### Overview
Maps can provide much information for the reader. Some of this information includes direction, the location of human and natural features, as well as the sizes of these features.

### Purpose
In this lesson, students will gain a better understanding of maps by interpreting a map and then constructing a map while practicing counting unit squares to figuring square feet on a map.

### Materials
- Rulers
- Colored pencils (optional)
- Map # 1, Lake Blanco
- Map # 2, Your Lake
- Key to Lake Blanco Lesson
- Map Making Scoring Guide
- Scoring Guide for Campsite Selection

### Objectives
The student will be able to:

1. Draw a compass rose using the cardinal directions and locate places on a map using a grid system.
2. Count unit squares to determine size of features on the map.
3. Evaluate data and decide on the "best" location for a class campsite by using map skills.

### Procedures
**SESSION ONE**
1. Discuss:
   What are some natural features you might find at a campsite?  
   What are some manmade features you might find at a campsite?  
   What features would make a great campsite?
Where Should We Camp? Lake Blanco

2. Give the students Map #1 and discuss the features of the map. Have students complete Reading the Map Questions and Using Your Math Skills. This can be done as a whole group, small group, or individually. Share the correct answers.

3. Divide the students into groups of threes. Assign the groups the task of creating a new map for a camping area. Be sure to go over the human and natural features that must be situated on the map. Reinforce the directions on how to create a map key. Groups will create their maps.

SESSION TWO
4. Have the groups create and answer the map reading and math questions on the back of the map.

5. Groups will exchange maps and select their site for the class campsite. Once the groups have decided the best campsite location, they should compose three or more sentences explaining their choice of site.

Assessment

Geography: The map and the map reading questions for Map #2 can be evaluated according to the Map Making Scoring Guide. Mastery is considered 18 out of the 22 points possible.

Math: The math for Map #2 can be evaluated using the Using Math Scoring Guide. Mastery is considered 10 out of the 12 points possible.

Use the Scoring Guide for Campsite Selection for assessing the desirability of this site location. Mastery will be considered 3 out of 3.

Extensions

Students could create other maps that relate to literature read in class that has "journeys or trips" as a theme, e.g., Jack and the Beanstalk, Jack and Jill, Wizard of Oz.