. Maps help people print numbers on a grid.
- C. Maps help people make checkerboards.

**2.** What does the author compare to a grid on a map?

- A. a legend
- B. a highway
- C. a checkerboard

**3.** Read these sentences from the text.

"Maps use symbols. A dot may stand for a city. A swing may represent a park. Maps include a key, or legend, listing those symbols. The legend tells what each symbol means."

What can you conclude from this paragraph about dots and swings on a map?

- A. Dots and swings are examples of keys on a map.
- B. Dots and swings are examples of legends on a map.
- C. Dots and swings are examples of symbols on a map.

**4.** If you wanted to know how far the country of the United States is from the country of China, what kind of map should you use?

- A. a map with a lot of symbols
- B. a world map
- C. a road map

**5.** What is the main idea of this article?

- A. A road map helps travelers because it includes streets and highways.
- B. Most maps use a grid that is similar to a checkerboard.
- C. Maps are helpful, but using them is not always easy.

6. Why might the author include an example of finding a place on a map?

- A. to show how maps can be used to figure out the distance between two countries
- B. to compare the symbol for a city with the symbol for a park
- C. to help readers understand how to find a place on a map

7. Choose the answer that best completes this sentence.

Maps can help people understand the world \_\_\_\_\_ they show people where different parts of the world are.

- A. so
- B. because
- C. but

8. What do road maps help travelers do?

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9. Name three things that maps use to make finding places on a map easier.

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**10.** Explain how numbers, letters, and lists can make finding a place on a map easier. Support your answer with evidence from the article.

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