

Oakland Unified School District

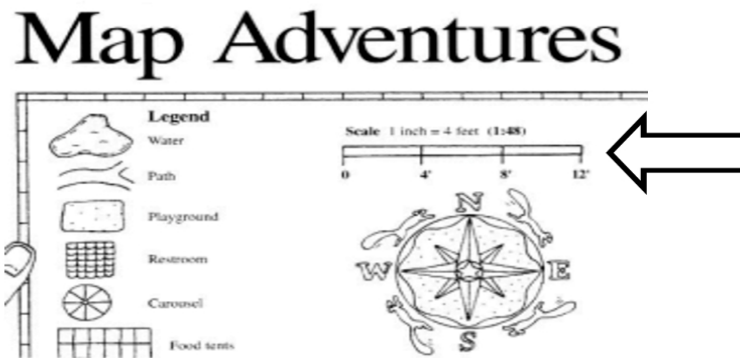
Worksheet To Accompany USGS Map Adventures Teaching Packet

Lesson 7: Map Scale

Is the large map of the park the same size as the real park?

Maps almost always have to be drawn smaller than the actual area of the land. All the things on the map are shrunk by the same amount when the map is drawn. To find out how much smaller the map is than the actual thing we have to look at the **scale** of the map.

The **map scale** tells us how much larger the actual thing is than the map. The **scale** on the map of the park is listed in the legend.



The **scale** for the large map is 1 inch = 4 feet.

There are 12 inches in each foot. This means that each inch on the map equals 48 inches in the park (12 inches per foot times 4 feet)

The **map scale** is listed as a proportion 1 inch to 48 inches or **1:48**. The park is 48 times larger than the map.

A person can use a map to determine the distance between two points in the real world if they know the scale of the map. The distance between two points on the map are measured with a ruler or tape measure. The distance measured is then multiplied by the scale of the map.