

Lesson 2: What Is a Map?

Getting Started

✿ Questions to Explore

- What makes an environment safe and healthy?
- What do homes provide for the people who live in them?

📖 Facts and Definitions

- A **map** is a picture that shows where places in the environment are located and how to find them.

🕒 Skills

- Locate and describe familiar places in the home and other environments (such as bodies of water and landforms) (SS)
- Create and interpret simple maps and drawings of the home and other environments (SS)
- Model and use directional and positional vocabulary (M)
- Complete simple spatial visualization tasks and puzzles (M)
- Write and sound out letters (LA)

✂ Materials

- *Me on the Map* by Joan Sweeney
- a variety of maps
- blank paper
- colored pencils or markers* (Activity 3 - Option 2)
- glue* (Activity 3 - Option 1)
- scissors* (Activity 3 - Option 1)
- U.S. and world maps* (Activity 1 - optional)

Introduction

Ask your child if he has ever seen a map and if he knows why we look at maps and how we use them. Show your child a few examples of maps in books, atlases, travel brochures, or online. Point out important landforms, streets, and bodies of water on the maps. Explain to your child that a **map** is a type of picture that shows the important places or objects in an environment and that a map is drawn as if we are looking down on a place. Explain that maps are small drawings of real places in the world.

Activities

Activity 1: Me on the Map

Read your child the book *Me On the Map* by Joan Sweeney. Next, ask your child the following questions:

1. What is the name of our country?
2. What is the name of our state?
3. What is the name of our town?
4. What is our address?

Continue to ask your child the questions over the next week until he can provide the correct answers each time.

On a world map, show your child the continent of North America and where the United States is located on the continent. Next, show your child a map of the United States and explain that this map is a section of North America. Help him locate the state where you live.



World Map

www.beyondthepage.com/link/11071/

If you don't have a physical world map, you can use the map at this link.



Map of the United States

www.beyondthepage.com/link/11070/

If you don't have a physical map of the U.S., you can use the map at this link.

Activity 2: Map of a House

Reread the first pages of the book where the girl talks about the map of her room and of her home. Explain to your child that a map is different from a picture in that a map does not show places or things exactly how they look. A map also shows places as if you are looking down on them. Often objects or places on maps are labeled with the words that describe them. The purpose of a map is to help you identify and find a place in the environment.

Look at the "Map of a House" sheets and decide which option is appropriate for your child to complete.

Option 1

Ask your child to look at each item on the "Map of a House" (Option 1) sheet and to complete the labels for each item. He can do this independently, or you can walk him through the letters, sounding them out with him as he writes them.

Ask your child to find the following items on the map of the house:

- refrigerator
- bathtub
- bed
- television

Now ask your child to answer the following questions:

1. What is beside the refrigerator? (stove)
2. What is in front of the couch? (television)
3. What is next to the bathtub? (toilet)
4. What is behind the desk chair? (dresser)

Option 2

Ask your child to look at each item on the "Map of a House" (Option 2) sheet and to label each item. Encourage him to sound out each word and to spell it the way it sounds. He can do this independently, or you can walk him through each item, sounding the words out with him as he writes them.

Ask your child the following questions:

1. What is beside the refrigerator? (stove)
2. What is in front of the couch? (television)
3. What is next to the bathtub? (toilet)
4. What is behind the desk chair? (dresser)

Activity 3: Mapping My Room

For this activity, your child will be creating a map of his own room. Remind him that a map shows the important places found in an environment, but not everything that can be found in an environment will be on the map. Show your child an example of a map and point out that maps don't show every tree or hill found in a place. Explain that if you were drawing a map of her room, you wouldn't include every toy, but you would map the toy box (or wherever your child keeps her toys).

Examine the bedroom map on the "Map of a House" page from Activity 2. On a blank sheet of paper, draw a box or rectangle to represent the walls in your child's room. With your child, go through his bedroom and identify the important objects that should be included on a map of his room. Also select one of the following options for labeling the map.

Option 1

Your child can cut out the pictures from the "Objects Found in the Bedroom" sheet and choose which items are found in his room. Next, he can paste the pictures onto the correct locations on the map. If major items in your child's room are not provided on the sheet, you can draw them in on his map.

