Before the Homestead Act of 1862, the American government's land policies were based on the idea that the land belonged to the government and was to be distributed to settlers. This was a significant shift from the previous policies of land ownership, which were based on colonial and native American systems. The Homestead Act was intended to encourage settlement and farmership by offering land to those who would cultivate it and build homes on it. This act played a crucial role in the westward expansion of the United States and the development of a large-scale agricultural economy.

The diagram shows a map of the Rice Creek area, highlighting the different land parcels and their boundaries. The map includes a scale and a key to identify different features, such as roads, water bodies, and boundaries. The map is a useful tool for understanding the layout and ownership of the land in the area.
The image contains a map with various annotations and instructions. The text is written in a mixture of English and another language. The content appears to be related to navigation or an educational activity, possibly involving a field station or natural area. The map includes symbols and labels, some of which are in English, and others in what might be a local language. The instructions seem to guide readers through different sections of the area, possibly for educational or recreational purposes.