

Map Distance: Near, Far & Simple Scale

Use simple map scale ideas to compare route distance and make sensible map-based decisions.

LEARN • PRACTISE • CREATE • REFLECT

Original BrightPencil Kids resource - adult-led where appropriate

A4 edition • 12 purposeful pages • review copy

Print. Learn. Grow.

Grown-up guide

Learning objective

Use simple map scale ideas to compare route distance and make sensible map-based decisions.

Use this pack well

- Model the first example aloud, then let the learner try.
- Ask “How do you know?” more often than “Are you finished?”.
- Use real objects, talk, movement or observation when the activity suggests it.
- Stop or shorten the session if attention or enjoyment drops.
- Open-ended pages can have many successful answers.

Quality note

This resource was written originally for BrightPencil Kids. Curriculum sources informed scope and progression only; no third-party worksheet or story text is reproduced.

Learn the idea

1 A map reduces real space to a smaller representation.

2 A simple scale links a map distance to a real-world distance.

3 The shortest route is not always the best route for every purpose.

Talk about it

Explain one idea in your own words. Give an example from real life, a drawing or an object if that helps.

A map says 1 cm represents 100 m. How far does 3 cm represent?

Compare a 4 cm route and a 6 cm route using the same scale.

Explain why two maps of the same place can use different scales.

Choose between a shorter busy route and a slightly longer quiet route for a fictional walking plan, and give a reason.

Draw two routes between the same points and label which is longer on your map.

Try it beyond the page

Real-world / hands-on connection

With an adult, compare two familiar routes using a trusted map. Focus on distance and landmarks rather than sharing your home address.

Before you finish

What did you notice?

What evidence, object or example helped you?

What would you change if you tried again?

Create something

Your project

Create a fictional park map with a simple scale statement and two routes between the gate and playground.

Use this space for planning, drawing, mapping, designing or notes.

CHALLENGE

Think deeper

1. If 1 cm means 200 m, what does 2 cm mean?

2. Why must you use the same scale when comparing map distances?

3. Can the shortest route ever be a poor choice? Why?

Quick review

1. In one sentence, explain the big idea of “Map Distance: Near, Far & Simple Scale”.

2. Draw or write one example that shows you understand.

3. Choose one activity from this pack and explain the strategy you used.

4. Write one question you still have.

Answer & discussion notes

Use these as guidance, not scripts. Open questions can have different successful responses when the reasoning is sensible and evidence-based.

1. Suggested response

400 m.

2. Suggested response

Otherwise the measured lengths do not represent comparable real distances.

3. Suggested response

Yes; route choice can also depend on safety, access, traffic, terrain or purpose.

Review before publication

Check age fit, factual accuracy, clarity, accessibility, rights provenance and whether the activity works in practice. This file remains a review copy until those checks are signed off.

FINISH

My learning reflection

I finished this BrightPencil learning pack.

One thing I understand better now:

A strategy that helped me:

Something I created or noticed:

My next small question or goal:

Print. Learn. Grow.