

Human Habitat Map

Use your creative skills in this activity that combines basic needs, cartography, and fun!



Key Terms

Basic Needs - Food, water, air, and shelter are the four things all organisms need to survive

Cartography - The art and science of making maps

Map - A diagrammatic representation of an area of land or sea showing physical features

Compass Rose - A circle showing the principle directions printed on a map or chart

Key/Legend - A visual explanation of the symbols used on the map

Scale - Used to measure distance on a map so we can understand size

Title - The name of the map that helps describe its purpose

Materials

Paper

Writing Supplies

Ruler

Background

Cartography has been around for centuries and has shaped many aspects of exploration. Observations were able to be charted and passed along from generation to generation, helping us visualize and further understand the world around us. From subways to schools and much more - maps are used for a wide array of reasons. Humans, like all other living things, must obtain the four basic needs to survive. Not only do we have to consider our basic needs, but we also factor in our other needs, wants, goods, and services that we need to live. We also rely on many other people to survive. For example, we obtain food through our kitchens but think of all of the other steps that are involved (grocery store, farms, refrigerators, etc). Your home has to adequately provide your basic needs and is your habitat!

Activity

Combine your knowledge of maps and basic needs by making a map that is all about you! Draw a map of your home that highlights where you obtain your basic needs. Your map should have the following: a compass rose, key, title, and scale. Be as descriptive as possible with your map and use as much creativity as you'd like. You can identify where your parents, siblings, or pets also obtain theirs!

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Additional Activity

Pick out your favorite animal and draw a habitat map for them! Think about what the land they roam looks like and what an ideal environment would be. What features are seen in a successful habitat? What other living things would need to be present to support your favorite animal?

Essential Questions

1. Why are maps important to you?
2. What kinds of maps have you seen and where? List out similarities and differences you noticed in the maps.
3. What role does the scale on a map play?
4. How do we use maps on a daily basis? What would life be like if we were not able to use them as a resource?
5. Why are basic needs essential for your survival? What would happen if you weren't able to obtain water? What about food?