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## The National Geography Standards

The National Geography Standards includes six essential elements that highlight the major components of geography. Under the six major categories are the eighteen standards that focus on general areas in geography that children are expected to know and understand.

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### Essential Element 1: The World in Spatial Terms

Geography studies the relationships between people, places, and environments by mapping information about them into a spatial context. The geographically informed person knows and understands the following:

- Standard 1** ..... **Weeks 1–8**  
how to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective,
- Standard 2** ..... **Weeks 9–10**  
how to use mental maps to organize information about people, places, and environments in a spatial context, and
- Standard 3** ..... **Weeks 11–12**  
how to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on Earth’s surface.
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### Essential Element 2: Places and Regions

The identities and lives of individuals and peoples are rooted in particular places and in those human constructs called regions. The geographically informed person knows and understands the following:

- Standard 4** ..... **Weeks 13–18**  
the physical and human characteristics of places,
- Standard 5** ..... **Weeks 19–22**  
that people create regions to interpret Earth’s complexity, and
- Standard 6** ..... **Weeks 23–24**  
how culture and experience influence people’s perceptions of places and regions.
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### Essential Element 3: Physical Systems

Physical processes shape Earth’s surface and interact with plant and animal life to create, sustain, and modify the ecosystems. The geographically informed person knows and understands the following:

- Standard 7** ..... **Week 25**  
the physical processes that shape the patterns of Earth’s surface, and
- Standard 8** ..... **Week 26**  
the characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems on Earth’s surface.

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## Essential Element 4: Human Systems

People are central to geography in that human activities help shape Earth’s surface, human settlements and structures are part of Earth’s surface, and humans compete for control of Earth’s surface. The geographically informed person knows and understands the following:

- Standard 9** . . . . . **Week 27**  
the characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations on Earth’s surface,
- Standard 10** . . . . . **Week 28**  
the characteristics, distribution, and complexity of Earth’s cultural mosaics,
- Standard 11** . . . . . **Week 29**  
the patterns and networks of economic interdependence on Earth’s surface,
- Standard 12** . . . . . **Week 30**  
the processes, patterns, and functions of human settlement, and
- Standard 13** . . . . . **Week 31**  
how the forces of cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of Earth’s surface.

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## Essential Element 5: Environment and Society

The physical environment is modified by human activities, largely as a consequence of the ways in which human societies value and use Earth’s natural resources. Human activities are also influenced by Earth’s physical features and processes. The geographically informed person knows and understands the following:

- Standard 14** . . . . . **Week 32**  
how human actions modify the physical environment,
- Standard 15** . . . . . **Week 33**  
how physical systems affect human systems, and
- Standard 16** . . . . . **Week 34**  
the changes that occur in the meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources.

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## Essential Element 6: The Uses of Geography

Knowledge of geography enables people to develop an understanding of the relationships between people, places, and environments over time—that is, of Earth as it was, is, and might be. The geographically informed person knows and understands the following:



- Standard 17** . . . . . **Week 35**  
how to apply geography to interpret the past, and
- Standard 18** . . . . . **Week 36**  
how to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future.

## WEEK 1


 Daily Geography
**ANSWER KEY****Monday**

1. map
2. bedroom



**Tuesday**

1. 
2. 

**Wednesday**

1. bed
2. window

**Thursday**

1. 
2. 

**Friday**

1. bed
2. table

**Challenge**

Answers will vary, but students should color a favorite place on the map.

# What Is a Map?

**Introducing the Map**

Ask students to think about their bedrooms at home. What do they look like? What kinds of things are in their bedrooms? They may say things such as a bed, dresser, toys, and a desk. Ask students to think about how they would draw a picture of their bedrooms with everything in it. Tell them it would be easier to think about where things are if they were high above it. Then they could look down and see everything in its place.

Share with students that when they make a special picture like this, it is called a map. A map is a drawing that shows where things are. A map looks like someone drew it from high above.

Show students the map of a bedroom. Read the title and caption. Tell students to pretend they are high above this bedroom. They are looking down on it. Talk about the things that are in the bedroom and where they are found. Read the labels for students.

The questions for this map include the use of positional words. Positional words help describe the location or position of things on a map. The following words and phrases are used: *behind*, *in front of*, *next to*, and *on*. Ask students to find the dresser. Then ask them to look for something that is on top of the dresser. Ask other questions using each positional word or phrase.

Students should begin to understand the idea that a map shows how a place looks from above. They will also begin to develop a sense of direction.

**Introducing Vocabulary****map**

A map is a drawing of a place from above.

