

Lesson
30

Journey to Cuzco:

The Origin of the Inca

The Incan empire of South America was once the largest empire in the Americas. It stretched through the Andes mountain range from present-day Colombia to Chile. The Inca's great skill in farming and building can be seen in the ruins of Machu Picchu (MAH choo PEE choo), near Cuzco (KOOS koh), Peru.

The following ancient myth tells about the origin of the Incan civilization.

Machu Picchu lies on a mountain ridge about 8,000 feet high.

Viracuchu (veer uh KOO choo), the sky god, saw that the night sky was empty. So he created the moon, the stars, and the planets.

Viracuchu's son was Inti (IHN tee), the god of the sun. Inti felt that people needed order in their lives. On a lake in the Andes, he created the first Incan people. They were Manco Capac (MAHN koh KAH pahk) and his sister, Mama Ocllo (MAH mah OHK yo). Inti sent them on a journey. Their mission was to find the place for the Incan civilization to begin.

How would Manco Capac and Mama Ocllo know when they had found the right spot? Inti had given them a golden staff. The chosen place would be where the staff sank deep into the earth.

The brother and sister journeyed into the bitterly cold Andes Mountains. They traveled through underground caves. At times they discovered hidden valleys. At each location, they tested the ground. It was always too hard; the golden staff would not go through.

Finally, the travelers came upon the most beautiful valley they had seen. When they tried the staff, it went so deep into the earth that it disappeared. They knew they had arrived. The site became Cuzco, the first capital of the Incan empire.

Manco Capac and Mama Ocllo taught men and women to farm and build houses, to weave cloth and to prepare food. From these humble beginnings, the great civilization of the Inca developed, with Manco Capac as its first emperor.

Manco Capac ▶



After you read the myth, describe how it explains the origins of people, places, and phenomena in nature.

Get Lost!

The Puzzle of Mazes

Getting through a maze can be a challenge!

Imagine you are running along a narrow, gravel pathway. On either side of you is a six-foot wall of tangled hedges. Openings along the hedge lead to other long, leafy green hallways. They all look the same. You are caught in a maze! Can you find your way out? Even a compass won't help you. Many of these twisting passageways will never take you to the end. Instead, they lead to dead ends and you have to retrace your steps. This is what makes mazes so much fun—and so difficult!

What's a Labyrinth?

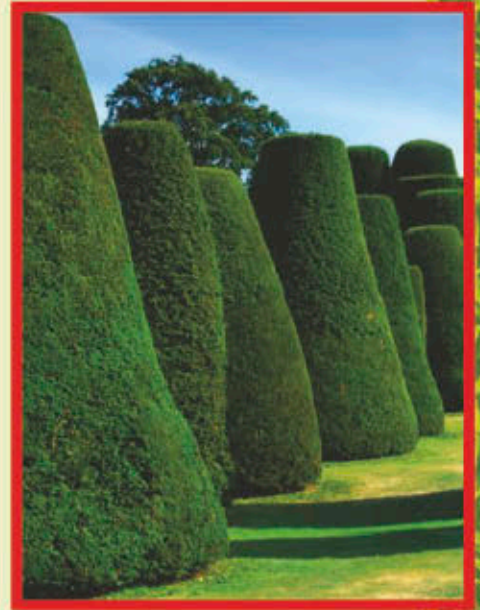
Many people confuse mazes with labyrinths. Unlike mazes, many labyrinths have no walls at all. They are simply designs built into a floor or other flat surface. Mazes are multicursal, meaning they have many paths. A labyrinth is unicursal—it has a single path from the beginning to the end. Most labyrinths are less challenging than mazes, but there's one exception you'll read about on page 73!



Hemmed In by Hedges

Hedge mazes are one of the most common kinds of mazes. These are often made from the yew, an evergreen tree or shrub. Yews make good maze borders because they grow slowly and keep their shape.

Mazes are created in all kinds of designs from easy to difficult. Some mazes end in their middle. In others, you must find your way from one side to another. In 1977, Queen Elizabeth celebrated twenty-five years as queen of England. To mark this event, brothers Edward and Lindsay Heyes created the Silver Jubilee maze.

