



Exploring Your Own Backyard and the World



On June 30, 1534, Jacques Cartier, a French explorer, discovered Prince Edward Island during one of his voyages to the Americas. If you find France and Prince Edward Island on a globe or a map, you'll see that Cartier made a *long* trip over *lots* of water to explore new lands! Imagine if someone from another country were to come and visit you. What places would they want to explore? What places would you want to show them the most?

For this worksheet, you will need:

Several maps (ranging from local to national in area)

Compass

Ruler

Before you meet your new visitor, think about what country they will be traveling from. Make a list of all the places you would like to explore if you were going to visit them. What would you see? What would you do together?

Now, get ready to show your visitor around! Print a copy of a few maps that you can write on. Print one that shows your neighborhood and town, one that shows your entire area (like your county or area that you live in), one that shows your entire state or province, and one that shows your entire country. Make sure that each map has a scale that you can use to measure distance.

On the map of your neighborhood, use your ruler and the scale to set the compass to measure one mile. Find your house on the map and put the point of the compass there. Use the compass to draw a circle around everything that is within 1 mile of your house.

Make a list of all the things you want to show your visitor that are within your circle. Don't forget to include your favorite spots, like a friend's house, a playground, a place you like to go on walks, a library, or anything else in your circle that you enjoy visiting.

Now, draw circles that surround the area 5 miles from your house and make a list of all the things inside of it you want to show your visitor.

Try drawing the circle and making a list for everything 10 miles from your house, 25 miles from your house, 50 miles from your house, and 100 miles from your house. As the area on the map grows larger, you may need to put the compass point on your hometown rather than on your house.

How many places did you find to explore close to home? How about far away?

For extra fun, choose one of the places you wrote down to show your visitor, and write a scene or a short story about your trip.