

# What's in a Map?

## Map Key (or map legend)

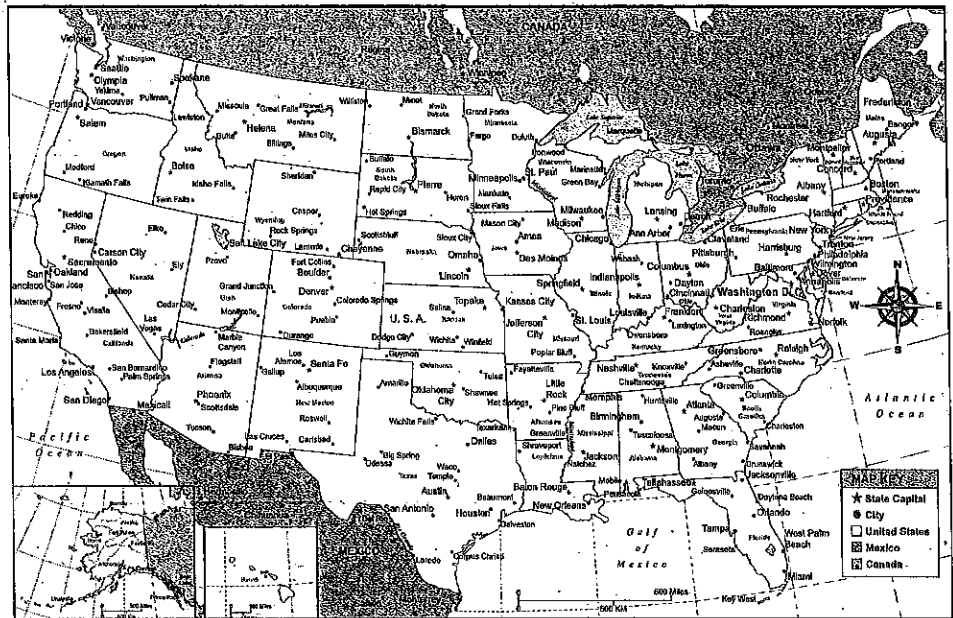
Shows the symbols and colors used on the map and what each one means.

## Compass Rose

Shows the directions north, east, south, and west. The letters N, E, S, and W are placed to indicate direction.

## Scale Bar

Shows the actual distance between points on the map.  
(ex. 1 inch = 1 mile)



Cartographers make different types of maps for different purposes.

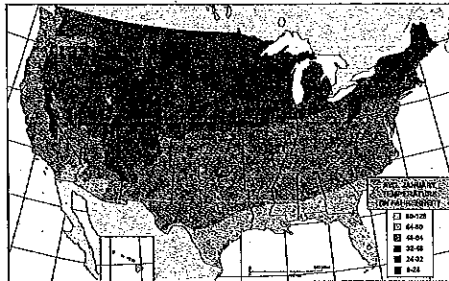
## Political Map

A political map shows the man-made borders between countries, cities, and towns. Often, a political map uses different colors to display these boundaries.



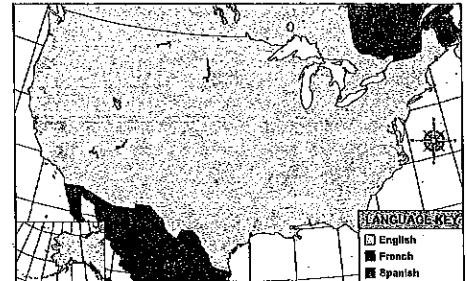
## Physical Map

A physical map shows only natural landforms, such as mountains, rivers, and fields. For example, a map of a river and waterfall would be a physical map.



## Climate Map

A climate map shows the differences in the earth's climate regions. Above, notice the northern U.S. states are shaded darker to illustrate a cold climate.



## Language Map

A language map uses shading to show which language is spoken in a particular region. This language map shows only the dominant languages spoken in these countries.



## Did You Know?

A person who makes maps is called a cartographer. A good map has several features, such as a key, compass rose, and scale bar. A map always has many landmarks. Landmarks can be formed by humans or nature. For example, the Statue of Liberty is a human landmark. The Atlantic Ocean is a physical or natural landmark.

(continued)

# Be the Cartographer

## Check for Understanding

Use the space below to draw a map of your neighborhood. Be sure to include landmarks, a map key, a compass rose, and a scale bar.

## Quiz: Type of Map

Read the statements below, then write the type of map being described. (For example: political, physical, climate, or language.)

1. A map that shows the boundaries between the African nations of Chad and Sudan: \_\_\_\_\_
2. A map of North America illustrating the Mississippi River: \_\_\_\_\_
3. A map illustrating Antarctica as blue because Antarctica is cold: \_\_\_\_\_
4. A map showing France shaded red because the people of France speak French: \_\_\_\_\_
5. A map showing India as a rainy region of the world: \_\_\_\_\_