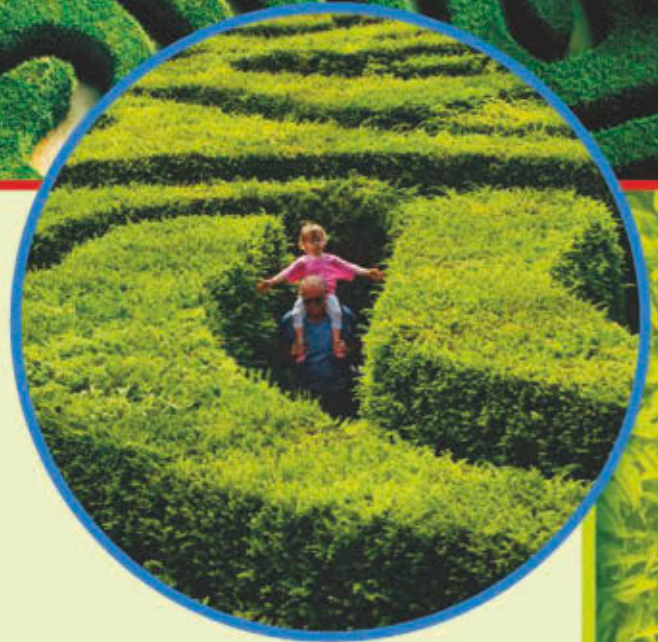


The slow-growing yew tree



This “aMazing Hedge Puzzle,” as the brothers call it, has twelve paths to the center and thirteen unlucky dead ends. And there’s a balcony outside the maze from which you can shout hints to your friends inside—or confuse them even more!

The Silver Jubilee maze pathways can hold many people at once, and even wheelchairs. So many people visit that the paths wear down two inches a year!



The length of mazes can vary, too. Some are extremely long. In 1975, for example, Greg Bright created the Longleat Hedge Maze in Wiltshire, England. This maze, one of the longest hedge mazes in the world, uses more than 16,000 English yew trees. It takes about ninety minutes to complete. Other mazes are short and may take very little time to finish.

The Longleat Hedge Maze has almost two miles of pathways.

A Royal Puzzle

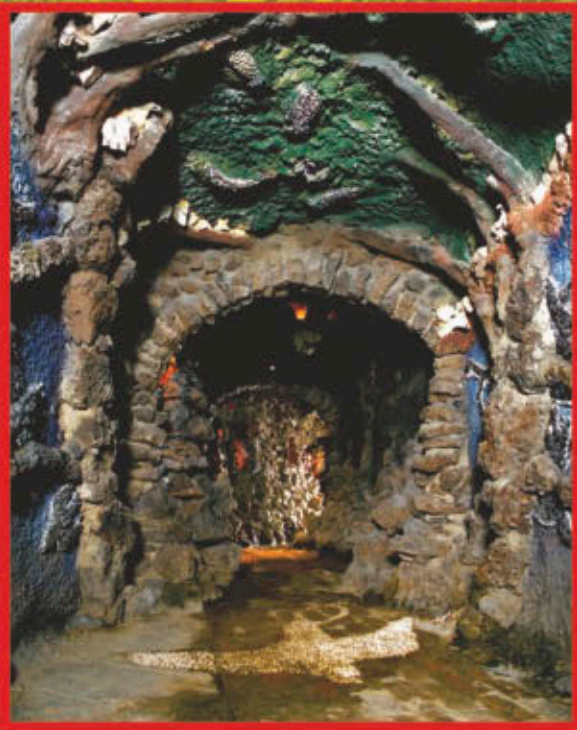
One of the most unusual hedge mazes is found at Leeds Castle in Kent, England. Made from yew and designed by a maze expert, it was planted in 1988. Part of the maze is cut in the shape of a crown to honor the many queens who have lived in the castle. At the center of the Leeds Castle maze is the entrance to a grotto, or cavern, filled with sculptures of mythical beasts.



