

Make a Mystery Map

Play with layers of lines, shapes, and shading to create a mysterious picture of a place you know—whether you’ve been there in real life, or in your imagination!

You Will Need

- A piece of paper
- Drawing materials (markers, pencils, crayons, or pens)
- Maps to look at for reference and inspiration (optional)

GET READY! Think of a place. It could be somewhere you’ve visited, or an imaginary place from a book or a movie. Imagine you are there. Look around. What do you notice?

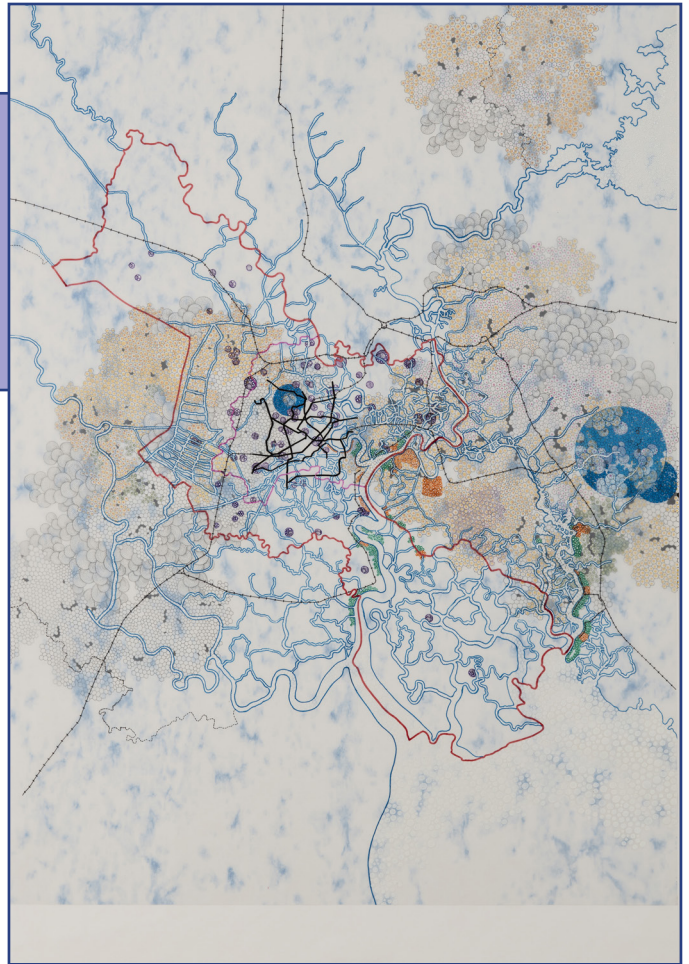
FLY! Imagine you’re a bird. Fly above the place you just thought about, and look down. What do you notice?

DRAW! On your paper, sketch out as many details as you can from the place you’re thinking about from the perspective of a bird flying in the sky. This is called a bird’s eye view. Are there mountains or rivers? Are there roads? What do they look like from above? How can you show these on a piece of paper?

RESEARCH! Take a break from drawing and find a map to look at in a book or online. What do you notice about the map? What colors and patterns can you find? What can you discover about the place on the map?

IMAGINE! Choose two colors, patterns, and details you just discovered on a real map and try adding them to your drawing. Is there a squiggly river that you can copy? Is there a mountain range you can borrow? How are these details changing the way your artwork looks? How would they change the way it feels to be in this place? Keep adding lines, shading, and patterns until your paper is full.

SHARE! When you are finished, you will have created a mysterious new place! Find someone to introduce to your magical land. Tell them the story of how this place came to be!



Tiffany Chung (born 1969), *Flora and Fauna Outgrowing the Future*, 2010. Micro pigment ink, oil, and alcohol-based marker on vellum and paper (2014.014.002).

Challenge Yourself!

Look at the artwork shown here. The artist’s work is inspired by maps. She creates maps of actual places, but her maps don’t just show landforms or geographic features. Her maps are also meant to show feelings, or memories. How could you add a feeling or memory to your map? What colors or patterns could you use to show different feelings?

Are most maps works of art? How are maps similar or different to artworks? What other materials could you add to your map? How would different materials change you map’s meaning or purpose?