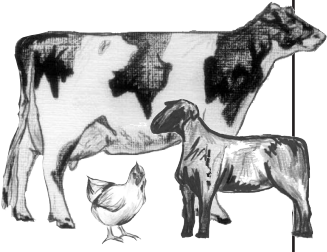


# The Language of Maps



*Objective:* Students will identify and use essential map elements

*Suggested grade level:* Grade 4-6

*Introduction:* In order to use maps effectively, students must know how to “read” them. Information on maps is presented in a special “language.” The language of maps allows mapmakers to show a great deal of information in a small space. In this lesson, students will review the language of maps.

## *Procedure:*

Students will make a list below of the different meanings of the word “cardinal.” Use a dictionary to find the different meanings, parts of speech and how the word “cardinal” is used in relation to directions on a map.

Have students complete the definitions on the worksheet.

Cardinal

Define the following words:

1. legend \_\_\_\_\_
2. symbols \_\_\_\_\_
3. compass rose \_\_\_\_\_
4. commodity \_\_\_\_\_
5. Which definition of cardinal applies to map reading? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_