The maze at Leeds Castle in Kent, England

If you're lucky enough to find your way to the center, you can climb to the top of a small tower for a view of the entire maze. Then you can take stone steps down into the most unique part of the maze—its grotto. The maze winds through an underground cave that's cold, dark, and narrow. This part of the maze is unicursal, which means it has a single path leading from the beginning to the end. You can't get lost!

Can you find the crown in the maze?

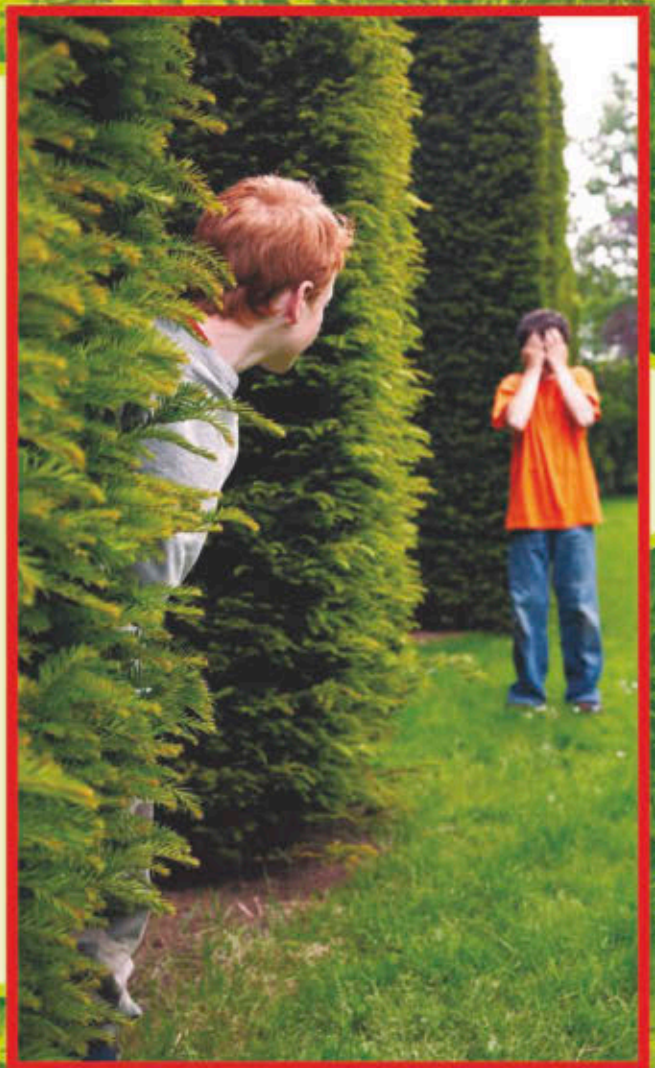


If you find your way to the center tower, you will have the chance to explore the underground part of the Leeds maze.



For younger children, Leeds Castle offers the Turf Maze. No taller than ankle height, this maze also has a surprise at its center—a small wooden castle. Leeds Castle offers something to amaze both the young and the old.

Even young children enjoy the maze experience at Leeds Castle.



Underground you will pass a fountain carved in the shape of a mysterious face. Follow the light to the end of the maze!

