

GEOGRAPHY · GRADES 2–3

Map Symbols

How maps use pictures instead of words

Why symbols?

Maps would be impossible to read if every road, school and tree had a label. Instead, mapmakers use **SYMBOLS** — small pictures or shapes — and a **KEY** (also called a 'legend') that tells you what each symbol means.

Common symbols

Symbol	Means
~ ~ ~ (blue line)	river
▲	mountain
+	hospital / first aid
■	place of worship
■	railway / station
P	parking
■ (filled green)	park / forest
■ (filled blue)	lake
★	capital city
●	town or city



