Map Clue Detectives

Use nearby words to unlock map vocabulary.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.4 "Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each map-tool word or phrase that may be new. Circle the nearby words that explain what it means.

Tools on a Map

1. A map is a drawing that shows where places are. It helps people see an area from above. Near the bottom of many maps, a key explains the symbols. A blue line might stand for a river, while a black line might stand for a road. The key lets readers decode, or figure out, what each symbol means.

2. Maps also use a scale to show distance. A scale may say that one inch on the map equals one mile on the ground. If two towns are three inches apart on that map, they are about three miles apart. This information helps a traveler estimate how far a trip will be before leaving home for a trip.

3. Another useful map tool is a compass rose. It shows directions, such as north, south, east, and west. A hiker can use the compass rose to plan a route, or path, from a campsite to a lake. First, the hiker finds the campsite. Then the hiker follows the direction shown on the map to reach the lake safely with care.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What does decode mean in paragraph 1? Which words in the paragraph helped you decide?

2. What is a scale on a map? Use details from paragraph 2.

3. What does estimate mean in paragraph 2?

4. What does route mean in paragraph 3? What words explain it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write two sentences about a made-up playground map. Use one map word that is not key, scale, compass rose, or route, and give a clue that explains what the word means.

ANSWER KEY

Map Clue Detectives

GRADE 3 · RI.3.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each map-tool word or phrase that may be new. Circle the nearby words that explain what it means. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does decode mean in paragraph 1? Which words in the paragraph helped you decide?	**Decode means figure out the meaning. The words "or figure out" give the clue.**
2	What is a scale on a map? Use details from paragraph 2.	**A scale shows how a measurement on the map matches a real distance on the ground.**
3	What does estimate mean in paragraph 2?	**Estimate means make a close guess, such as guessing how far a trip will be.**
4	What does route mean in paragraph 3? What words explain it?	**Route means a path. The words "or path" explain it.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our playground map has a legend, a box that explains the picture signs. A slide sign tells where children can play.

Accept answers that use nearby clues from the passage to explain each word or phrase. For Part 3, accept any correct map-related word if the student gives a clear context clue in exactly two sentences.