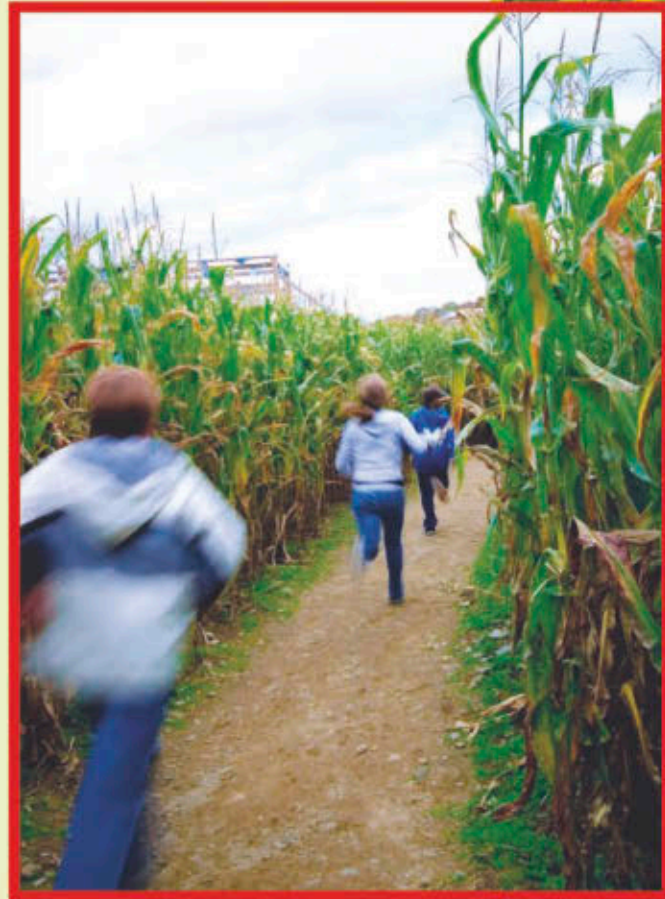


Lost in the Cornstalks

There are hedge mazes in the United States, but not as many as in England. Our most common type of maze is made from cornstalks. It's nicknamed a maize maze because maize is another word for corn.

Unlike hedge mazes, which last for years, maize mazes last for only one season. However, they are fast and easy to grow. Designs are usually cut into the cornfield with tractors when the corn is only a few inches high. Picture designs are especially popular for maize mazes. And since corn is tallest in the fall, these designs are often related to the season of autumn.

Maize mazes are fun but hot and dusty inside. Be sure to bring water and wear running shoes instead of sandals when you try one!



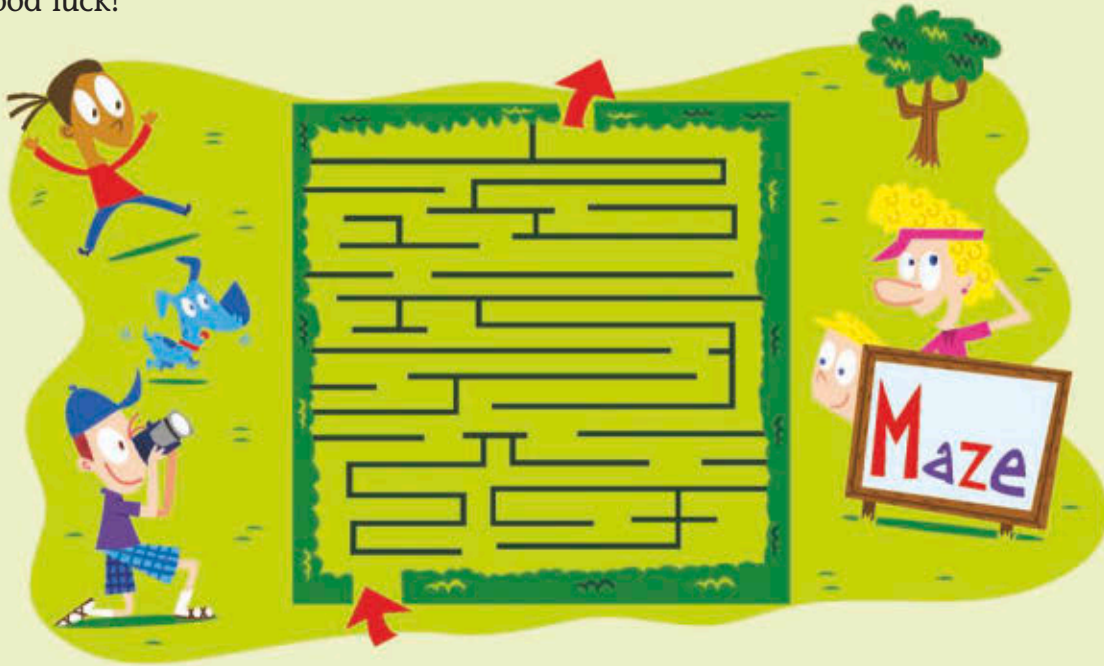
Not all maize mazes have autumn themes. In 1993, British maze designer Adrian Fisher created a huge corn maze in the shape of a dinosaur in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Other maize mazes have featured castles, a map of the United States, an Egyptian pyramid, the Statue of Liberty, a cowboy, a pig, and even a portrait of the actor John Wayne.



