Mapmaker's Plan

Use map tools to explore places across the United States.

4.C.2.1.A "Use and describe various elements of maps (e.g., key/legend, scale, cardinal and intermediate directions) to examine the physical and human features of the nation."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline direction words, circle the three symbols in the key, and box the sentence that states the scale so you can use these map tools to answer the questions.

Planning a Map of the United States

1. A mapmaker plans a map of the United States for a travel guide. Her key will use a triangle for mountain ranges, a wavy line for rivers, and a dot for cities. Mountain ranges and rivers are physical features, made by nature. Cities are human features, built by people. The key helps readers tell one kind of place from another.

2. She places the Rocky Mountains west of the Great Plains. The Mississippi River runs east of the Great Plains. Farther east, the Appalachian Mountains stretch across part of the country. Seattle is northwest of Denver, while Denver is west of St. Louis. A compass rose with north, south, east, west, and the directions between them helps readers describe these locations.

3. The mapmaker writes a scale: one inch on the map stands for 500 miles in the country. In her plan, the line from Seattle to Denver will measure two inches. The scale helps a reader estimate the distance between those cities. She also marks New Orleans with a dot near the Mississippi River. The river is natural, but the city was built by people.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which symbol would mark the Mississippi River? Is the river a physical or human feature?

2. Which direction is Seattle from Denver? How could the compass rose help a reader describe that location?

3. Use the mapmaker's scale to estimate the distance from Seattle to Denver. Show how you figured it out.

4. Which symbol would mark New Orleans? Is the city a physical or human feature?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Add two new entries to the mapmaker's key, one for a lake and one for a road. Describe a different symbol for each, tell whether each feature is physical or human, and explain how a reader could use your key.

ANSWER KEY

Mapmaker's Plan

GRADE 4 · 4.C.2.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline direction words, circle the three symbols in the key, and box the sentence that states the scale so you can use these map tools to answer the questions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which symbol would mark the Mississippi River? Is the river a physical or human feature?	**A wavy line would mark it. The river is a physical feature.**
2	Which direction is Seattle from Denver? How could the compass rose help a reader describe that location?	**Seattle is northwest of Denver. The compass rose shows northwest as a direction between north and west.**
3	Use the mapmaker's scale to estimate the distance from Seattle to Denver. Show how you figured it out.	**About 1,000 miles. Two inches at 500 miles per inch equals 1,000 miles.**
4	Which symbol would mark New Orleans? Is the city a physical or human feature?	**A dot would mark it. The city is a human feature.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would use an empty circle for a lake, which is a physical feature. I would use two straight lines for a road, which is a human feature. A reader could match each mark to my key to tell a lake from a road.

Accept any two distinct, easy-to-describe symbols for the lake and road. The lake must be identified as physical and the road as human.