Oakland Unified School District

Worksheet To Accompany USGS Map Adventures Teaching Packet

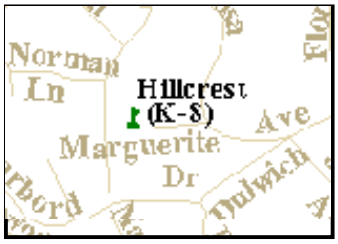
Lesson 4: Symbols and Legends

This is the overhead view of the park that Nikki saw from the balloon.

Usually maps do not show all of the things that are in the places drawn on the map. Many places have lots of things which are very close together. It is not possible to draw everything on the small paper of the map.

Map makers use simple pictures called **symbols** instead of pictures of the real things.

Let's look at a part of the map of Oakland near Hillcrest school.



There is not a picture of Hillcrest school on the map. There is a green box with a flag on top on the map where the school is located. This is the **symbol** used for a school on most maps. The symbol will be the same shape on most maps but the color will often be different.

Lets look at the part of the map of Oakland near Hillcrest school that shows Ostrander Park.

Only the shape of the park is shown. No pictures of trees or playground equipment are drawn in the park. The shape is colored green to help you tell that it is a park. Most maps are colored so that things match their color in real life. Parks are usually green. Water is usually blue.

You could tell that the box with the flag was a symbol for Hillcrest school because the school name was right next to it. You could tell that the green shape was Ostrander Park because the name was on top of it.

Sometimes maps only have symbols and not names. People need some way to tell what the symbols mean.

Most maps have a place where the symbols used on the map are explained. This place on the map is called a **legend**.

The picture of the park from the story is much like a map. It has a **legend**.

Tree

The legend shows that the blue area on the map is water. It shows that the tan parts are paths. It also shows that the round red and white circle is the carousel.

Think More About It

There is no symbol for trees on the legend.

Draw the **symbol** that you would use for trees in the box next to the **legend.**

MAP CENTER Practice Session 3

The map we got from MAP CENTER had symbols, but no legend. This is because the name of a thing is usually printed next to the symbol on MAP CENTER maps.

There is a new kind of MAP CENTER map that we have not looked at. This map does have a legend.

Getting To Map Center

There are several ways to get to MAP CENTER on the world wide web. The fastest way from any computer is to type the address of the MAP CENTER computer in the Address box of your web browser.

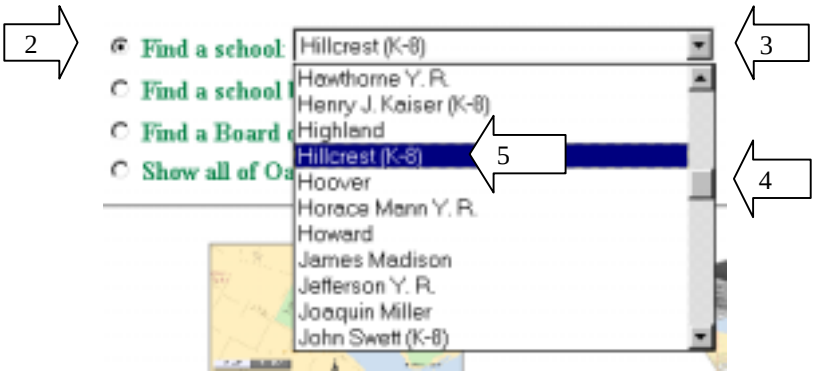
The address for MAP CENTER is
http://mapstacker.ousd.k12.ca.us/welcome.htm.

Most computers at District sites have the District's web page as their home page. If you are already on the District's home page, the easiest way to get to MAP CENTER is to click on the **Map Center** link in the **FEATURES** section.

Oakland Unified School District

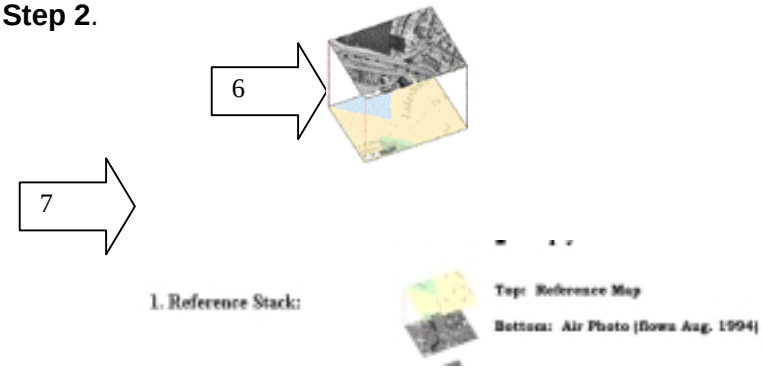
1. Click on the **Interactive Maps** picture.

1. Click on the **Find a school**: circle.
2. Click on the down **arrowhead**.
3. Find the name of your school.
4. Click on the name of your school.

