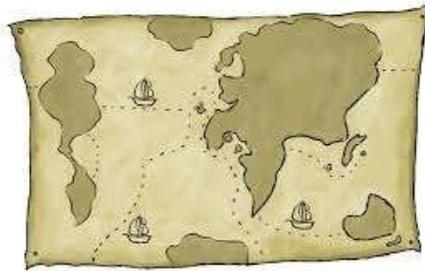


Mapping Your Outdoor World



Introduction

There are so many outdoor spaces that we use in our lives, but we don't always spend time looking closely at them. In this activity you will choose an outdoor space that you use often; your yard, a nearby park, your schoolyard, etc... Following the directions below, you will create a map to share with your family or class that includes rarely noticed details of one of your favorite locations!

Materials

For this activity you will need:

- Things to write/draw with: pencils, markers, colored pencils, or pens
- The attached map paper (2 copies in case you need to start over)
- A tape measure or two walking feet to measure distances
- Optional: a field guide or app to identify plants/animals

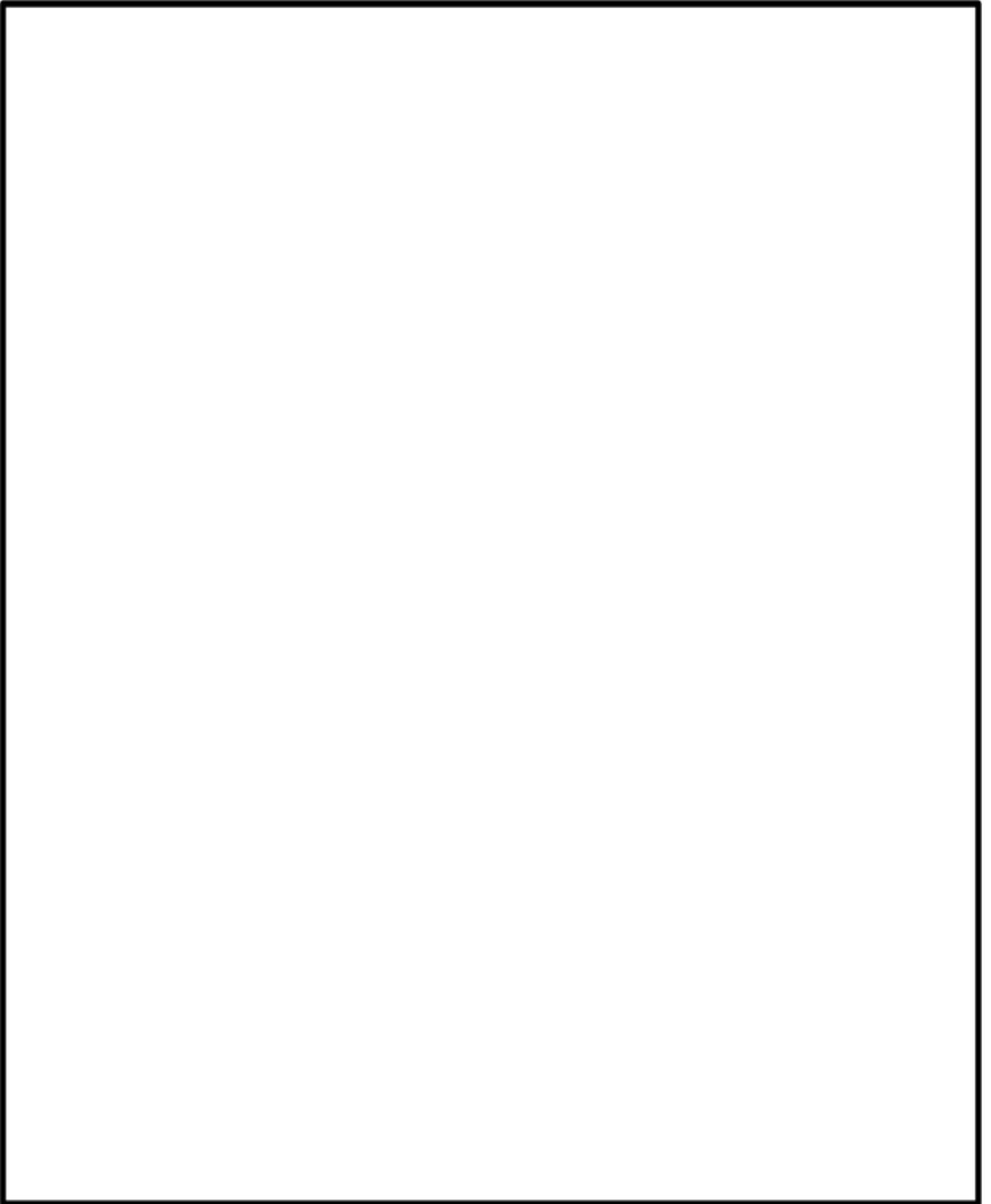
Creating Your Map

1. Choose your outdoor space to explore. It can be a large field or park, a small backyard, or even the strip of grass between the curb and the sidewalk! Anywhere you choose be prepared to look closely and to notice new things. WRITE a title on your map that explains where you are.
2. Measure your space: Count the steps or use a measuring tape around the outside of your mapping location and LABEL the distances on the sides of your map.
3. DRAW in large objects, paths, trees, and plants as if you were looking down from a drone or hot air balloon above your location. Think about the shape of the item you add to the map from above. Would a tree look like a large green circle? What would a bench look like? What would a rock or chair look like from above? Use color or keep it black and white- it's up to you!
4. DRAW in small objects, bushes, rocks, snails, and all the things you might find as you explore and look closely.
5. LABEL everything! Even if you don't necessarily know what it is, be as specific as you can and write a label on each item on your map or create a color coded key for similar map items.

WANT TO KEEP GOING?

1. Add in the cardinal directions (North, South, East and West)
2. Look up and identify plants, trees and animals you found while making your map.
3. Calculate the area of the mapped space and add that information to your map.
4. Create a "Questions Key" on your map by drawing a box and listing questions you thought of about the nature you explored while making your map.

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