Corn mazes are created in all kinds of imaginative designs!

A Test of Skill

Have you ever tried making your way through a maze on paper? If so, you know you place your pencil at "Start" and draw a line all the way through to the end. If you practice solving paper mazes, it might help you find your way through a hedge or maize maze. You may not need to go very far to try. Mazes have become popular tourist attractions, and they're found all over the world. Maybe you'll get a chance to test your maze-solving skills outdoors. Good luck!



Labyrinth of the Minotaur

A story from Greek mythology has made one labyrinth famous the world over. In ancient days, King Minos ruled the island of Crete where people lived in fear of a beast called the Minotaur. The Minotaur had the head of a bull and the body of a man.

Minos kept the Minotaur in a huge labyrinth. Every few years fourteen people were sacrificed to the Minotaur. But Theseus, a brave young man, volunteered to stop this terrible practice by battling the Minotaur.

King Minos' daughter, Ariadne, gave Theseus a sword to fight the Minotaur and a ball of string to help him find his way out of the labyrinth. Theseus killed the Minotaur, rescued the people who were meant to be victims, and led them out to freedom.



"Minotaur Waking," a bronze sculpture by Michael Ayrton



The Best Paths

by Kristine O'Connell George

The best paths
are whispers
in the grass,
a bent twig,
a token, a hint,
easily missed.

The best paths
hide themselves
until the right
someone
comes along.

The best paths
lead you
to where
you didn't know
you wanted to go.

compass

by Valerie Worth



According to
The compass,
Wherever you happen
To stand,

North, south,
East and west,
Meet in the palm
Of your hand.



MEMORY MAZE

Grand Opening

MAY'S MAZES

DISCOVER THE TIGER HEDGE MAZE!

- Find your way to the giant tiger in the center!
- Twenty dead ends and only one right path!



STROLL THE LAKESIDE LABYRINTH!

- Music from hidden speakers!
- Dancing fountains!



TRY MAY'S MAIZE MAZE!

- Cornstalks twelve feet tall!
- Clue sheets for the confused!



Read the above ad. Discuss with a partner how it presents its message differently than an online ad or a TV commercial might. Then test your memory. Cover the ad and read the list of details on the right. Tell which maze each one goes with.

- Twenty dead ends! _____ ?
- Dancing fountains! _____ ?
- Clue sheets! _____ ?
- Hidden speakers! _____ ?
- Giant tiger! _____ ?
- Cornstalks! _____ ?

A-maze Yourself!

You don't need a cornfield or hedge paths to make a maze. Here are instructions to help you make your own maze at home or in class.

