

# Using a Map

Grab a map before you head off on an adventure and plan the best route to where you are going. A map could also help you discover some interesting things along the way!



Look at a map that you have at home or download one from the internet.

## What's What?

Most maps have a key. This tells you what all of the lines and symbols on the map mean. Once you understand the symbols you can avoid having a picnic in a soggy field or camping in a parking lot!

## Key

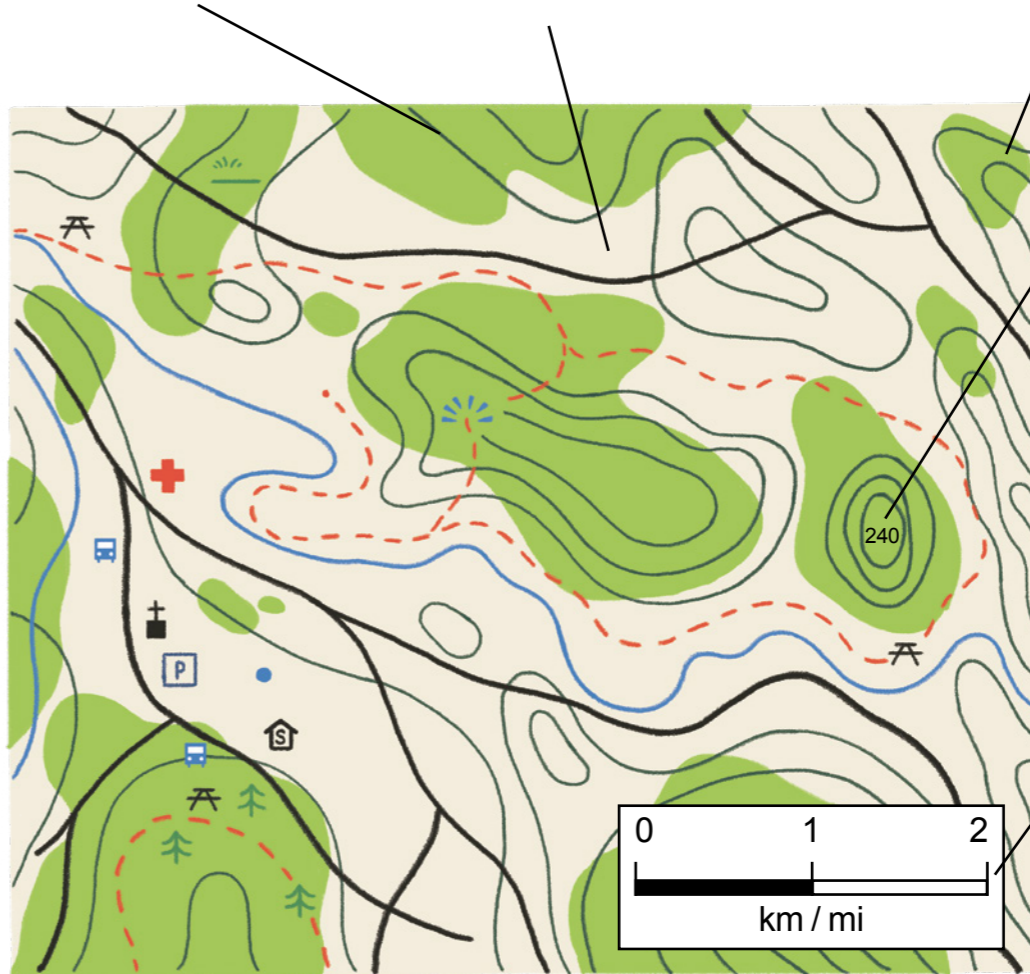
LAKE	POND	ROAD	FOOTPATH	RIVER	TREES	GRASSLAND	BRIDGE	RAILROAD
TRAIN STATION	BUS	PARKING LOT	VIEW POINT	CHURCH	HOSPITAL	SCHOOL	PICNIC AREA	

## How High?

The wavy lines on a map are contour lines. They show how flat or hilly the land is.

When there are no lines or they are wide apart, the land is flat.

When the lines are close together the land is steep.



A number in a circle tells you the height at the top of the hill or mountain.

## How Far?

Everything on a map is shrunk down to fit on the paper. To find out how big and how far things really are, look at the scale bar.

This helpful scale helps us understand the relationship between the distance on a map and the distance on land.

## Draw Your Own Map

Draw a map of your area or your journey to school.



Add roads, paths, buildings, and green spaces.

Can you make up some map symbols of your own?

Draw contour lines for hills and slopes.