Anna’s Adventures
Map it like John Smith!

John Smith maps Virginia!

When the English arrived in Virginia in 1607 they came in search of riches, natural resources to send home to England and a shortcut by water to Asia in order to open new trade markets. While in Virginia from 1607 to 1609, Captain John Smith took many voyages around the Chesapeake Bay and nearby rivers in order to search for resources, food and a water route to the west.

During his explorations, Smith sketched what he saw and then later created one of the first detailed maps of Virginia. He used tools to measure the distance he and his companions had traveled between two places which helped him create the *scale* for his map.

Smith also used a compass to determine which direction he was heading and noted it on his sketches. On his map he included a *compass rose* so that others following his map would know which direction they needed to travel in.

John Smith included symbols on his map to show where places, like Powhatan towns, were located so the settlers would be able to trade with the Powhatan people. He then described what these symbols represented in his *map legend*.

To help people better understand life in Virginia, Smith also added *illustrations* to his map. These illustrations are pictures that represent an aspect of the area shown on the map.
Can you find and label the scale, compass rose, map legend, and illustrations on John Smith’s map below?
Anna’s Adventures
Making your own Map

Mapping Your World

If you had a friend visiting for the first time, what important information would you want them to have about your neighborhood? For example, the name of your street, the best spots for hide and go seek or houses with dogs. Use your own explorations to create a map of your neighborhood to help your friend find his/her way around.

Use John Smith’s map to identify key features to use on your map. Make sure your map has all the information your friend needs to know about your neighborhood. Your map should include a:

- **Title**: So your friend knows what the map is showing.

- **Scale of Distance**: How much of your neighborhood do you want to show? Does one inch stand for one block or three steps?

- **Compass Rose**: Label which way is north, south, east or west. Make the north point look fancy.

- **Map Legend**: Label what the symbols on your map mean.

- **Illustrations**: Add pictures that represent your neighborhood.

**Use the map template on the next page to create your map. Have fun!**

**Don’t have a compass to find north? Make your own!**

**Materials:**
- Water
- Large cup or bowl
- Large metal sewing needle
- Somthing that will float i.e. small cork, sponge, or plastic cap
- Magnet

1. Fill a cup or bowl with water, making sure it is wide enough for the needle to float without touching the sides.

2. Get an adult to rub the magnet on the needle (or straightened metal paper clip) going in one direction, from the eye to the sharp end. Do this for 1 minute then put magnet away.

3. Place the needle on your floating surface; you may want to tape the needle to the floating surface so it will stay in place. Place both the needle and floating surface in the cup or bowl.

4. The eye of your needle should move to point to magnetic north! From there you can figure out which directions are south, east and west.

   Hint: If your needle doesn’t move to point north, rub it some more with the magnet.