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 box that explains map pictures
   - a drawing that shows directions
   - a line that shows real distance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Answer Key - Grade 3 Reading Worksheet

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