

## mapping activities for different ages:

### Ages 2 and 3

**Read Gail Hartman's *As the Crow Flies* (Macmillan).** This book helps young children develop an understanding of maps. Follow up the reading by drawing a pictorial map of a place familiar to the children. Use blocks and real objects as landmarks on your map.

**Toss the Globe.** Cloth or plastic ball globes are good to use in a group game where children toss the globe to each other. Ask the children to note where their thumbs are pointing when they catch the globe.

### Ages 4 and 5

**Read Nancy L. Clouses' *Puzzle Maps USA* (Henry Holt).** Using torn paper pieces, children can create a puzzle map of the U.S. by following the models in the book. Making map puzzles help children appreciate the locations, names, and relative sizes of states, nations, and continents.

**Recycle Post Cards.** Collect post cards and locate the place each card represents on a world map. Keep a list of all the locations on a class chart.

### Ages 6 and up

**Collect a variety of land and sea maps** and find models of them in the book to learn how map keys are used for interpretation. Design a compass rose. The compass rose on maps points north to indicate direction. Turn the map in different directions, as if the compass rose pointed south, east, or west, to give different perspectives of the world. Invite children to design a compass rose with symbols that represent their area of the world.