Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

★ Reinforcing Skills Activity 1

Understanding the Parts of a Map

LEARNING THE SKILL

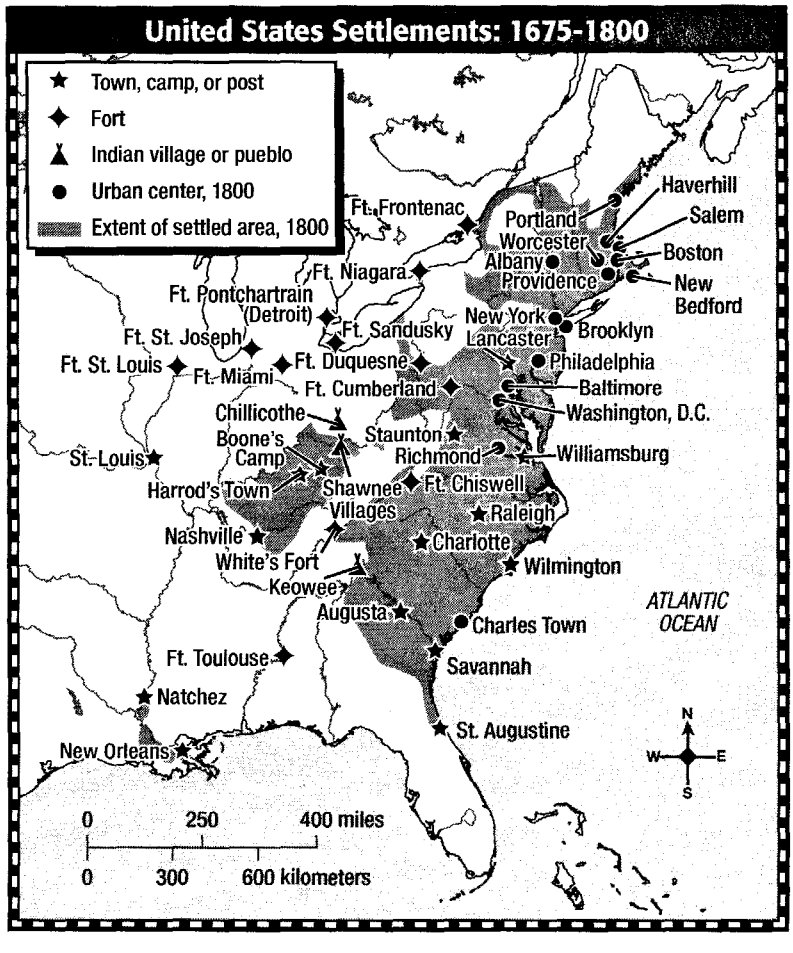
A map includes several symbols that can help you interpret the information you see. The map key, or legend, helps you understand colors, lines, or symbols on a map. The compass rose will show the cardinal directions of north, south, east, and west on the map. Scale is used to represent size and distance. A map scale is usually shown with a scale bar.

To understand any map, read the map title first, and then read the map key to find out what special information it gives. Next, find examples of each map key color, line, or symbol on the map, and use the compass rose to identify the four cardinal directions. You can use the map scale to find the distance between any two points on the map.

PRACTICING THE SKILL

DIRECTIONS: Analyze the map at right, and then answer the questions below on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What information is given in the map key?
2. What does the shaded area represent on the map?
3. What is the approximate distance in miles from Richmond to Salem?
4. What is the approximate distance in kilometers from Savannah to Charles Town?
5. Identify three urban centers, one fort, and one Native American village.



APPLYING THE SKILL

DIRECTIONS: Draw a basic map of your neighborhood or city on a separate sheet of paper. Be sure to include a compass rose, scale, and map key.

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