Option 2 (Advanced)

Let your child draw the items that can be found in the room in the correct locations on the map. Encourage him to draw things proportionate to one another. For example, your child's bed should be drawn larger than his toy box. He should use very simple outlines as on the "Map of a House" page. Remind him that maps are not detailed pictures of places and objects.

Extension Activity: Mapping Other Rooms

If your child is interested, encourage him to map other rooms of the house or even to make a map of the backyard.

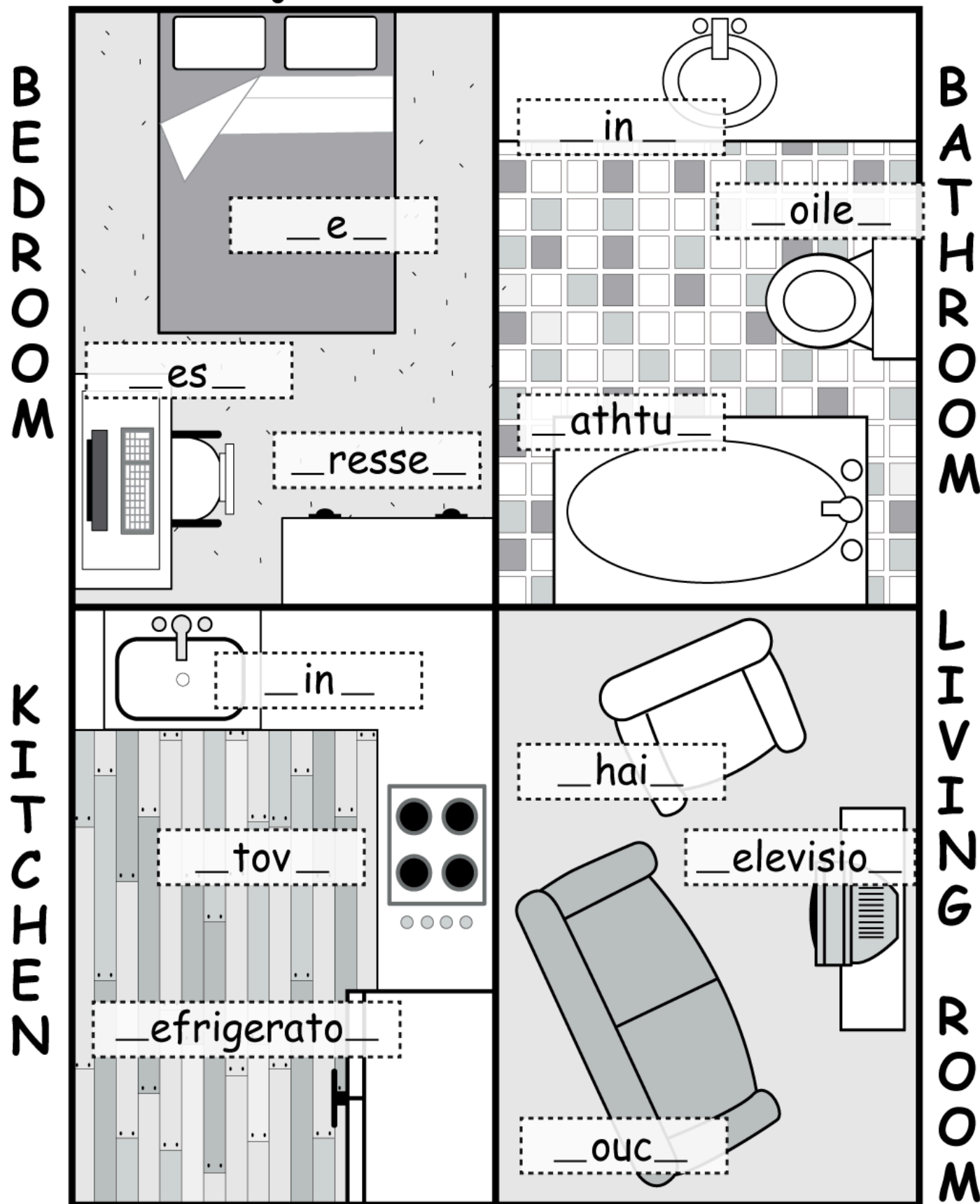
Activity 4: Handwriting

Using the handwriting pages, ask your child to practice the letters *Mm* and *Hh* and the words *map*, *mom*, *home*, and *house*. If your child is writing sentences, he can write or copy a sentence using the words.

