

Map Clue Detectives

Read about map types and the parts that help people use them.

SS.2.G.1.1 "Use different types of maps (political, physical, and thematic) to identify map elements."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three map types and circle each map element named, so you can spot the clues that help a map reader.

Maps Tell Different Stories

- ① Maps help people learn about places. Every map needs a title that tells its topic. A compass rose shows directions, such as north and south. A key, also called a legend, explains what map symbols and colors mean.
- ② A political map can show states, countries, cities, and borders. Lines may mark where one state ends and another begins. A scale helps you estimate distance, such as how far a town is from a city.
- ③ A physical map shows natural features, including mountains, rivers, deserts, and oceans. A thematic map focuses on one idea, such as average rainfall or where people grow oranges. Its title and key help readers know exactly what information the map shows.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

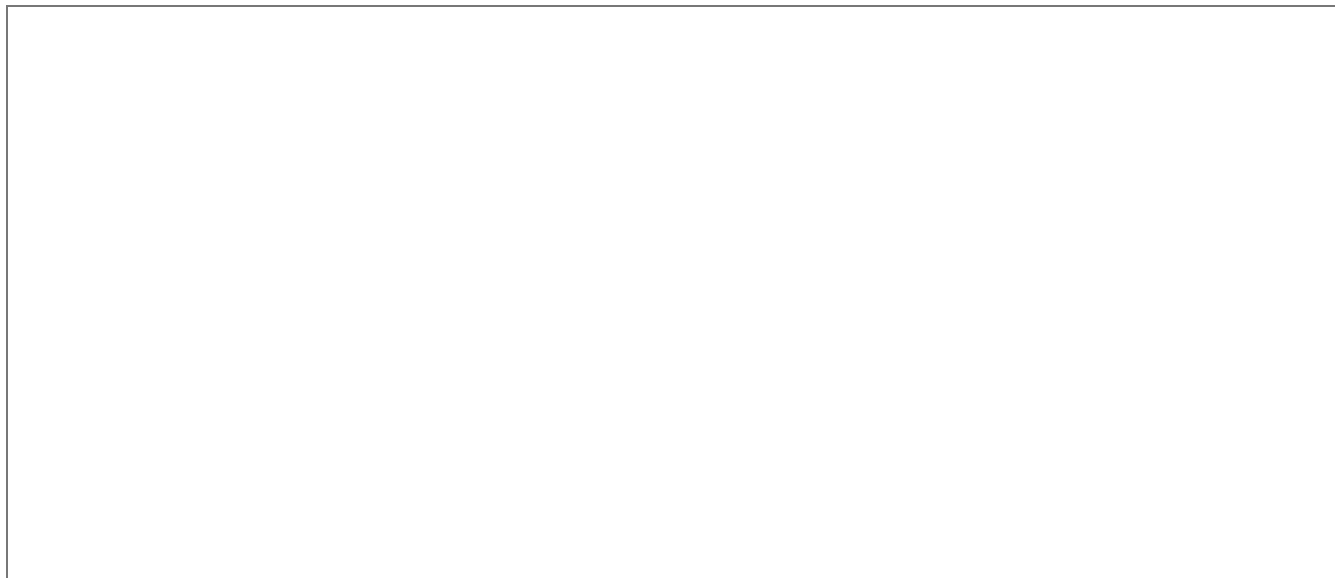
- 1 A map shows state borders. What type of map is it? What map element can help you estimate distance?

- 2 What type of map would show mountains and rivers?

- 3 A map tells about average rainfall. What type of map is it? Name two elements that help readers understand it.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

In the box, draw a small physical map of an imaginary park. Give it a title, add a compass rose, and make a key with two symbols for natural features.



PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the three map types and circle each map element named, so you can spot the clues that help a map reader. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	A map shows state borders. What type of map is it? What map element can help you estimate distance?	It is a political map. A scale helps estimate distance.
2	What type of map would show mountains and rivers?	A physical map.
3	A map tells about average rainfall. What type of map is it? Name two elements that help readers understand it.	It is a thematic map. Its title and key help readers understand it.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Pine Park Physical Map. The drawing includes a hill and a stream. The compass rose has N pointing up.
Key: triangle = hill; wavy line = stream.

Accept any original physical-map drawing that includes a clear title, a compass rose, and a key explaining two symbols for natural features. The natural features may include hills, rivers, lakes, mountains, forests, or beaches.