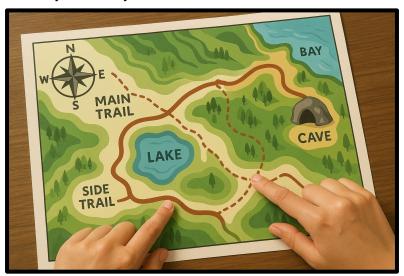
## Decodable Texts: Long Vowel Teams: Both ai & ay

"This nonfiction story explains how to use a trail map. Watch for long A vowel teams with 'ai' and 'ay,' like in 'trail,' 'bay,' and 'stay.'"



How to Read a Trail Map

A trail map helps you find your way.

You can use one to hike, bike, or play outside.

The main trail is marked with a bold gray line.

Side trails may lead to a cave, lake, or bay.

Many maps show a compass rose to help you stay on track.

Some also have a chart that shows how steep or flat the land is.

With a trail map and a smart plan, you won't stray.

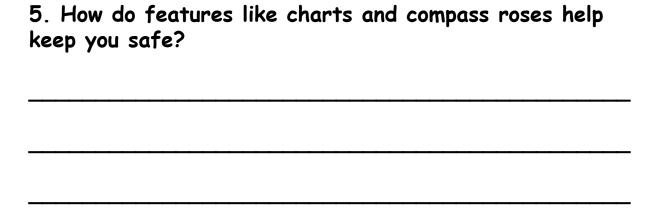
After reading the story, have your child point to and slowly sound out each practice word.

Trail way play main stray



# How to Read a Trail Map

riow to Read a Trail Map	
1. What does a trail map help you do?	2. What does a compass rose show?
A. Play games	A. Where the lakes are
B. Read stories	B. Where to stop
C. Find your way	C. Where the sun is
D. Swim in a bay	D. Which way to go
3. Fill in the blank:	
The main trail is marked with a bold line.	
4. Why is it helpful to use a trail map before going on a hike?	





### **Coaching Guide**

**Target Skill:** ai and ay Vowel Teams (Long A)

**Genre:** Nonfiction – Travel & Mapping

High-Frequency Words: to, your, on, some, with

#### **Before Reading**

1. This story includes both "ai" and "ay" words. Watch for words like *trail*, *stay*, *bay*, and *main*.

- 2. Have you ever used a map? What might it help you find?
- 3. Why do people need maps when hiking or exploring?

#### **During Reading**

- Sounding Out Support: Support your child in identifying "ai" in the middle of words and "ay" at the end.
- 2. Watch for ai/ay words that show directions and locations
- 3. What parts of the map are most important for staying safe?
- 4. Read the last line with a confident voice, like you're ready to explore

#### After Reading

- 1. Retell the reasons why a trail map is useful
- 2. How does using a trail map help someone avoid getting lost?
- 3. What would you include in a map of your own neighborhood?
- 4. Skill Check: Underline six ai/ay words in the passage
- 5. **Fluency Tip:** Read it again like you're giving directions to a hiking group

#### **Activity Idea**

Draw your own trail map with labels that include ai/ay words like "trail," "main," "play," or "bay." Then write one sentence about how to follow your map.

#### Coaching Tip

Teaching kids to decode while exploring new ideas—like reading a map—makes phonics feel practical and powerful!

