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Teacher Information • Map Adventures

Introduction

- Map Adventures, with seven accompanying lessons, is appropriate for grades K-3. Students will learn basic concepts for visualizing objects from different perspectives and how to understand and use maps.
- The lessons center on a story about a little girl named Nikki. Nikki goes up in an unplanned balloon ride that gives her, and the students, different views of a park.
- Included in this package are:
 - A teaching poster.
 - Seven step-by-step lesson plans.
 - A picture of a hot-air balloon.
 - Two reproducible activity sheets.
 - Fifteen reproducible black-and-white sections of the park map.

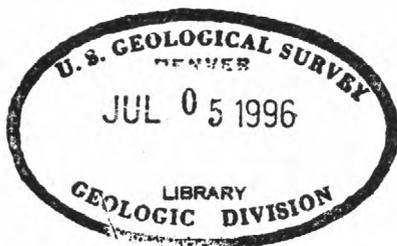
About the poster

- The poster in this teaching package shows different views of the same place (a park) from different perspectives. It includes three illustrations of the park: a ground view, a view from a higher point, and an overhead view. Each illustration has a box that tells part of a story about an adventure a little girl has in the park.
- The illustration will help your students move from visualizing objects from the most familiar perspective (a ground view) to the overhead view represented by most maps. This is the most basic and necessary skill in helping students understand and use maps.
- The lesson plans also introduce the concept of how symbols are used on maps to represent objects or features. It is not possible to show everything about a place on one map and still make it easy to read and understand. So mapmakers use symbols for many different kinds of features or objects. Another key point is learning to use map legends.

What's included in the lessons?

- **Lesson 1 • View from the Ground**
Helps students think about how they view the world and the perspective with which they are most familiar. The lesson also introduces the students to a little girl named Nikki, who goes up in an unplanned balloon ride.
- **Lesson 2 • View from a Higher Point**
Provides an opportunity for the students to think about how objects change in appearance depending on the perspective from which they are viewed.
- **Lesson 3 • View from Overhead**
Introduces the concept of maps and helps students understand the overhead view presented by most maps.

Map Adventures Teacher Information is continued on the reverse.



REFERENCE
Does not circulate

JUL 05 1996

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**What's included
in the lessons?**

- **Lesson 4 · Symbols and Legends**
Helps students become familiar with the concept of symbols and how to use a legend.
- **Lesson 5 · Learning Directions on a Map**
Helps students think about direction and relative location. It helps students realize that it is possible to describe the relationship of what direction one place is from another.
- **Lesson 6 · Map Grids**
Helps develop skills students need to understand absolute location—where things are on the Earth's surface.
- **Lesson 7 · Map Scale**
Introduces students to the concept of measuring distances on a map and measuring the size of objects.

To obtain copies of this packet and other U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) educational materials, call 1-800-USA-MAPS or write or visit a USGS Earth Science Information Center.