Read the short story and answer each question.

Exploring an Ocean Map

Heading: Exploring an Ocean Map

When you look at an ocean map, it may seem like a big, blue puzzle. But if you learn how to read it, you can discover all kinds of information.

Subheading: What Are Ocean Maps?
Ocean maps are special maps that show the parts of the sea and what lies beneath. They include features like islands, underwater mountains, and ocean currents. Some maps even use colors to show where the water is deep or shallow.

Caption under image:
This map shows deep ocean trenches in dark blue and shallow water in light blue.

Subheading: Reading a Map Key
Most ocean maps include a **map key**. The map key tells you what the symbols mean. For example, a triangle might mean an underwater volcano, and a star might show a famous shipwreck.

Subheading: Using the Compass Rose
A **compass rose** shows you direction. It usually points north, south, east, and west. When you use it, you can tell where something is on the map.

Name:

Exploring an Ocean Map

1. What does a map key help you do?

  A.   Find treasure under the ocean

  B.   Understand symbols on a map

  C.   Swim faster in the ocean

  D.   Dig up sand from the beach

2. What is the purpose of a compass rose?

  A.   To show where to swim

  B.   To tell the depth of the ocean

  C.   To show directions

  D.   To find fish

3. Fill in the blank:

A trench is a deep _____ in the sea floor.

4. How do subheadings help you find information in this text?

_____

_____

_____

5. Why do authors include bold words and captions in nonfiction texts?

_____

_____

_____

Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: L
Lexile Level: 355L-505L
Grade Level: 2nd Grade, Middle of the Year
Genre: Informational (text features)

Introducing the Text

"Today's nonfiction text helps us explore how ocean maps work. As we read, we'll practice using **text features** like headings, bold words, map keys, and captions to help us understand what the author wants us to know."

Vocabulary: map, trench, compass rose, key, symbol

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever seen a map?
2. What do you think ocean maps might show?
3. What are some features you've seen in books that help you understand a topic?

During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What does the subheading tell us about this part of the text?
2. What is the caption describing?
3. Why do you think the word "trench" is in bold?

After Reading Discussion Questions

1. Which text feature helped you the most?
2. How does a map key make it easier to read a map?
3. Why do you think authors use multiple features instead of just plain text?

Activity Idea

Give students a simple, unlabeled ocean map. Ask them to work in small groups to create a **map key**, **add captions**, and label parts using bold words. Then have groups trade and try to "read" each other's maps using only the features they created!