Informational Vocabulary

Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

Name _____ Date _____

Circle the answer.

READ THIS FIRST

Finding Your Way with Maps

A map is a flat drawing of a place as seen from above. Maps help people find their way. To read a map, you need to know its parts.

Most maps have a key, or legend. The key is a box that explains what the pictures on the map mean. These small pictures are called symbols. For example, a tiny tree might stand for a park. A blue line might stand for a river.

Many maps also have a compass rose. It shows the four main directions: north, south, east, and west. North is usually at the top of the map.

A map also has a scale. The scale is a line that shows how real distances compare to distances on the map. One inch on the map might equal one mile on land. With the scale, you can figure out how far apart two towns are.

Some maps show regions. A region is an area with something in common, such as weather, land, or the way people live. The Southwest is a dry region. The Great Lakes region has many lakes.

Lines on a map can also show borders. A border is where one state or country ends and another begins. Borders are not painted on the ground, but maps help us see them.

Maps may show landforms too. Landforms are natural shapes on the earth, such as mountains, valleys, and hills.

1. In paragraph 2, what does 'key' mean?
   - a metal tool that opens a lock
   - a drawing that shows directions
   - a box that explains map pictures
   - a line that shows real distance

2. In paragraph 2, what are 'symbols'?
   - words that name each town
   - lines that show where states end
   - arrows that point to the north
   - small pictures that stand for things

3. In paragraph 4, what does 'scale' mean?
   - a thin plate on a fish's skin
   - a box that lists map symbols
   - a tool used to weigh things
   - a line that shows real distances

4. Which phrase tells what a 'compass rose' shows?
   - natural shapes on the earth
   - the four main directions
   - how far apart two towns are
   - what the pictures on the map mean

5. In paragraph 5, what is a 'region'?
a drawing of a place from above
an area with something in common
a line where a state ends
a natural shape like a hill

6. Which words from the text give examples of what a region can share?
a tiny tree might stand for a park
north, south, east, and west
mountains, valleys, and hills
weather, land, or the way people live

7. In paragraph 6, what does 'border' mean?
the biggest city in a state
where one state ends and another begins
a line painted on the ground
the middle part of a state

8. Which word from the text means 'natural shapes on the earth'?
regions symbols borders landforms

9. In paragraph 2, a tiny tree might 'stand for' a park. What does 'stand for' mean?
stay in one place get up on your feet grow taller than show or mean

10. Which phrase is the clue that a key and a legend are the same thing?
the four main directions a key, or legend a flat drawing of a place a dry region

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

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