

Exploring Hopkins Forest: Mapmaking and Storytelling!

Name: _____

An important part of the history of Hopkins Forest are the stories of people who have lived and worked the land in the forest over time. In 1971, two students interviewed **Art Rosenberg**, who lived in Hopkins Forest for a long time. During the interview they took notes on the map below. The map is marked with many of Art's memories about the land and how he remembered it throughout his life. Interviewing someone about their life in order to understand history is called an **oral history**. Take a careful look at the map and on a separate sheet see if you can answer some of the questions below.

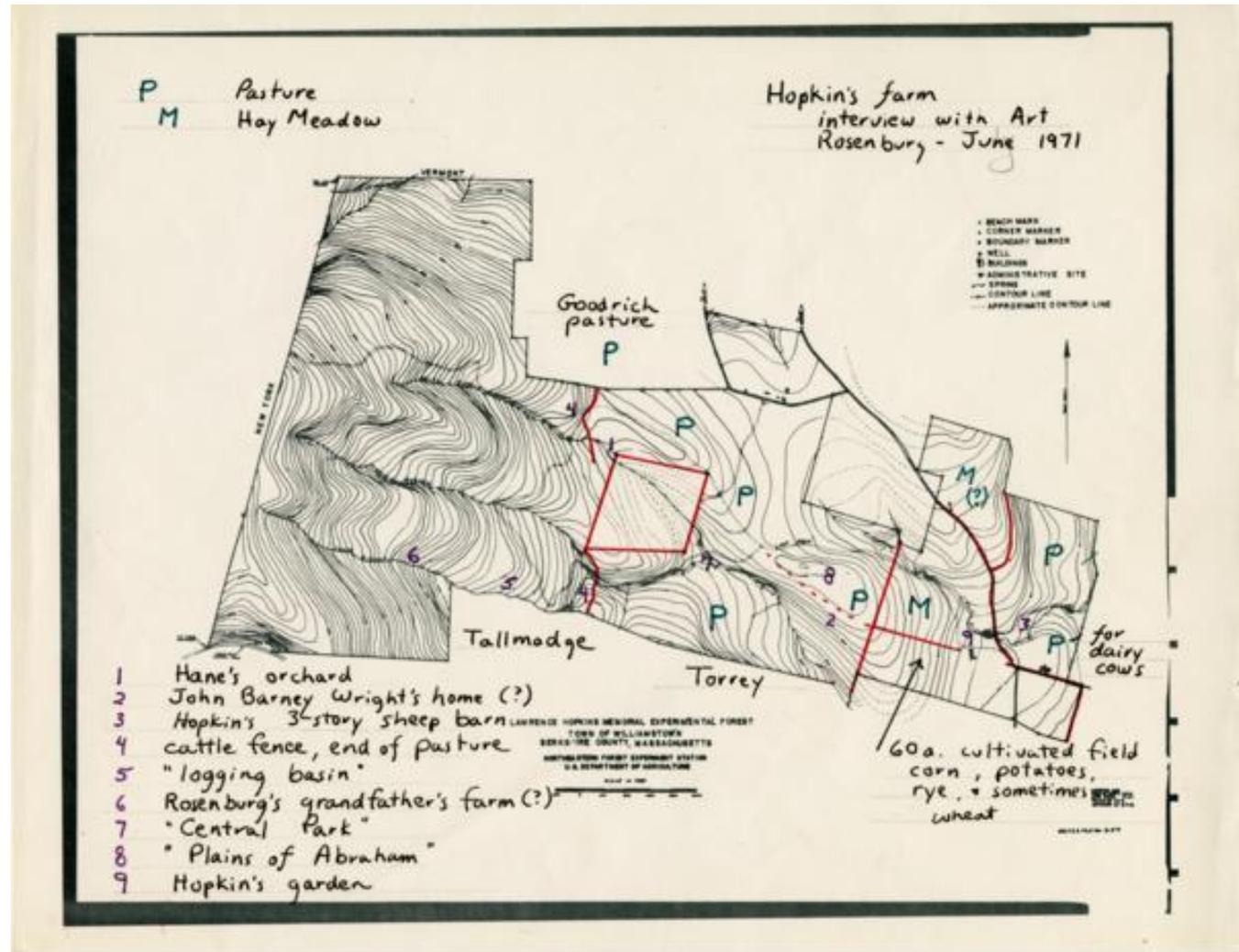
What do the blue 'P' and 'M' stand for?

Based on the notes written on the map, what sorts of activities have happened in the forest in the past?

What do you think the different lines and boundaries on the map mean? Feel free to discuss with a parent, teacher, or friend!

What does this map tell you about the forest, and about Art Rosenberg?

After looking at the notes, and the map can you start to picture what the land looked like?



Main Activity: Think of a place that you feel like you could map: could you draw a map of a room where you live? Your yard, your street, or your neighborhood? A classroom at school or a favorite park or playground? Think of someone you could talk to who also has memories of that place. They can be your age, or they can be older, maybe even much older! Then draw a map of the place you have in mind using the Hopkins Forest map as an example. You might need to research different terms online: ‘map compass,’ ‘map key,’ ‘contour lines,’ ‘scale.’ You can be as detailed and creative as you would like! Challenge yourself.

Next, interview the person you have in mind, and take notes on your map about their landmarks, memories, and stories from that same place. Do they remember the same things? Has this place always been the same? How do different people remember places differently? You can even have them draw their own map of the same place, and compare how your maps are different or similar.

Optional: If you can, take some time to visit Hopkins forest with the map! Walking the Lower Loop Trail, can you recognize any of Art’s landmarks? Are there places where he said there were meadows (‘M’ or ‘P’) that are now trees? Can you find the “Hopkins Garden” or where they used to keep dairy cows? How does the forest seem similar or different now versus when Art described it?

Optional: Research ‘contour lines’ online. Have you seen these lines before in other maps? Maybe you even knew how they worked already. Find a hill in your neighborhood and picture how you might draw it using contour lines. Try to draw it! Which area is steepest? Which area is highest? You can even try to draw contour lines of things that are not maps! Can you make a contour of an apple, or a shoe, or your dog?