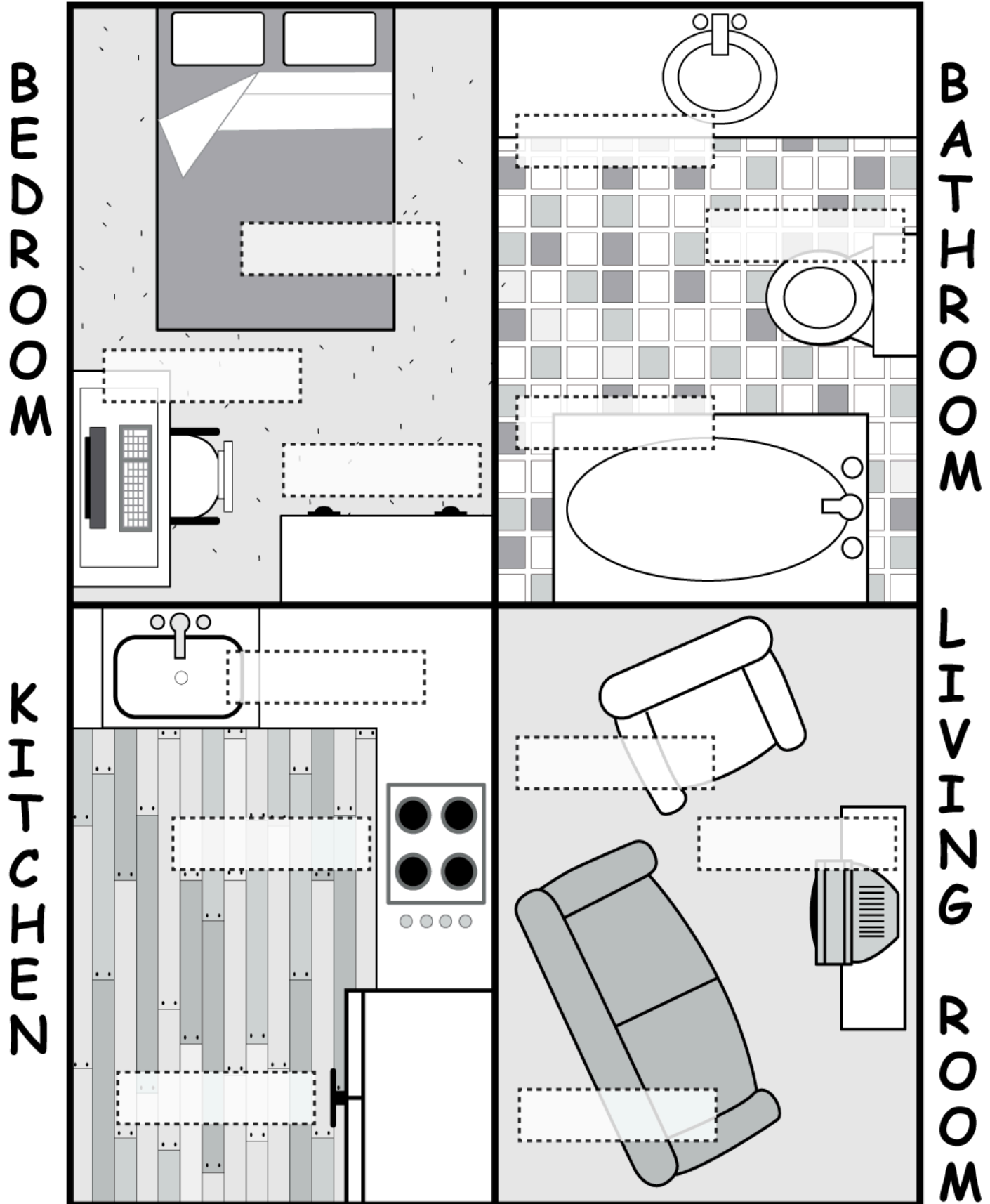
Wrapping Up

Review the purpose of maps and what they show us about an environment. Ask your child to describe the environment in which he lives.