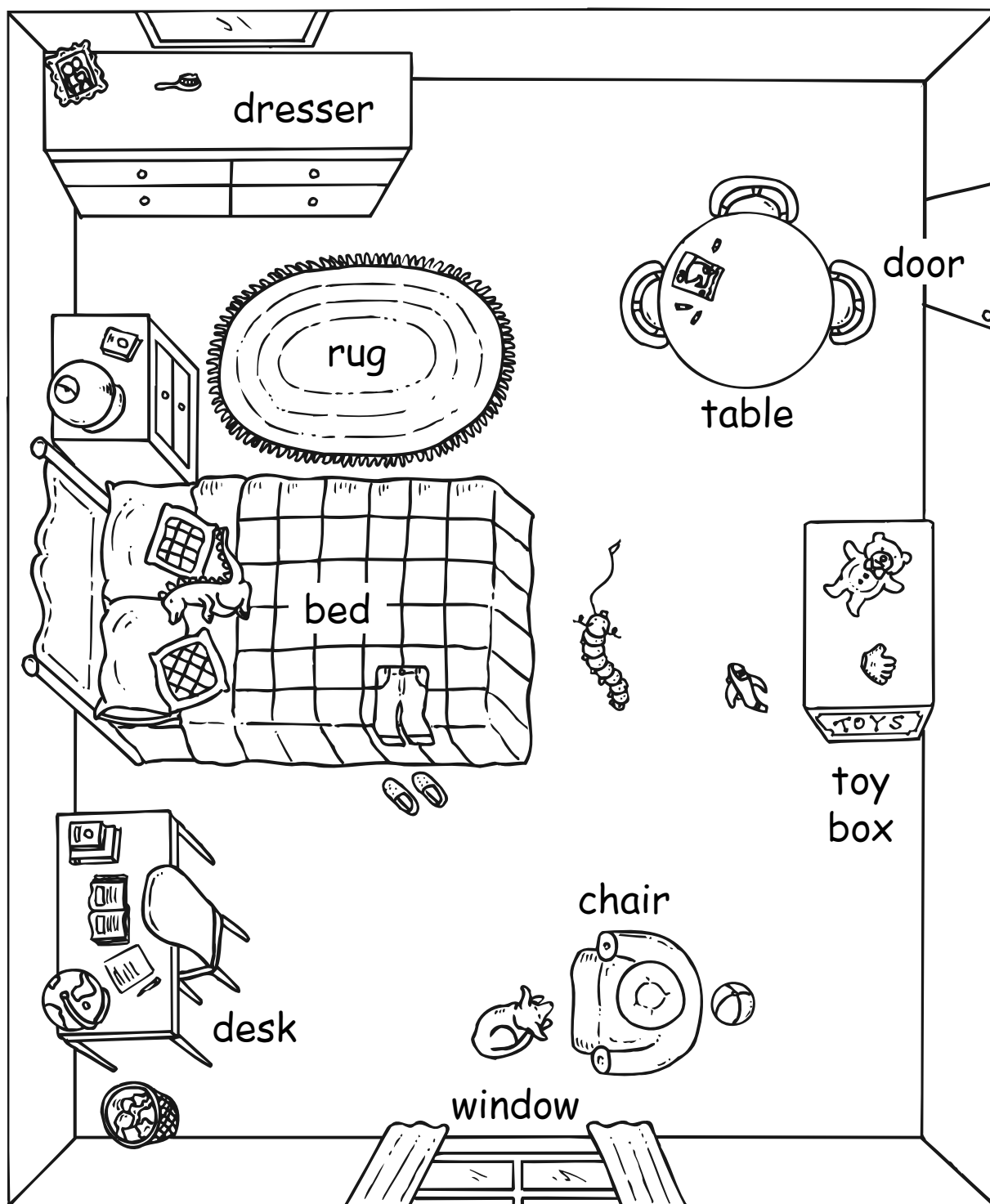
A map shows where things are.

# What Is a Map?

A map is a drawing of a place from above.

A map shows where things are.

This is a map of Joey's bedroom.



# What Is a Map?

## Monday

1. A drawing of a place from above is a \_\_\_\_\_.

bed

map

2. The map shows Joey's \_\_\_\_\_.

bedroom

living room

## Tuesday

1. What is on the bed?

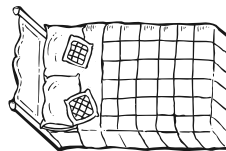


2. What is on the toy box?



## Wednesday

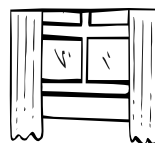
1. What is next to the rug?



bed

desk

2. What is next to the chair?



window

door

# What Is a Map?

## Thursday

1. What is behind the chair?

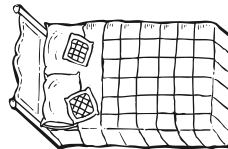


2. What is in front of the chair?

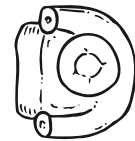


## Friday

1. Where does Joey sleep?

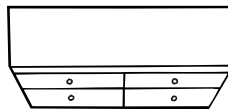


bed

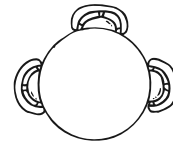


chair

2. Where does Joey color?



dresser



table

## Challenge

Color your favorite place in Joey's bedroom.