

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



Name: _____

How to Read a Trail Map

1. What does a trail map help you do?

- A. Play games
- B. Read stories
- C. Find your way
- D. Swim in a bay

2. What does a compass rose show?

- A. Where the lakes are
- B. Where to stop
- C. Where the sun is
- 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?

5. How do features like charts and compass roses help keep you safe?



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?
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During Reading

1. **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
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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
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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!