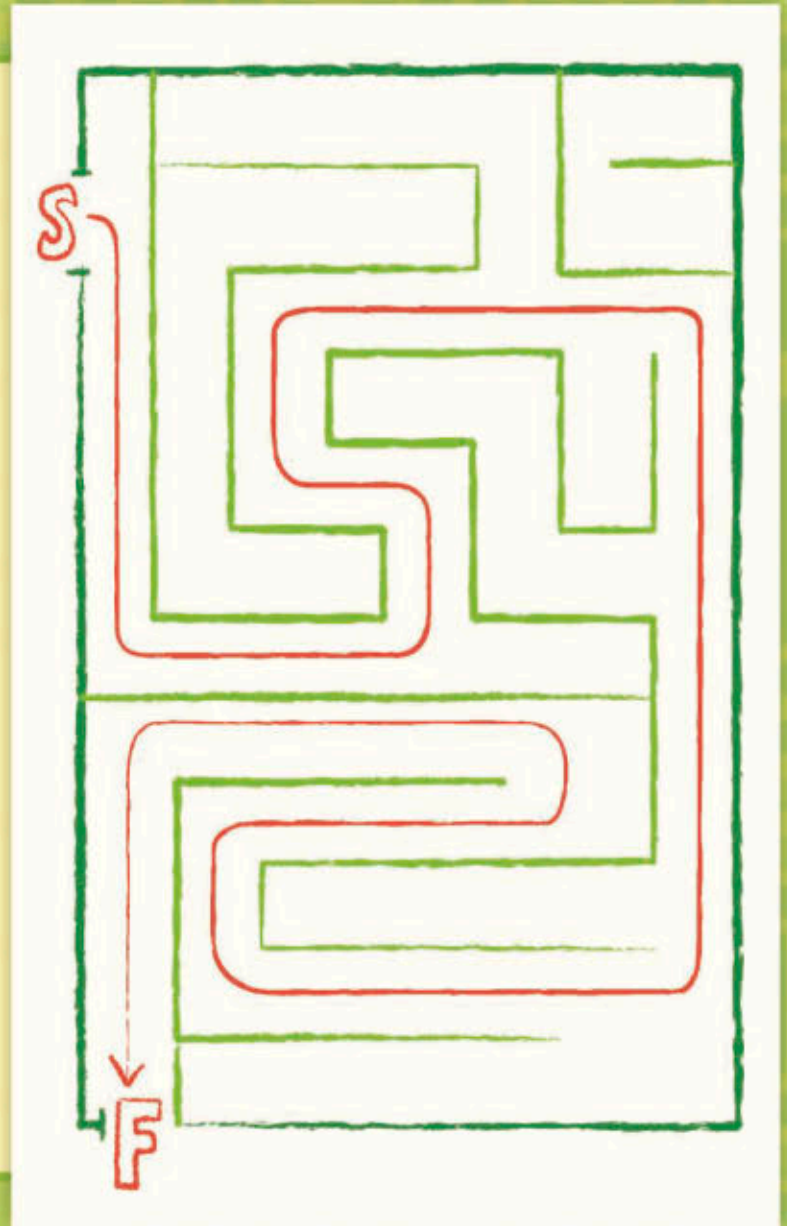
Materials:

Pencil, paper, and eraser

Step 1 Draw a large rectangle for the frame of the maze. Use the diagram on this page as a guide. Mark where you want your maze to start (S) and finish (F).

Step 2 Start making your paths. Make horizontal lines and vertical lines to turn your path in different directions. Put a line across your path to make a dead end.

