



Big Brothers Big Sisters

Map Exploring

Learning to read a map.

Maps are great resources when traveling or planning a trip. It is essential to know how to read a map, even if you have a GPS!

What you'll need:

- A map
- Pencil and paper

What to do:

1. Work as a team to locate cities, lakes, national parks, highways, the capital city, airports, ski areas and other landmarks on a map.
2. Learn to use the Index and Legend on the map as guides to locate cities with the map coordinates and Legend symbols.

Tips:

- Look at the border around the edges of the map. There are numbers along the top and bottom and letters along each side. Using the index choose a city. Following the city name are a letter and a number. Locate the letter on the side of the map. Place one finger on the coordinating letter. Use your other hand to locate the number on the top or bottom of the map. Make a straight line with each finger going towards the center of the map until they intersect. This will locate the city.
- Look at the Legend and all of the symbols and highway information. You will need this Legend to locate other areas on your map.
- Look at what the different colors on the map represent.
- Look at the state "Driving distance" small map. Note the miles and average driving time between major cities.

Exploring Maps

1. Locate 3 state parks.
2. How many National Parks can you locate?
3. Locate 2 ski areas.
4. Locate 2 major airports.
5. Locate the capital city.
6. Locate all of the bordering states and/or countries.
7. Identify any oceans that border the state.
8. Locate 3 historic sites.
9. Locate 3 lakes.
10. Calculate the most direct route and how many miles to drive North to South through the state. East to West? Calculate how long it will take to make these drives.
11. Using the Legend and Route shields, follow an Interstate through the state.
12. Can you locate any "Forest or Indian" routes?
13. Using the Index locate a city starting with the letters; A, E, G, L, M, P, R, S, T, W.
14. Locate a scenic highway.
15. Find a "Toll" road.
16. Does your state have an Indian reservation?
17. Can you locate any lighthouses?
18. From the Index locate 4 Features of Interest.
19. What do the different colors of green represent? Pink? Brown?
20. Have you visited this state? Would you like to?