

A Map That Keeps Changing

Name: _____ Date: _____

A neighborhood map usually shows streets and buildings. The map created by Harbor Club included something different: notes about how people used those places. Its members wanted visitors to find entrances, resting spots, and routes that suited their needs. To create a useful guide, they needed more than a clear drawing of the streets.

The club began by walking the neighborhood with volunteers. One person noticed benches between the bus stop and the library. Another pointed out that a building's wide side entrance was easier to use than its narrow front steps. A volunteer who used a wheelchair explained that a route that looked short on paper could include an uneven surface. The group recorded these observations with permission and avoided collecting personal medical information.

The first draft quickly became crowded. Every note seemed valuable, but tiny labels made the map difficult to read. The club grouped related information into a few symbols and added a plain-language key. Members also prepared a text version describing the routes. Volunteers checked both versions and pointed out places where a symbol or description was confusing.

Two weeks later, repair work blocked the sidewalk near the library. A map that had been accurate was suddenly incomplete. The club added a date to each version and set up a way for neighbors to report changes. Before publishing a correction, two members checked the location. They did not label every route accessible for everyone; they described features so readers could decide what would work for them.

The project taught the club two connected lessons. Different people notice different details, so listening widely can improve a guide. Information also needs checking and updating as conditions change. The map was never a finished answer to every visitor's needs. It became a shared tool that the neighborhood could keep improving, one careful observation at a time.

Read closely. Find the evidence.

1. Which pair of central ideas is developed in the passage?

- A. Short routes are always best, and maps should have no words.
- B. Libraries need more benches, and sidewalks never change.
- C. Different perspectives improve information, and useful information needs ongoing checks.
- D. Volunteers should avoid feedback, and every map should look the same.

2. How does the wheelchair user's observation support a central idea?

- A. It shows that buildings do not need entrances.
- B. It proves that all short routes are unusable.
- C. It explains why the club stops walking.
- D. It reveals a detail that a street drawing alone may miss.

3. Which detail best supports the idea that information must be maintained?

- A. Repair work blocks a sidewalk after the first map is made.
- B. The map includes streets and buildings.
- C. The volunteers walk together.
- D. A library has a side entrance.

4. How do volunteer checks of the symbols and text version connect the central ideas?

- A. They let the club remove every description.
- B. They use different readers' feedback to check and improve the guide.
- C. They guarantee that no future updates will be needed.
- D. They prove that symbols are always clearer than words.

Talk it through: Explain two connected central ideas. Use a different relevant detail for each, then explain one detail that supports both.