

Maps Tell Stories

How map choices shape what people notice about a place

WG.1.d "explaining how cartography is used to reflect regional perspectives, points of view, and perceptions of an area and the creation of mental maps."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that a mapmaker or map user might choose to include, and circle three words or phrases that reveal a perspective or purpose.

Seeing Harborville Differently

- ① A map can seem like a neutral picture, but every mapmaker chooses what to include, emphasize, or leave out. In the fictional city of Harborville, a tourism office might create a visitor map that highlights the waterfront, museum, hotels, and walking routes. It may use large symbols for attractions and place the historic district near the center. This design helps visitors plan a short trip. It also suggests that Harborville is mainly a place for sightseeing and leisure.
- ② A resident's map could look different. Someone traveling to work may notice bus stops, grocery stores, clinics, sidewalks, and safe street crossings. That person might draw a crowded intersection larger than a landmark because it affects a daily trip. The map may not show every hotel or gift shop. These choices reflect a point of view shaped by routine, needs, and concerns. Both maps can be useful, yet they present Harborville differently for different users and purposes.
- ③ Cartographers also decide which names, boundaries, colors, and scales to use. A neighborhood label can honor a community's history, while a different label may make the same area feel unfamiliar. Map users should ask who made a map, for whom, and what purpose. People also create mental maps, which are personal pictures of places held in the mind. Routes, memories, news, and repeated experiences shape them. Comparing mental maps can reveal why people notice different features in the same place.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which features would the Harborville visitor map emphasize, and what purpose do those choices serve?

2 How would a resident's map of Harborville differ from the visitor map? Use two details from the passage.

3 How can a neighborhood label affect a person's perception of an area?

4 What is a mental map, and name two things that can shape one?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a mental map of a route you know from the point of view of a new student, a bus rider, a cyclist, or a caregiver with a stroller. Name at least three features you would include, one feature you might leave out, and explain how your point of view shapes the route.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details that a mapmaker or map user might choose to include, and circle three words or phrases that reveal a perspective or purpose. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which features would the Harborville visitor map emphasize, and what purpose do those choices serve?	It would emphasize the waterfront, museum, hotels, walking routes, attractions, and historic district. These choices help visitors plan a short sightseeing trip.
2	How would a resident's map of Harborville differ from the visitor map? Use two details from the passage.	A resident's map might show bus stops, grocery stores, clinics, sidewalks, safe crossings, or a crowded intersection. It might leave out hotels and gift shops because daily travel needs are more important to that user.
3	How can a neighborhood label affect a person's perception of an area?	A label can honor a community's history, while a different label can make the same area feel unfamiliar.
4	What is a mental map, and name two things that can shape one?	A mental map is a personal picture of a place held in the mind. It can be shaped by routes, memories, news, or repeated experiences.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

From the point of view of a cyclist, my mental map of the trip to the library begins at the bike rack near my apartment. I would include the protected bike lane, the steep hill on Pine Street, and the crossing light at Oak Avenue. I might leave out the coffee shop because it does not affect my ride. My map makes the route seem easier where bike lanes are present and harder at the steep hill.

Accept equivalent descriptions of how map choices reflect a user's purpose, needs, or experiences. For the open response, look for a clear perspective, at least three selected features, an omitted feature, and an explanation of how the perspective shapes the mental map.