

9 Are We There Yet?

If you are like most people, you have probably been lost on a car trip. You may stop and ask directions, but sometimes the directions aren't helpful. Sometimes they may even be wrong! The best way to not get lost is to learn to use road maps.

The first thing to understand about road maps is the scale. The scale on a map tells you how the map relates to the actual area it is showing. For example, you may see a note on a map saying "1 in. = 150 miles." On this map, each inch stands for 150 miles. A distance of 10 inches equals 1,500 miles (10 times 150 = 1,500). If the map is 20 inches wide, it could show the whole United States.

A map with the scale 1 in. = 150 miles can help you plan a car trip from Boston to Los Angeles, but it will not help you find your way around city streets. For this you need a city street map. The scale on this map will be different. For instance, every inch may show one half of a mile. A map isn't useful if it doesn't have the right scale for your trip.

The second tip for using road maps is finding two locations. You need to know where you are right now and where you want to go. Then select the roads or streets you will use to get there. Use the intersections of large streets or highways to help you zero in on locations.

Finally, it is an excellent idea to keep a small compass in your car. The compass will tell you if you are driving north, south, or some other direction. On most road maps, north is at the top. Turn the map so the top edge is towards north. This can help you avoid driving in the opposite direction.

It may take some practice to learn to use road maps. But it's worth it. If you have a map with the right scale and know how to use it, you will never get lost again.

Main Idea	1	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M	15
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B	5
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	5
a. A map scale shows how distances on the map are related to real distances.		<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
b. Road maps give useful information.		<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
c. Using a road map will help you not get lost on a car trip.		<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score _____

Subject Matter

- 2 Another good title for this passage would be
- a. Finding the Distance Between Two Cities.
 - b. Learning to Use Road Maps.
 - c. Understanding How a Compass Works.
 - d. Estimating Costs for a Car Trip.

Supporting Details

- 3 On a map with a scale of 1 in. = 150 miles, 10 inches represents
- a. 15 miles.
 - b. 150 miles.
 - c. 1,500 miles.
 - d. 15,000 miles.

Conclusion

- 4 A road map won't help you on a trip if you
- a. don't know where you are to begin with.
 - b. don't have a compass.
 - c. turn the map so the top edge is north.
 - d. don't know the distance between two locations.

Clarifying Devices

- 5 The writer explains the idea of a map scale by
- a. describing a diagram.
 - b. giving tips for using a map.
 - c. giving an example.
 - d. telling a story in which people got lost.

Vocabulary in Context

- 6 In this passage the word *intersections* means
- a. places where two streets meet.
 - b. two cars crashing into each other.
 - c. lines to help you fold a street map.
 - d. ways to cut maps into smaller sections.

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here _____ Total Score _____

and on the graph on page 214.