

THE HERO ACADEMY

The Hero's Quest for Knowledge Curriculum

The Cartographer's Journey

Adult Teaching Guide

Geography

Veritas. Virtus. Scientia.

Truth. Virtue. Knowledge.

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GEO-K-01 | printable section

Includes GEO-K-01. These introductory sections do not constitute a complete kindergarten course or a finished K-12 curriculum.

The four companion books

The Student Book explains concepts through reading, examples, and diagrams. The Adult Teaching Guide provides modeling and supported practice. The Student Workbook holds activities and checks. The Answer and Assessment Guide supplies keys, criteria, and retry guidance.

The K-12 learning roadmap is the plan for future content, not a lesson book. These four growing books contain only the sections listed below.

Using this edition

A beginning reader needs an adult to read the explanatory passages aloud. Independent word reading is expected only for explicitly taught patterns in Reading. An adult supplies safe materials and supports access; oral responses, pointing, or drawings can demonstrate the same skill.

Lesson and activity IDs stay together across the four books. For example, a lesson ending L01 links to the activity ending W01 in the same unit. Each unit finishes with its A01 section check. Matching edition 0.3 components should be used together.

Contents

GEO-K-01 | Position and familiar places

GEO-K-01-L01 - Places and positions

GEO-K-01-L02 - A picture can represent a place

GEO-K-01-L03 - A map key explains symbols

Learning at an individual pace

The learner revisits the relevant explanation after feedback, then tries a fresh example. Successful demonstration of each target is a suggested local progression rule, not a validated placement score. Personal beliefs and agreement with the author are never graded.

Position and familiar places

Before this section

No reading, compass use, or left-right mastery is required. The learner may point or use object models.

Materials

A rectangular tabletop or a large rectangular sheet used as the map area, an empty unbreakable cup, a book, a large block, paper, and a pencil. Activities stay in a familiar indoor space.

GEO-K-01-L01

Places and positions

Describe where an object is using a reference object.

A place is a location. A position describes where something is in relation to another thing. A block can be on a table, under a table, or beside a table. The table is the reference object in these descriptions.

The adult puts a block on a table and states its position. The adult moves it beside the table and describes the change. The block is the same object; its position has changed.

A clear location description names the reference object. “Near it” may be unclear when several objects are present. “Beside the cup” gives a listener information that can be checked. Pointing, a model, or an accessible verbal description can communicate the same relationship.

Model an example

Worked example: A pencil lies beside a book. If the pencil is moved onto the book, “beside the book” no longer describes its position. A location description refers to the arrangement at the time described.

Supported practice

The adult arranges a cup and block. The learner places the block beside the cup, then on the table, while explaining or indicating the position.

Student and workbook links

The Student Book uses GEO-K-01-L01 and its accompanying visual. Then the learner completes GEO-K-01-W01, items 1-3. The answer guide uses that same activity ID.

Picture-reading support

Place a block on a table, then beside a cup; move it again. Read the position words while pointing. The simple map shows only the beside position; demonstrate the other positions with real objects.

Read and point to the diagram; labels are adult-supported. Place a block on a table, then beside a cup; move it again. Read the position words while pointing. The simple map shows only the beside position; demonstrate the other positions with real objects.

Try the real-object activity before the workbook. Place a block on a table, then beside a cup; move it again. Read the position words while pointing. The simple map shows only the beside position; demonstrate the other positions with real objects.

A picture can represent a place

Relate a simple overhead drawing to a real arrangement.

A map represents a place. It can show selected objects and their positions. A map does not have to show every detail. A simple map of a table might show a book and cup while leaving out their colors.

An overhead view looks down on an arrangement. The adult places a book and cup on a table, then draws a rectangle for the tabletop. A smaller rectangle represents the book. A circle represents the cup as seen from above.

The shapes are symbols. They stand for objects but are not the objects themselves. A circle on this map means cup because the mapmaker chose that meaning. On another map a circle may mean something else. The learner checks the explanation instead of assuming every symbol has the same meaning everywhere.

