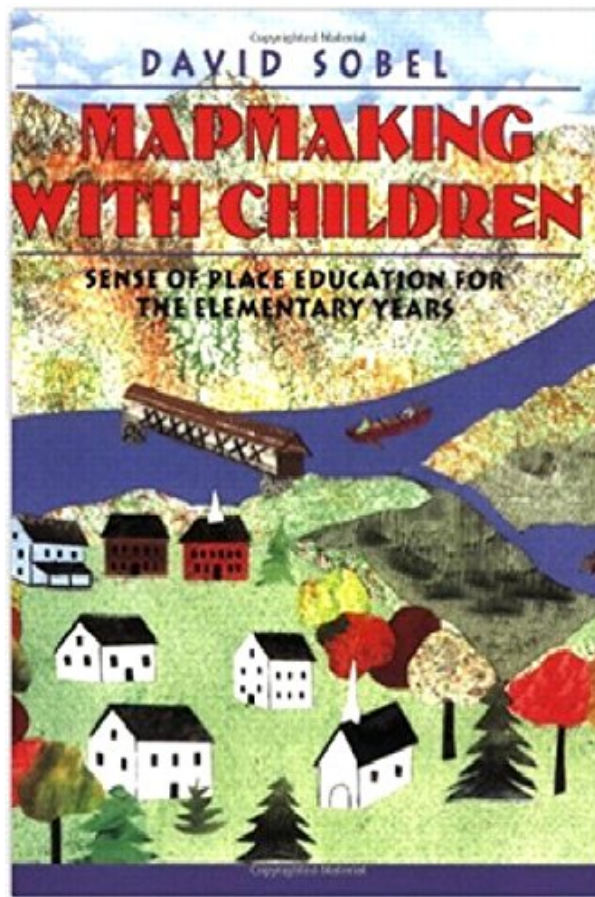
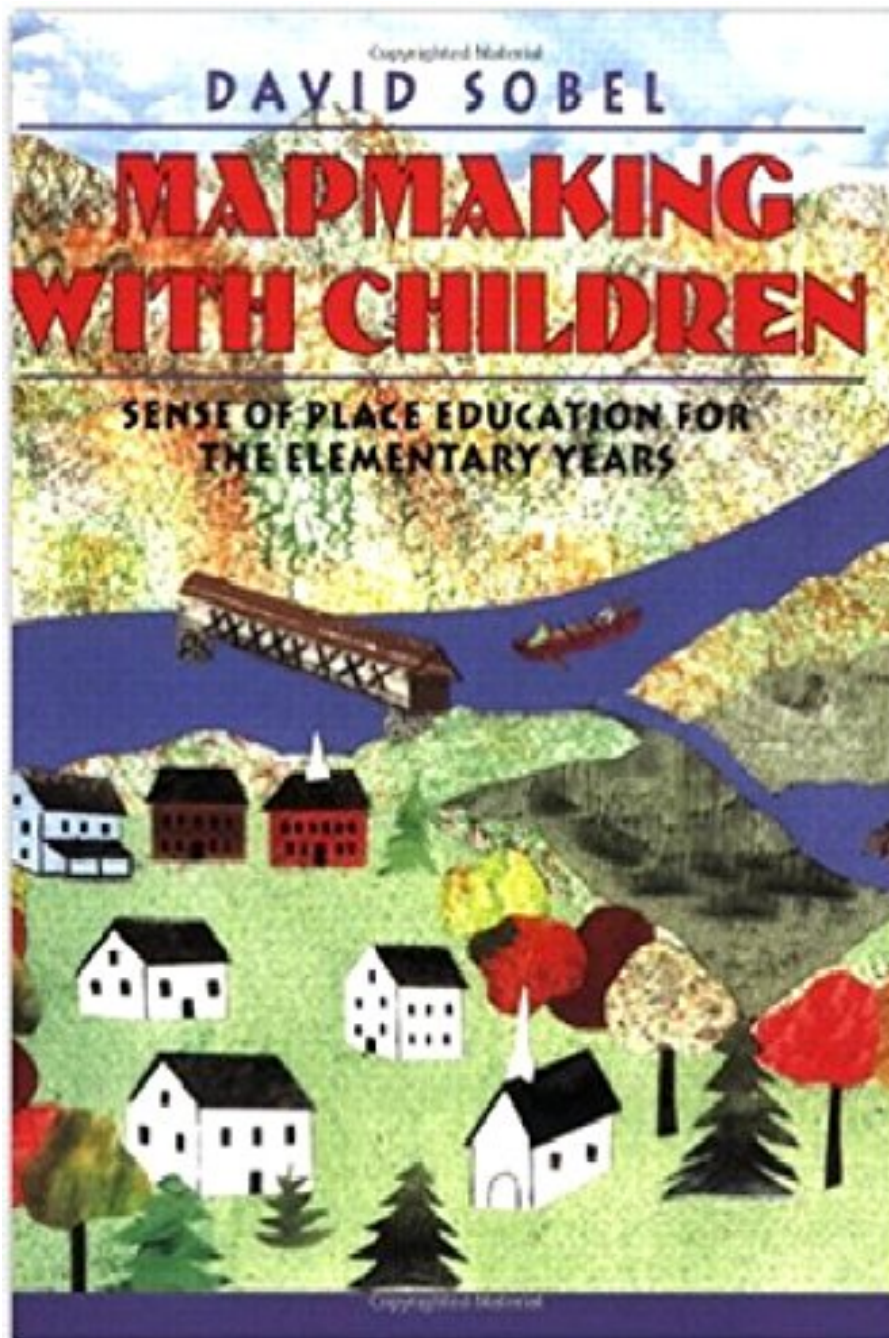


