

Draw a Fairy Tale Map

See how far your child's imagination can take her with a map-drawing project inspired by her favorite fairy tale! You'll have a chance to sit down together, savor a fantasy-filled story and then she'll design her own version of the fairy tale's setting. Masked as a fun art activity, this entertaining endeavor packs some learning punch—it'll serve to strengthen her problem solving skills and test her reading comprehension, too.

What You Need:

- Your child's favorite fairy tale or fantasy story
- Paper
- Pens, markers, pencils, or colored pencils

What You Do:

1. Ask your child to brainstorm her favorite fairy tale, or read a few together and urge her to pick the best one. After she's chosen, re-read it together slowly. Encourage her to pay attention to the setting and environment that the story takes place in.
2. Next, have her make a list of all the locations that the characters in the story visit. Try to have her list them in order.
3. Now, she's ready to start making her map! Ask her to first mark the different spots visited in the story. She can draw a small image and then write a caption, such as "Grandmother's House" next to the picture.
4. Then, encourage her to further illustrate the map by drawing what she imagines the setting to be. For example, if there's a forest she can draw trees and forest animals, and if there's a body of water, she can draw and decorate it on the outskirts of the map.
5. If this applies to the story, have her draw the route that the character follows. For example, Little Red Riding Hood goes through the woods to Grandmother's house.
6. When she is finished, ask her to describe the setting to you. Where do the characters go in the story? What's her favorite location on the map, and why? Where would she want to visit?