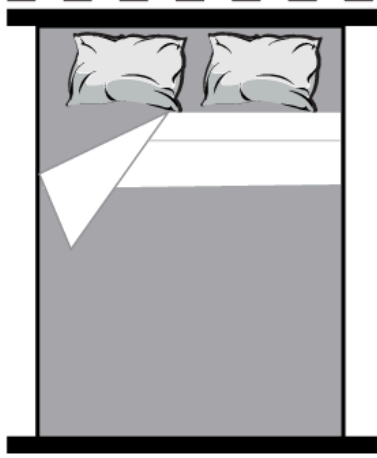
Map of a House



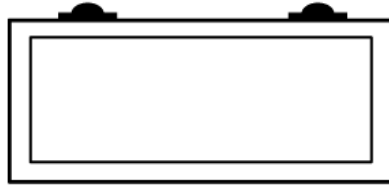
Map of a House



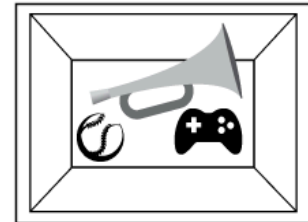
Objects Found in the Bedroom



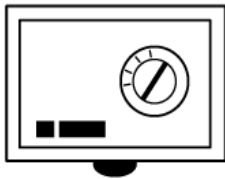
BED



DRESSER



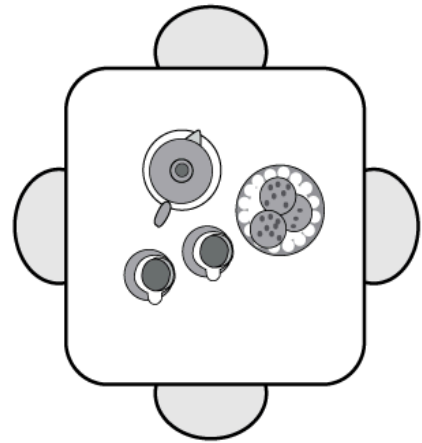
TOY BOX



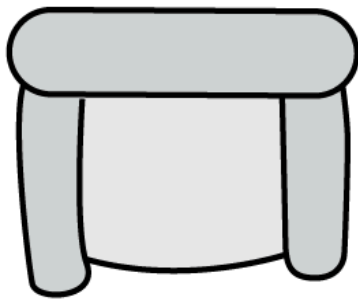
NIGHTSTAND



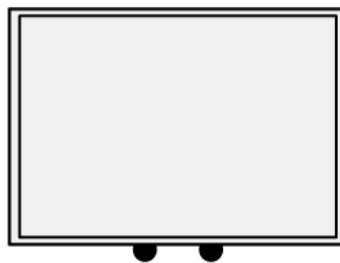
BOOKCASE



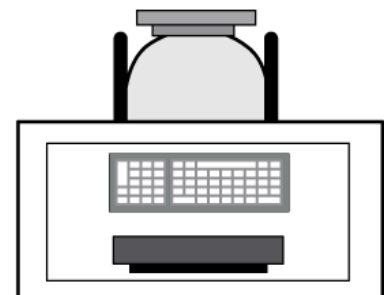
TABLE



CHAIR



ARMOIRE



DESK



Handwriting practice lines for the words "mom" and "map". The words are written vertically on ruled lines. The word "mom" is on the left, and "map" is on the right. The letters are shown in a large, bold font, and the word "mom" is repeated in a smaller font below it. The word "map" is also repeated in a smaller font below it. The letters are shown in a large, bold font, and the word "mom" is repeated in a smaller font below it. The word "map" is also repeated in a smaller font below it.

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house

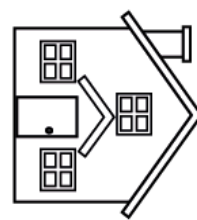
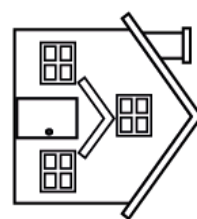
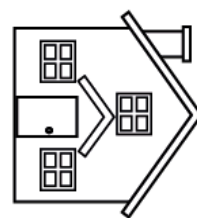
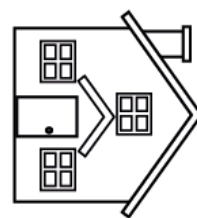
home

h

h

H

H



Hh