MAPMAKING WITH CHILDREN: SENSE OF PLACE EDUCATION FOR THE ELEMENTARY YEARS BY DAVID SOBEL



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About the Author

David Sobel is the director of Teacher certification programs in the education department of Antioch New England Graduate School. He is a frequent keynote speaker at environmental education conferences and serves as a consultant to school districts and environmental organization.

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Mapmaking With Children: Sense Of Place Education For The Elementary Years By David Sobel.

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The current crisis in geography education has spawned several new books on mapmaking, many of which advocate either recitation and drill or a conceptual top-down model that ignores children's interests. Mapmaking with Children presents an inspired alternative. Maintaining that there is no substitute for hands-on experience, David Sobel places the initial emphasis on local projects--projects that begin in students' own backyards and communities, projects that provide a sense of place.

As Sobel explains, "In the beginning, children's maps represent their experiences of beauty, secrecy, adventure, and comfort. With these affective endeavors as a foundation, I then gradually start to focus on scale, location, direction, and geographic relationships. The development of emotional bonds and cognitive skills needs to go hand in hand in my approach to developmentally appropriate social studies and geography." To that end, his book identifies each stage of development, presenting relevant theoretical issues and several appropriate projects.

In the beginning, students stay close to home, mapping their known world. Gradually, they move on to their neighborhood, developing a sense of place, scope, and perspective. Eventually, once students are older, they explore the nation, the world, even the solar system, creating raised relief maps and contour maps to develop visual literacy and spatial reasoning skills. Vivid illustrations of the students' work are provided throughout to let you observe each stage of development.

Mapmaking, as Sobel uses it, has relevance across the curriculum. In addition to appealing to social studies teachers, this book will be of interest to science teachers, language arts teachers, and math teachers looking for new ways to invigorate the curriculum.

- Sales Rank: #130742 in Books
- Published on: 1998-05-13
- Released on: 1998-05-13
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.30" h x .40" w x 7.40" l, .70 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 176 pages

About the Author

David Sobel is the director of Teacher certification programs in the education department of Antioch New England Graduate School. He is a frequent keynote speaker at environmental education conferences and serves as a consultant to school districts and environmental organization.

Most helpful customer reviews

28 of 29 people found the following review helpful.

This is a gem of a book.

By Rob Leonard

This is a wonderful, well-written book that will be of interest to a wide variety of people--most of whom will unfortunately probably not encounter it--such as parents and homeschoolers and child development professionals and environmental educators, as well as its (presumed by me) targeted audience of classroom teachers. It is the kind of work that uses one subject to explain much about the world, the way we think and use information. It is also a how-to manual on mapmaking with children. I came away from the book with a very clear understanding of several map projects I could do with my children. Because the book first lays the theoretical groundwork for children's understanding of maps, the actual map projects seem intuitive--experiential education at its finest. The author's passion for his subject, and his scholarship come through. There is much information and guidance on what sorts of maps are appropriate for children of different ages to be encouraged to create--from treasure hunts to classroom maps to sophisticated area maps. I am buying copies for my children's teachers!

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

Mapmaking with Children Exactly What I Was Looking For

By Timothy OKEEFE

As a water educator for a local watershed organization, getting the idea of a watershed across to elementary school students can be challenging. This book focuses on kids developmental capacities and how they relate to a place at different ages. Not only perfect for classroom teachers, this book should be on the shelves of every environmental educator.

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Creative Ideas for Critical Thinking

By Anne B. Gurnee

Sobel does a masterful job at explaining how basic mapmaking is to all of us, including children. He then follows with several age-specific ideas about engaging children in the process of making maps. Ultimately, mapmaking leads to the making of meaning about our place and the world around us. I've done several of these activities with groups of children and my own, and they are always winners.

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