

How Scale Changes a Map

Name _____

Date _____

Read the text carefully and answer every question clearly.

A scale tells us how a distance on a map matches the real distance on the ground. For example, two maps may be printed on sheets of the same size but represent very different areas.

On the town map, 1 centimetre represents 100 metres. The town map is large-scale: it covers a small area and can show individual streets, buildings and a playground. A child could use it to find the library entrance.

On the country map, 1 centimetre represents 100 kilometres. The country map is small-scale. It covers a much wider area, so there is less room for local detail. Towns may appear as dots, while small roads are left out. Changing scale therefore changes both the area represented and the amount of detail that fits.

Comprehension questions

1. What does a map scale tell us, and what does 1 centimetre represent on the town map?

2. How do the area and detail shown on the large-scale town map differ from those on the small-scale country map?

Reflection questions

1. Why would the country map be less useful than the town map for finding the library entrance?

Opinion questions

1. The passage says that small roads are left out of the country map. Do you think this is a sensible choice? Explain your answer.
