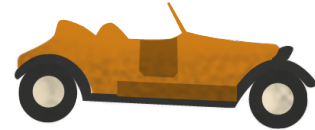


Activity Sheets: Reading maps
Try it yourself: Identifying symbols



Understanding Symbols

Maps have a lot of detail on them. They show every single building, feature and landmark in the landscape. Because of this, it is very difficult to label exactly what is there. To get round this, cartographers use symbols which can be used to show common types of features, buildings and landmarks.

Why don't you have a go at creating your own symbols? Go to the window and look out. What can you see? Can you see buildings, trees, roads, or other features? Remember, maps show everything, including natural features like hills or rivers.

Use the Symbol sheet to record the features and draw a symbol which would represent the features next to it. You now have what cartographers call a key. A key explains what each symbol is on the map.

Symbols for Historic Maps

You have found an old map, but the key for the map has been lost! Look carefully at the map - can you see any features or landmarks? Do you think you can work out a key to the map? Using the record sheet, draw all the symbols you can see and then try to write in what each symbol is.

Once you have finished, you can ask your teacher or group leader if they might have found the key and you can check and see if you were right!

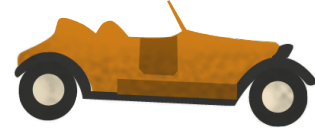
MAPPING HISTORY

• a guide to using historical maps •

Name:

Date:

Creating your key...



What feature is this?	Draw your symbol

MAPPING HISTORY

• a guide to using historical maps •



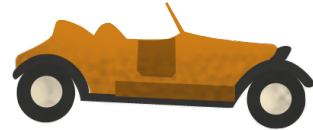
MAPPING HISTORY

• a guide to using historical maps •

Name:

Date:

Creating a key for historic maps...



What feature is this?	Draw your symbol