



## MAP MAKING

(from Programs for Cub Scout Leaders, 24.2)  
Leader/Helper Notes



*Encourage Cubs to think about maps, what they are, how and why they are used, and provide a simple map-making exercise (Yarnak's Map).*

### Preamble

Let us imagine we are gathered around a fire. Our hunters have come home safely and there is meat cooking. One of the hunters, maybe the oldest, or the bravest, is telling us about the hunt. As questions are asked, he describes what happened and starts to scratch lines and symbols in the dirt in front of him with a stick.

This is the sort of situation where the idea of maps began. Others would have copied the idea and as they met people from other tribes they would show them where they had travelled and the main landmarks along the route. From the earliest hunters or travellers using landmarks to find their way and passing the information on by word of mouth, we progressed to simple maps, marked out in the dirt or sand, and then to burning or scratching markings into bark or animal hides. We have come a long way since then!

### Mapping Activity

1. **Seek Information** – With the whole Pack, or in small groups, discuss why maps are important in our lives—old maps, and current ones. Encourage Cubs to think widely—learning about earlier times, safety, quicker travel, finding exciting/interesting places to explore, understanding our world *etc.*;
2. **Base Plan - Yarnak's Map** – Give each Cub a Base Plan, or something similar, and make up a story to use in the map making exercise (see over);
3. **Design Symbols** for the items listed in the 'Legend Box'. Encourage Cubs to think as 'early travellers'—what sort of symbols might they have chosen? It is important that someone else, looking at the map, could guess what the symbols stand for if there was no 'Legend Box';
4. **Tell the Story** – Cubs draw up a map from the [story] details given. Do not read too fast, and allow time for drawing. The details are very basic and not too specific about the 'track' placement in relation to the trees, so maps could vary but still be correct;
5. **Pass Pages** around and let the Cubs see what others have done.

## Story – Yarnak's Map

Yarnak came out of his cabin. He looked to his right, where a large river ran from the north to the south and then far, far away.

Today, Yarnak was going to take his children to the fishing hole.

As he looked north, Yarnak could see the path of the main road. It ran east to west about 3 km away. Where it crossed the river, a stone bridge had recently been built to save people from getting wet.

Half way between the cabin and the bridge, on the western bank of the river, grew a tall tree. Past the bridge, to the north, there was a waterfall. Further north again, a huge rock, known as "Egg Rock", sat on the east bank of the river.

The fishing hole was in a deep part of the river just south of the bridge, but past the Tall Tree. A path ran from Yarnak's cabin, past the Tall Tree, to meet the main road. Before the Tall Tree, to the west of the track, grew an apple tree.

It was such a fine day. Yarnak would go fishing with his children, and they could lunch on nice apples. Yarnak was happy.