

TOPIC: Geography
GRADE LEVEL: 4 - 6
TIME: 30 - 40 min.

DECODING MAPS

OBJECTIVE: The student will learn to read maps by decoding symbols found in the map, key, or legend.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. One copy of each of the Student Data Sheets for all class members and/or a transparency to be used on an overhead projector and screen.
2. One Student Activity Sheet for each class member (optional). Students can create their own if necessary.

PROCEDURE:

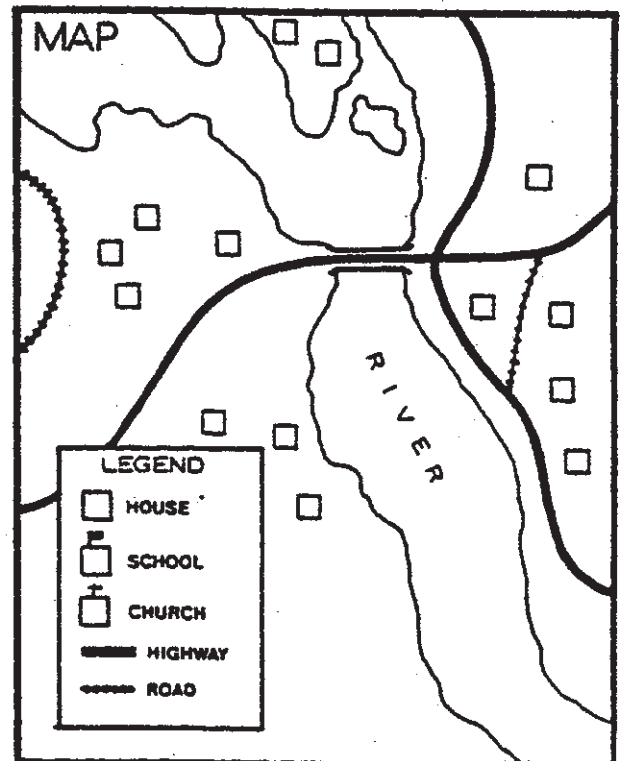
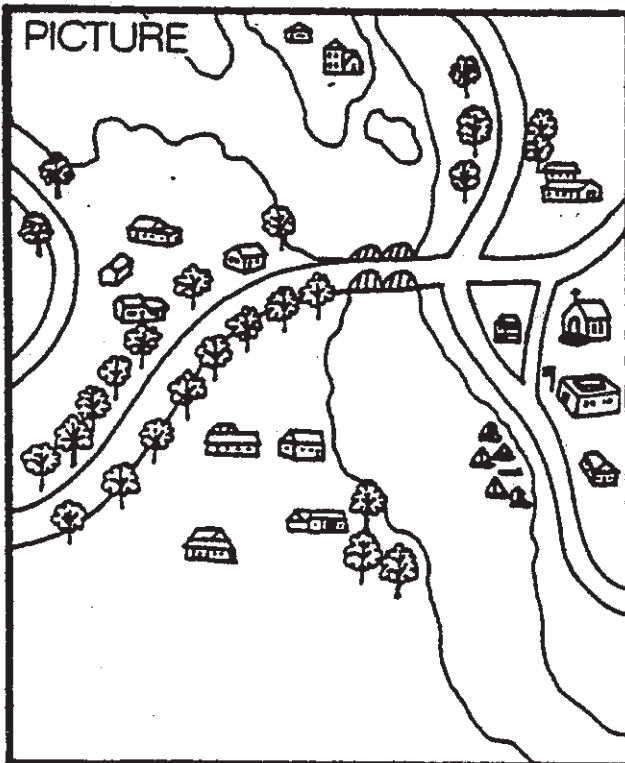
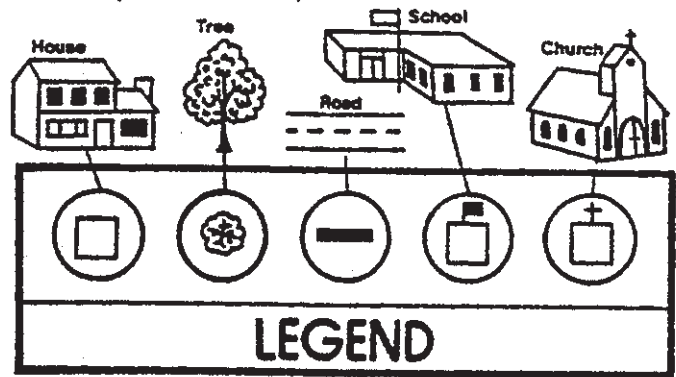
1. Read and discuss the information and examples on the Student Data Sheets with the students.
2. Distribute the Student Activity Sheet "Kookie Kodes" or use a plain piece of paper and give the instructions to the students orally.
3. Brainstorm some possible geographical nouns with the students as examples of what they will be expected to do.
4. Have the students complete the activity.