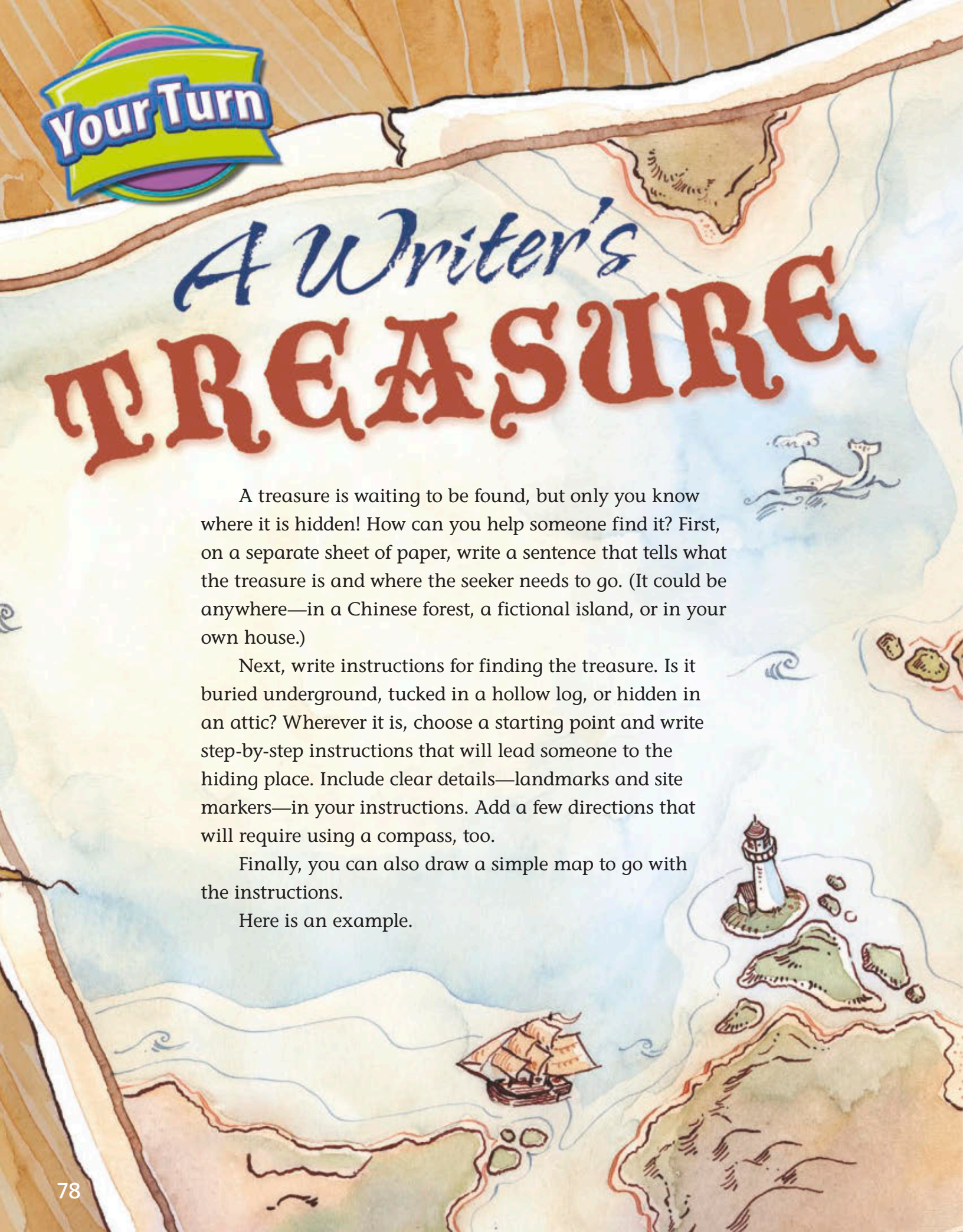
Step 3 After you have finished your maze, try to solve it. You may need to close off some paths or open others.



Extras

- Make your maze in the shape of an object or animal.
- Draw little pictures or write messages by the paths.

A Writer's TREASURE

The background of the page is a hand-drawn map. It features a large body of water in the center, with a small island in the upper right containing a lighthouse. Another island in the lower right has a lighthouse and some buildings. A ship with three sails is in the water. There are also some small islands and a whale in the water. The map is drawn with simple lines and watercolor-style colors.

