Maps for New Friends

In this activity children will design a map, thinking about the world from other people’s points of view. Maps can represent your home, classroom or local community. You can vary the complexity depending on the area you decide to map.

**DRIVING QUESTION**

How can we help new friends find their way?

**OBJECTIVE**

Create maps for new friends to communicate directions and information.

**TIME**

Flexible - a simple map of a familiar area will take one hour, or you can spend a whole day exploring and mapping a new, more complex area.

**MATERIALS**

- Big paper for your main map
- Notebooks / paper for taking notes and drawing practice maps
- Pens / pencils / markers
- Sticky notes / plain stickers to write onto

**GLOBAL GOALS**

- Quality Education
- Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- Reduced inequalities
- Sustainable cities and communities

**PLAN**

Today you are going to create a special map that could be used to help new friends find their way. Ask children to share their understanding and experience of maps, including examples.

Decide on an area to map. It could be in your home, classroom, garden or local community. Decide who your map will be for — it could be a friend, relative or toy. What kinds of things would be helpful for them on a map?
PREPARE
On your own, create practice maps of the area using your memory / imagination. For younger children you might want to just draw the space you are in. Older children could draw a bigger, more complex area. These maps should be as detailed as possible, including landmarks like corridors, doorways, room names, paths, obstacles etc.

Share your work with each other to compare. What is similar about what you’ve drawn and what is different? Identify useful parts of each map, including the overall presentation and any specific details.

Then go on a discovery walk to explore the space and think about what your final map. Draw pictures / symbols onto sticky notes to add to the big map later.

MAKE
Now you’ve prepared it’s time to create your big map. Remind children that the map is supposed to be helpful for a new visitor. Sketch out the overall area first and then add the specific elements one by one. Encourage children to use drawings / symbols instead of words, so that someone could use the map even if they could not read, or speak the same language.

REFLECT
When you are happy, pause to reflect. Does it work for your newcomer? Imagine how they would use the map to go on a journey. Pick a starting point and a destination, and trace their journey.

What about someone from a different country? How might they feel coming to this area? How might a map help them feel better? You can make your map more welcoming by decorating it or writing a nice message.

What if our new friend cannot read, or cannot speak our language? Would they find the map useful? Keep adding to the map until you are happy.

CELEBRATE!
Congratulations! You’ve made a helpful, welcoming map that can guide new friends to find their way. Consider ways to share the map with others. You can take photos to share your work with others on social media using #GlobalGoalsExplorers and tagging @TheWorldsLesson. You might even want to send your map to someone who could send one back!

EXTENSION
Have a look at some other maps you have in your home or online. Compare it to the map you’ve made and think about the questions from your reflection stage. Then look at your Global Goals poster. Can you see any of the icons on your map? What do you think they are showing? Are there any you could add to your own map?