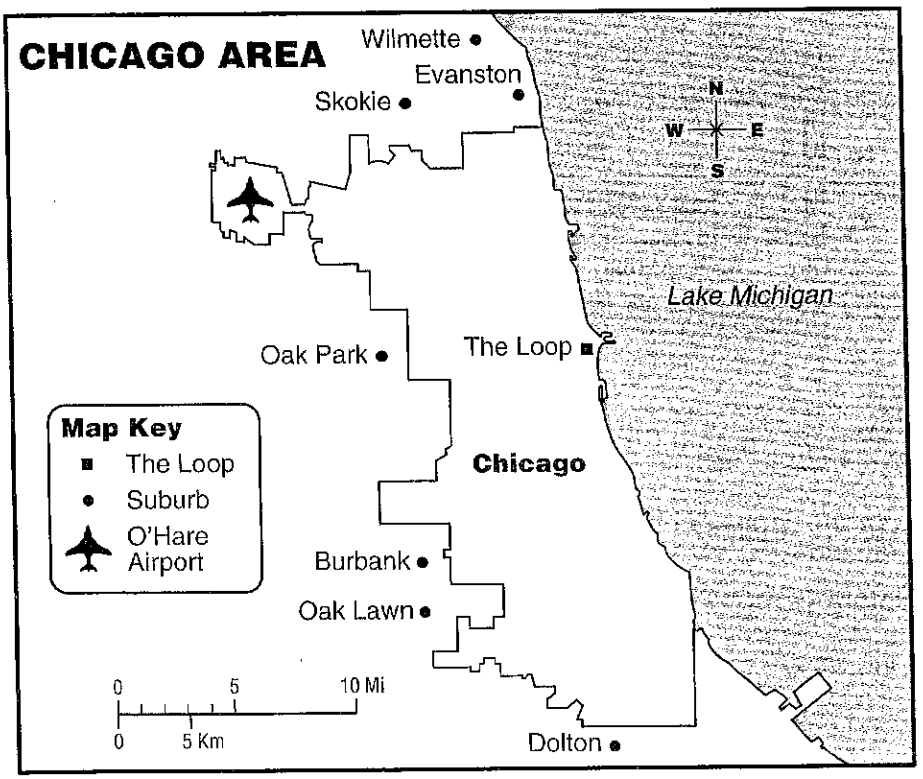
Name _____ Date _____

Using a Distance Scale

Maps are not life-size. They show big areas on small pieces of paper. **Distance** on a map is not the same as the real distance in a place. To show distance, maps use a **distance scale**. A distance scale shows that a certain length on the map equals a certain length in a real place. Most distance scales show distance in miles and kilometers.

Find the distance scale on the Chicago Area map. It is in the lower left corner. Suppose you want to find the distance from Skokie to Evanston. You can do this different ways. You can use the edge of a piece of paper. Lay the paper in a straight line between the two places. Mark the paper below each place. Lay the paper on the scale. Your left mark should be at 0. Your right mark should be at the 5 mile mark. So the distance is about 5 miles.

Another way is to use an inch ruler. Measure the distance between the two cities. The distance is just over one half inch. Just over one half inch on the distance scale = 5 miles.



Directions Use the map to answer the questions.

1. About how far is Oak Park from the Loop? _____

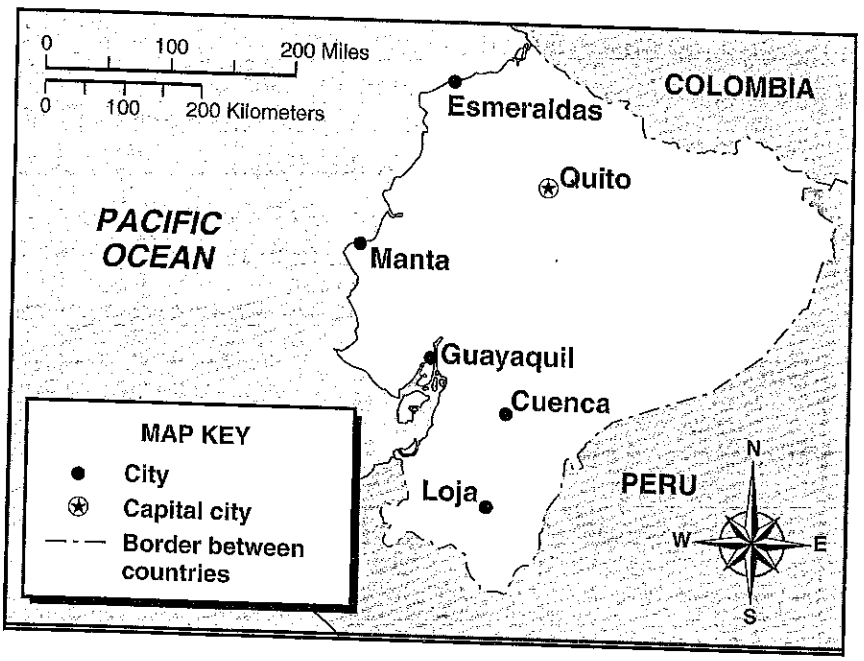
2. About how far is Dolton from Oak Lawn? _____

3. About how far is Skokie from Burbank? _____

Name _____ Date _____

Farther Than It Looks

Some maps show a very large place. An inch on the map may equal hundreds of miles. Look at the map below. On this distance scale, 1 inch equals about 150 miles. Notice that this map also shows distance in kilometers.



Directions Use an inch ruler and the distance scale on the map to finish each sentence.

1. On the map, the distance from Manta to Quito is about _____ inch.
2. On the map, 1 inch = about 150 miles. In the real place, Manta is about _____ miles from Quito.
3. On the map, 1 inch = about 250 kilometers. In the real place, Manta is about _____ kilometers from Quito.
4. Which city is about 350 miles north of Loja? _____
5. Which nation is southeast of Ecuador? _____

Activity

Use your classroom map from page 13. How accurate is it? Draw a distance scale for your map. Let 1 inch = 4 feet. Measure distances in your classroom. Are the distances on your map to scale? If not, redraw the parts of your map that are not accurate.