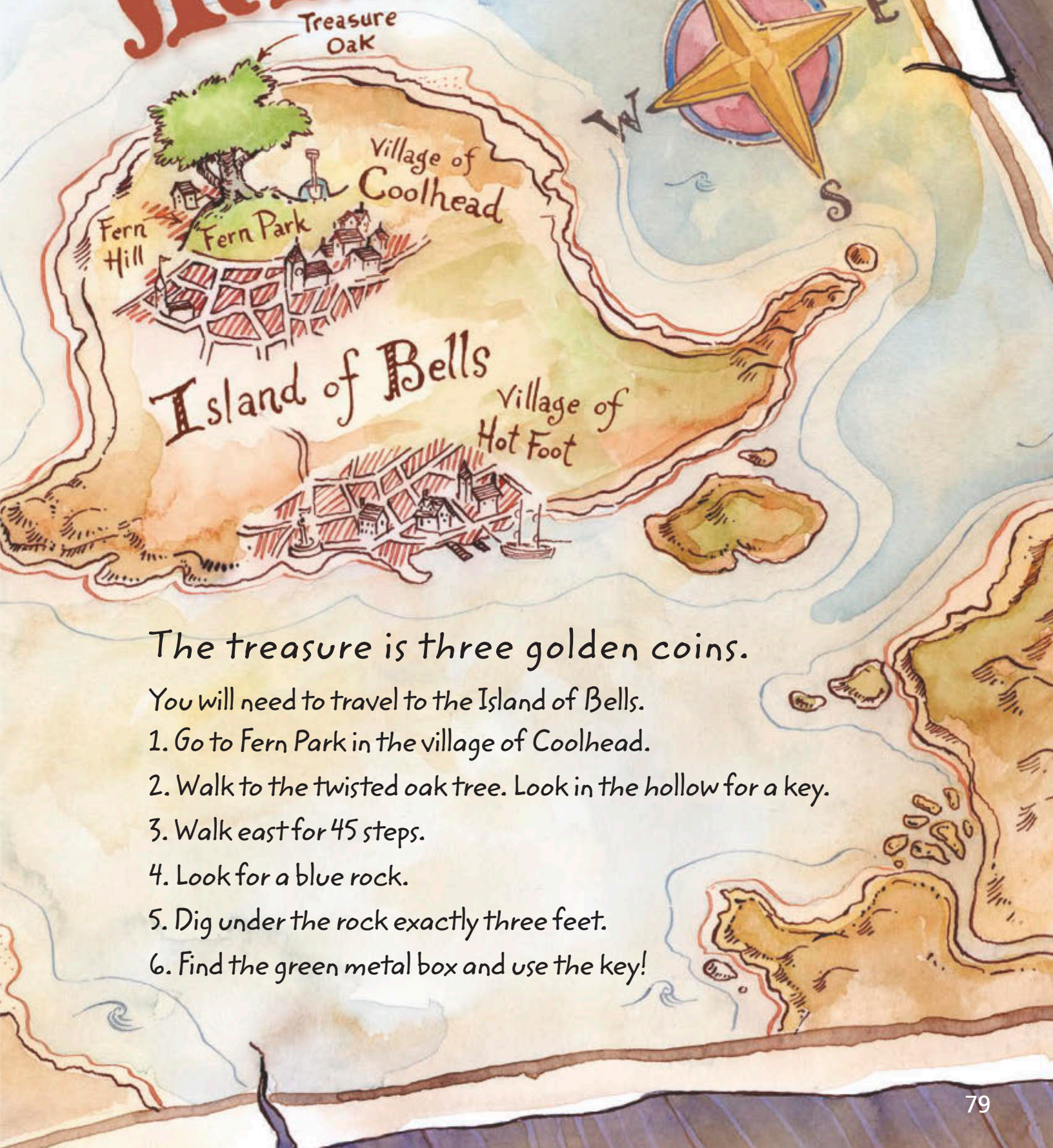
A treasure is waiting to be found, but only you know where it is hidden! How can you help someone find it? First, on a separate sheet of paper, write a sentence that tells what the treasure is and where the seeker needs to go. (It could be anywhere—in a Chinese forest, a fictional island, or in your own house.)

Next, write instructions for finding the treasure. Is it buried underground, tucked in a hollow log, or hidden in an attic? Wherever it is, choose a starting point and write step-by-step instructions that will lead someone to the hiding place. Include clear details—landmarks and site markers—in your instructions. Add a few directions that will require using a compass, too.

Finally, you can also draw a simple map to go with the instructions.

Here is an example.

MAP



The treasure is three golden coins.

You will need to travel to the Island of Bells.

1. Go to Fern Park in the village of Coolhead.
2. Walk to the twisted oak tree. Look in the hollow for a key.
3. Walk east for 45 steps.
4. Look for a blue rock.
5. Dig under the rock exactly three feet.
6. Find the green metal box and use the key!