SYMBOLS

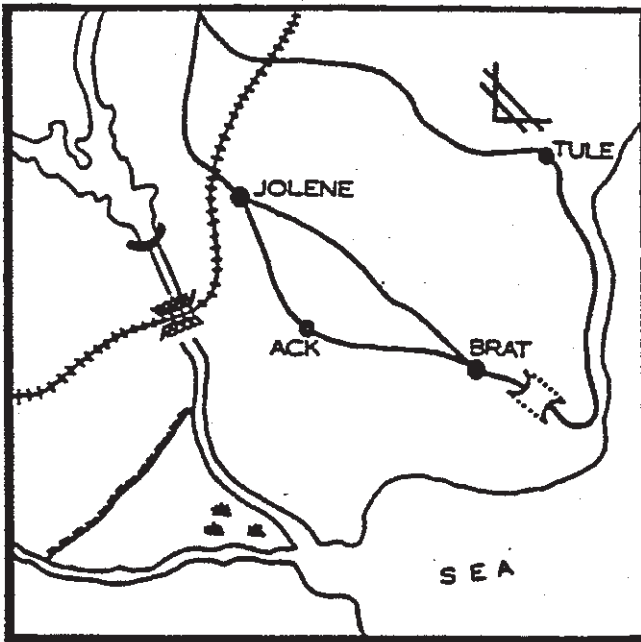
When mapmakers make a map they use small drawings, or symbols, to stand for different things. A symbol looks like the object it represents.

A map almost always has a key or a legend. This legend helps to explain the map.

If you look at the picture and the map, they do not look exactly alike but by using the legend the map can be easily under-



STUDENT DATA SHEET



1. Airport	2. Canal	3. Road	4. Bridge	5. Swamp
6. Tunnel	7. City	8. River	9. Dam	10. Railroad

By using symbols, mapmakers can tell you much about the man-made and natural features on the earth.

LEGEND	ROAD MAP	ROUTE NUMBERS
CITY ●		4 INTERSTATE
SMALL CITY ●		9 UNITED STATES
LAKE		22 STATE
FREEWAY		
MAJOR ROAD		
OTHER ROADS		
BRIDGE		

A special kind of map is a road map. It will help guide you to where you want to go. To identify roads and highways special symbols, or route numbers are used. Throughout the United States there is a uniform system of numbering the roads and highways.

A SELECTION OF MAP SYMBOLS USED IN ATLASES		
	International Boundary	
	Other Boundary	
	Capital of Country	
	Other Capital	
	City or Town	
	River	
	Seasonal River	
	Lake	
	Seasonal Lake	
	Dry Lake	

KOOKIE KODES

1. List 20 geographical nouns.

NOUN				
SYMBOL				

2. Now design an appropriate symbol for each noun that could be used as a map symbol. *Try to think of symbols that no one else will think of!



3. Finally, put at least 10 of your symbols on this map. Make sure they represent the right locations on the landmass.