

# Teaching Scale

It is often difficult for students to visualize the actual size of an object or the distance between two locations. This activity will walk students through creating a map and scale on their own. They will have to determine how to best represent a certain area using scale.

## Suggestions

Conduct this activity in the classroom after the students have walked through the activities on the website.

## Objectives

Students will discover how to create, read and use scale on a topographic map.

## Materials

Paper  
Pencil  
Tape measure

## Activities

In class, the students should work in groups of three to five. Using a piece of paper, roughly 11 x 15, a pencil and a tape measure, they will be responsible for developing a scaled map of the classroom. Students may struggle with figuring out how to fit a drawing of the room onto a piece of paper. Before writing anything down, each group should sit down and discuss the steps they will take in creating their maps. They should consider the total area of the room in relation to the size of the paper. If the teacher feels it is necessary, the dimensions of the outer walls can be given to the class to save time. There is however, a good opportunity for practicing classroom teamwork in this exercise.

## Extension Activity

For homework, students will create a scaled drawing of any room in their house. As they did in the classroom, they should represent large pieces of furniture in the room. They will hand in the dimensions sheet and the final scaled drawing.