Key Vocabulary

Terrain: the type of land covering an area.

Human features: features in an environment that have been made by people (e.g. fountains, buildings)

Physical features: natural features within an environment (e.g. beach, forest, river)

Scale: the relationship between the distance on a map and the true distance on the ground. Maps are drawn to scale as life-size would be too big.

Symbol: used on a map to represent the human and physical features of an area and show where they are located.
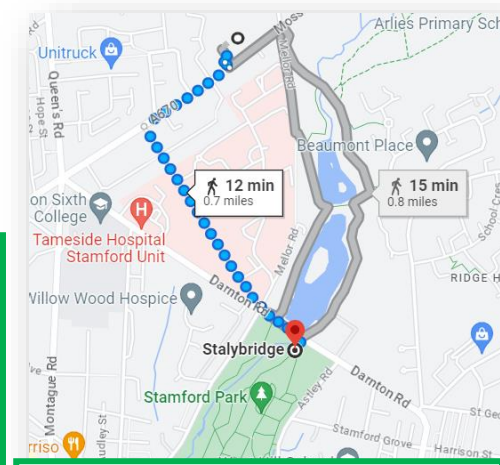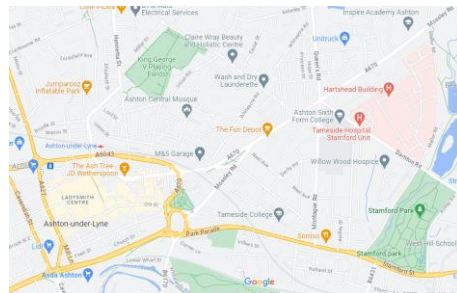
Key: an explanation of the symbols which appear on a map.

Drawing maps

When drawing a map to somewhere, it is important to think about the landmarks that you will see on the way. This tells the map reader that they are going the right way. Maps should always be as detailed as possible but at the same time should be easy to follow.

Maps

Maps are used as a tool to help people find their way to and from somewhere. A map can show any size of land from a small area like a park to the whole world. A map shows both the human and physical features of an area.

Map showing the route to Stamford Park from Inspire Academy

Ashton-Under-Lyne versus Stamford Park

Ashton-Under-Lyne is a town in the North West of England. 45,198 people live in Ashton-Under-Lyne and the town is part of Tameside. Ashton-Under-Lyne contains many human features such as an arcade, a leisure centre, factories, and shops. Ashton-Under-Lyne is located in the Pennines and is therefore surrounded by hills and with the River Tame flowing through it.

Stamford Park is a park located in Stalybridge. The park is mainly used for leisure and contains both human and physical features. Human features include a café, a playground and a water feature. Physical features include a stream, a woodland area and a lake.

Stamford Park

Ashton-Under-Lyne

Symbols and keys

Symbols are used in maps to show the different features of the area. A symbol supports the map reader in locating features.

A key is often found next to a map and shows what each symbol represents.