

## *Problem Solving Activity: An Island Trip*

A boy spending a vacation on a small island wrote a letter to his sister. He wanted to tell her about a bike trip he had taken. Here is part of the letter.

" The town where we are staying is in the center of the island. There is a road from the town that lead to a deserted village on the shore of the island. Yesterday we decided to go there on our bikes. On the way out of town we came to a fork in a road by a tall tree. We went to the right. And, you can guess, the road to the village was the one on the left. Anyway, we were lost.

" After a while we came to a four-way intersection. We were not sure if we should keep going straight ahead, turn left or turn right. We decided to turn right and soon came to a forest. (Later we found out that the road to the left leads to a nice beach. Going straight ahead would have taken us to some cliffs overlooking the ocean.)

"Soon we came to another fork in the road and decoded to go left. (We should have turned right. That would have taken us back to town.) We ended up at the boat dock on the other side of the island. By then we were tired, so we wanted to go back to town. We knew there was a direct road from the boat dock to town, but we missed it. Instead we ended up going along the shore of the island all the way to the deserted village. So we visited the village after all, but we sure went the long way.

" What I don't understand is how we got to the village from the dock and never crossed any other roads. After all, the village and the dock are almost on opposite ends of the island."

His sister couldn't make head or tail out of the description of her brother's trip. So, she decided to draw a sketch of the island, its roads and its landmarks.

**TASK:** Read through the story above very carefully.

- On the blank map on the next page sketch out a map of the boy's trek around the island (or draw your own map of the island.)
- When you have finished drawing the map, compare your version with those of other people in your class.
- Rewrite the directions in your own words in a way that would make the steps in the trip easier to follow.

# AN ISLAND TRIP