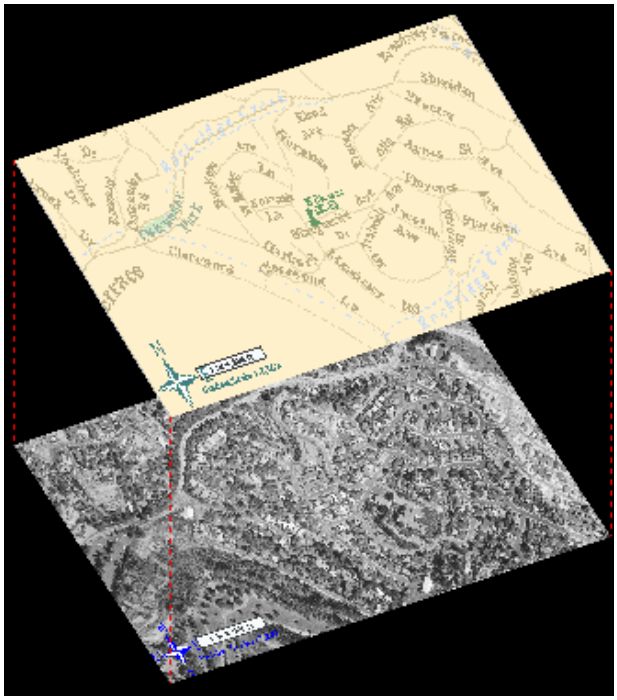


5. Click on the **Knowledge Map** picture in **Step 2**.

6. Click on the **1. Reference Stack** picture.



Knowledge Maps often have two levels. The Knowledge Map you picked has a map stacked on top of the air photo. A **legend** is also drawn.



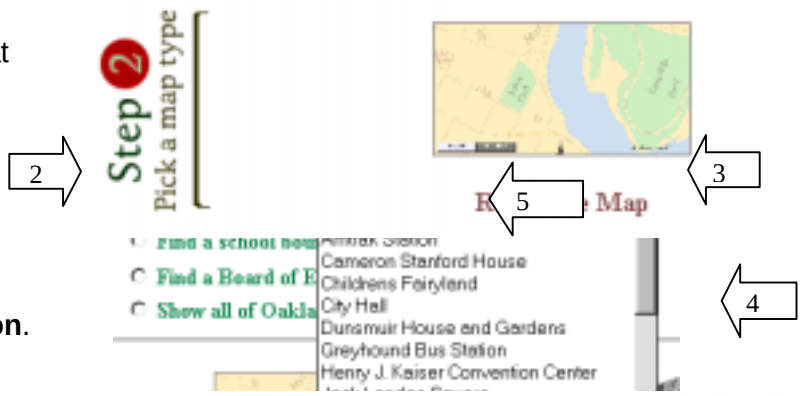
Look at the Legend.

What are the blues lines on the map?

_____

MAP CENTER Practice Session 4

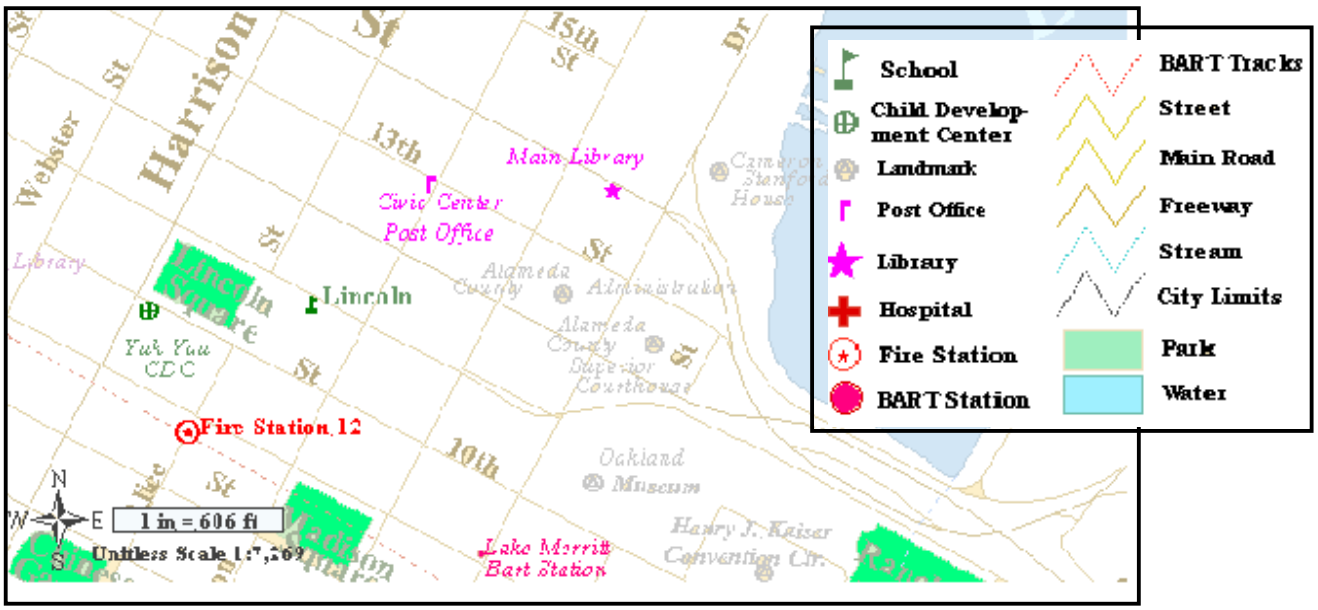
1. Click on the Interactive Maps button at the bottom of the screen.



2. Click on the **Find a landmark:** circle.
3. Click on the down **arrowhead**.
4. Find **Alameda County Administration**.
5. Click on it.

6. Click on the **Reference Map** picture.

Map center displays a new map with the Alameda County Administration building in the middle. There are lots of symbols on this map. All of the symbols have the name of the thing next to the symbol.



Can you find the following symbols on the map? Check the yes or no column in the table for each symbol.

Symbol	Yes	No
School		
Child Development Center		
Park		
Fire Station		
Library		
Hospital		
BART Station		
Post Office		
Water		