

Community Map Builder

Classroom-ready printable pack · Grades 3–8

Pack contents

Street maps, building and feature cards, compass keys, and challenges. Two student sets are included.

Teacher directions

1. Orient both maps north-up.
2. The Describer places community features.
3. Describe blocks, intersections, adjacency, and direction.
4. Compare and discuss access, safety, and land use.

Before class

- Print at 100% on US Letter paper. Use cardstock or laminate for reuse.
- Cut on the thick solid borders. Keep Set A and Set B separate.
- Give challenge/model cards only to the Describer.
- Use a folder, book, or tabletop barrier so partners cannot see each other's work.

Accessibility and accommodations

Begin with six landmarks. Preteach intersection, block, across from, and adjacent.

Storage-envelope labels

Community Map Builder

Set A — Describer

Count pieces before storing.

Community Map Builder

Set B — Builder

Count pieces before storing.

Community Map Builder

Challenge / model cards

Count pieces before storing.

Community Map Builder

Teacher reference

Count pieces before storing.

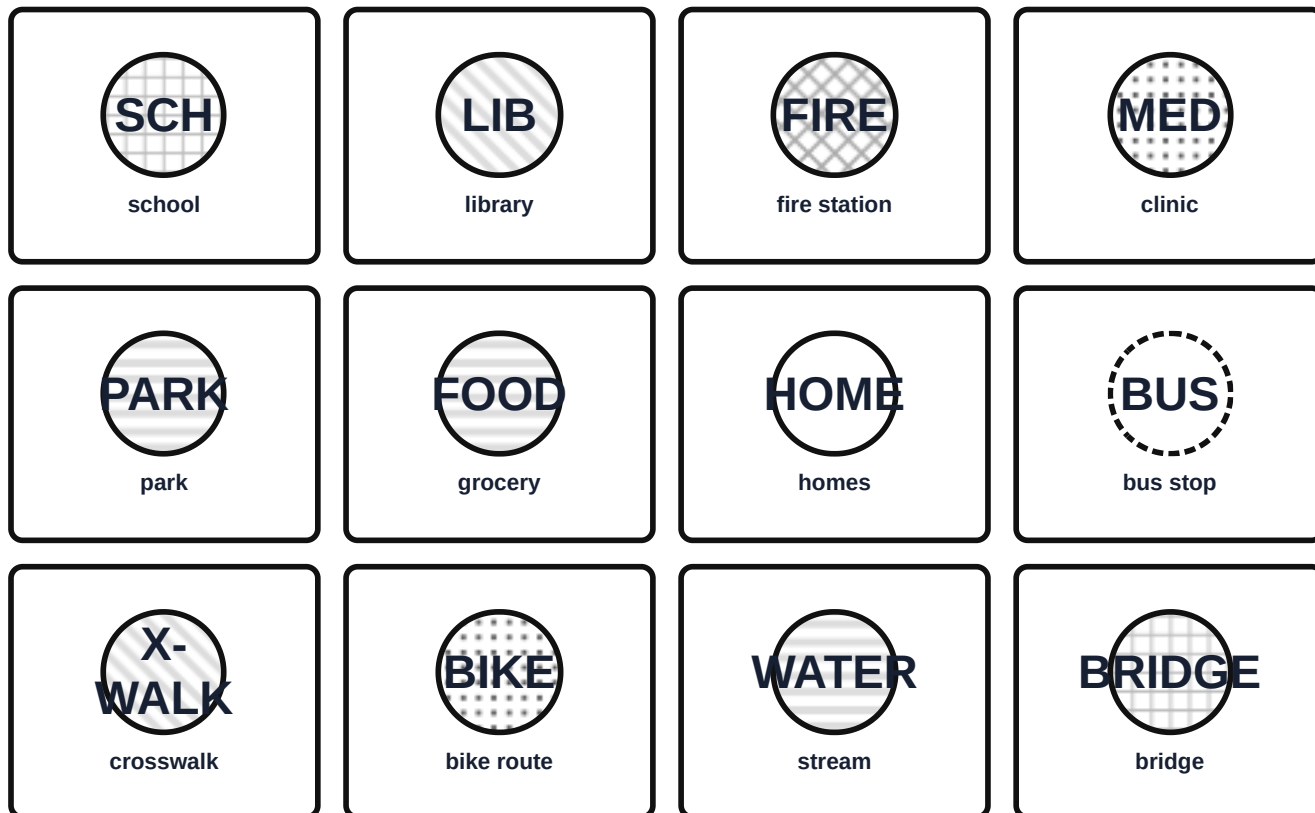
Student language supports

Position: above · below · beside · between · near · far · left · right · clockwise**Clarify:** “Please repeat...” · “Is ___ beside ___?” · “What should I place next?”**Compare:** same · different · rotate · move · replace · sequence

Movable pieces

Set A

Cut on the solid borders. This set is identical to the partner set.



Movable pieces

Set B

Cut on the solid borders. This set is identical to the partner set.



Community street map

Cut the page in half. Both partner mats are identical.

Set A — Community street map

north at top • avenues 1–4 • streets A–D

top / far

center

bottom / near

Set B — Community street map

north at top • avenues 1–4 • streets A–D

top / far

center

bottom / near

Describer-only challenge cards

Keep these cards hidden from the Builder.

Challenge 1: Walkable center

Library beside park; school across from both.

add crosswalk

Challenge 2: Emergency access

Give the fire station two routes to homes.

Challenge 3: Transit plan

Put stops near school, clinic, and grocery.

Challenge 4: Green route

Connect homes and park by bike route.

Community Map Builder reference

Map reference

North is at the top. Avenues are numbered west to east and streets lettered south to north. Say whether a feature occupies a block or intersection. Samples are not universal community plans.

Quality check after a round

- Can each student identify pieces by shape or label without relying on color?
- Do both models match in pieces, order, orientation, and relative position?
- Which direction was most precise? Which should be revised?