Model an example

Worked example: A circle near a rectangle on a table map represents a cup near a book. The map shows their relationship, not a full picture of their sides.

Supported practice

The adult outlines the rectangular table or paper map area and makes an overhead map. The learner points between each symbol and its matching real object. The arrangement remains still while it is checked. The adult may first trace the base of each object on scrap paper to demonstrate the view from above.

Student and workbook links

The Student Book uses GEO-K-01-L02 and its accompanying visual. Then the learner completes GEO-K-01-W02, items 1-3. The answer guide uses that same activity ID.

Picture-reading support

Read the two labels on the existing map. Set out a real cup and book in matching positions. Draw their top views and show what was left out.

Read and point to the diagram; labels are adult-supported. Read the two labels on the existing map. Set out a real cup and book in matching positions. Draw their top views and show what was left out.

Try the real-object activity before the workbook. Read the two labels on the existing map. Set out a real cup and book in matching positions. Draw their top views and show what was left out.

GEO-K-01-L03

A map key explains symbols

Use and check a key for a simple map.

A map key explains what symbols mean. A key may use words, small pictures, or both. A reader uses the key to connect a symbol with the place or object it represents.

The adult adds a key to the table map: a circle represents the cup and a small rectangle represents the book. The learner uses the key to identify each symbol without guessing. If the cup is moved, a map of the current arrangement needs to change.

Maps are made for purposes. This map answers where the objects are on the table. It does not show their weight or what is inside the book. A useful map can leave out those details. Checking what a map shows and omits is part of reading it accurately.

Model an example

Worked example: A key says that a triangle represents a large block. Three triangle symbols represent three blocks on this map. The triangles do not mean mountains unless the key assigns that meaning.

Supported practice

The learner adds a third object and symbol to the map and key. An adult uses the key to find the corresponding object, then checks its location.

Student and workbook links

The Student Book uses GEO-K-01-L03 and its accompanying visual. Then the learner completes GEO-K-01-W03, items 1-3. The answer guide uses that same activity ID.

Picture-reading support

Draw each shape beside its real object before reading the key. State that these are this practice map's chosen meanings; they are not universal symbols.

Read and point to the diagram; labels are adult-supported. Draw each shape beside its real object before reading the key. State that these are this practice map's chosen meanings; they are not universal symbols.

Try the real-object activity before the workbook. Draw each shape beside its real object before reading the key. State that these are this practice map's chosen meanings; they are not universal symbols.

GEO-K-01-A01

Section check

After the lessons, the learner completes GEO-K-01-A01 in the workbook. The assessment guide supplies criteria. An adult reads the directions and records any access support.

Revisit and retry

Reduce the arrangement to two objects. Match objects to shapes before returning to overhead position.

Sources and content notes

Instruction, practice tasks, and illustrative examples were authored for this series. Invented scenes and diagrams are not historical evidence or measured research data. Source references support the specific concepts below, not a claim of complete topic coverage.

GEO-K-01

Original observation-to-map sequence informed by USGS map education. Learning goals are local editorial proposals, not an adopted standards crosswalk.

USGS-MAP-ADVENTURES | USGS - Map Adventures

USGS identifies this map-education resource as appropriate for K-3. Different viewpoints, symbols, and simple maps inform original tabletop activities. Individual learners still require supported practice; the resource does not validate complete kindergarten coverage.

<https://www.usgs.gov/educational-resources/map-adventures>

USGS-MAPS | USGS - What do maps show?

Background support for map selection and keys; not a kindergarten readability model. The 1994 publication record corresponds to a poster bearing 1993. Original child pages use familiar objects and adult-supported diagrams.

<https://www.usgs.gov/publications/what-do-maps-show>

HEADSTART-EARLY | Office of Head Start - Interactive Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five

Early-childhood guidance informs adult support, concrete exploration, and communication options. The original Academy sequence does not adopt a standards framework. This birth-to-five resource does not establish full kindergarten coverage, independent reading readiness, or grade-by-grade validation for later levels.

<https://www.headstart.gov/interactive-head-start-early-learning-outcomes-framework-ages-birth-five>

Use and revision

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