

WORKSHOP EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Built by The Home Depot Kids Workshop

October 2021: Fire Chief's Car

Ages 5-12

CONNECT.

Imagine that your town or city is welcoming a brand-new fire chief. When the fire station gets a call for help, how would the chief figure out how to get to the scene as quickly as possible?

Chances are, he or she would use a map! There are all different kinds of maps available—from paper maps to online maps, and global positioning systems (which you may know better as GPS).

INVESTIGATE.

Let's help the new fire chief get familiar with your street or neighborhood by creating a personal map designed just for them.

You'll need:

- A grid notebook or graph paper
- A pencil

1. With an adult walking buddy, go for a walk down your street or around your neighborhood—whichever area you think you might want to include on your map. If you're not sure, start small. You can always add to your map later!
2. Walk slowly, observe your surroundings, and talk with your walking buddy about what you see. Discuss the shape of the road, the houses or buildings that you pass, and anything else that may be helpful to include on a map.
3. Once you're back home, grab your grid notebook and a pencil and think about what you passed on your walk. Be sure to include any special landmarks, too.
4. Begin your map by writing the words "Map Key" in one corner of your grid paper. Then list, in words, the most common types of places that you passed on your walk. For instance: Did you see houses, apartment buildings, stores, or maybe even big trees? Next to each word, draw a simple symbol or picture to represent this type of place. These are the symbols you will use on your map to represent what you passed.

A landmark is an object or place that is easily recognizable and remembered.

INNOVATE.

You'll need:

- Your grid notebook
 - Pencil
 - Pen
 - Craft paint
 - Artist's paint brush
1. Work with your walking buddy to sketch a picture, in pencil, of what you saw on your walk. Remember to include both the road and the places. Use the symbols in your Map Key!
 2. Once you have a draft completed, take the same walk with your walking buddy one more time. This time bring your grid notebook and your map draft. As you walk, compare what you have drawn with what you pass. Add, erase, and change your map as needed as you compare it to your real-life street or neighborhood.
 3. When you return home and you're happy with your map draft, it's time to add the final touches. First, retrace everything with a pen so you can see it clearly. Then use the craft paint and paint brush to add color to your map. Be sure to color your Map Key first, and then paint your map accordingly.
 4. After the paint has dried, share your map with a family member or friend and see if they can use it to successfully navigate your street or neighborhood. If so, it should be ready to share with the new fire chief!

