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**LESSON**  
PART 1





### In this lesson, we shall learn about :

- ◆ Different types of maps
- ◆ Important guidelines to read a map
- ◆ How to point out places on a map
- ◆ Importance of map to students

### New Words

geographical, cartography, shallow

A globe is a real model of the earth. Just like our earth, it is round in shape. It is fixed on a stand. It rotates as our earth rotates on its axis. All the imaginary lines as Equator, latitudes, longitudes are marked on it. All places and physical features on it are marked in their correct position. Nothing can replace the globe in this regard. But still, the globe has many shortcomings:

- ❑ We can only find major informations on a globe but not the minute ones.
- ❑ It occupies more space.
- ❑ It is not easy to handle or carry a globe everywhere.



So, these arises the need of a map. A map is a drawing of the whole or a part of the earth's surface on a flat sheet. It is full of geographical data. Like a globe, a map also shows all the physical features and places on their right places. But it gives us a large variety of information about the mountain ranges, hills, rivers, plains, valleys and plateaus. Many more things like industries, climate, vegetation, trade routes and centres, grasslands, etc can easily be shown on maps. We can make a map of the world or a part of it. We can fold a map and carry it anywhere easily. Therefore, maps have become more popular. The art of making maps is known as **Cartography** and the person who draws maps is called **Cartographer**.





### Some Facts :

A book of maps is called Atlas. It contains a number of maps.

### Activity

Take an Atlas from your library and find out what types of maps it contains.

**Different Types of Maps :** It is not easy to show all geographical features on one map. To draw them all in one map will create a great confusion. So, we use different types of maps for different details. We can classify different types of maps as:

**Political Map :** When in a map, only the boundaries of continents, countries, states, districts, capitals, towns and cities are shown, it is called a political map.

**Physical Map :** When in a map, the mountains, hills, plains, plateaus, valleys, rivers, lakes, seas, etc are shown, it is called a physical map. A physical map is also called a relief map.

**Climatic Map:** When a map gives us knowledge about the weather conditions, direction of winds and pressure, climatic zones and rainfall, it is called a climatic map.

**Vegetation Map :** When a map shows the distribution of different vegetations such as forests, grasslands, meadows etc, it is called a vegetation map.

**Population Map:** A population map shows the areas which are densely or sparsely populated.

**Economic or Commercial Maps:** These maps generally show the industrial, agricultural areas with sea ports, trade routes, trading and mining centres.



### How to Read a map ?

Every map has various signs, symbols and colours in it. These signs, symbols and colours represent cities, rivers, hills, mountains, valleys, etc. These signs and symbols are called the **language of a map**. We can read a map easily with the help of these signs and symbols. They are the guidelines to read a map.

The important guidelines to read a map correctly are :

**1. Directions :** When we read a map, the first important thing is that we should have the knowledge of directions. Every map has four cardinal directions - East, West, South and North. On a map, North is always at the top and South is at the bottom. The East is always on the right and West is always on the left. On many maps, we find an arrow in the right hand margin. The tip of this arrow is always marked 'N' which denotes the direction North. This arrow is, therefore, called the 'North-Line'. It helps us to find the other directions on a map.

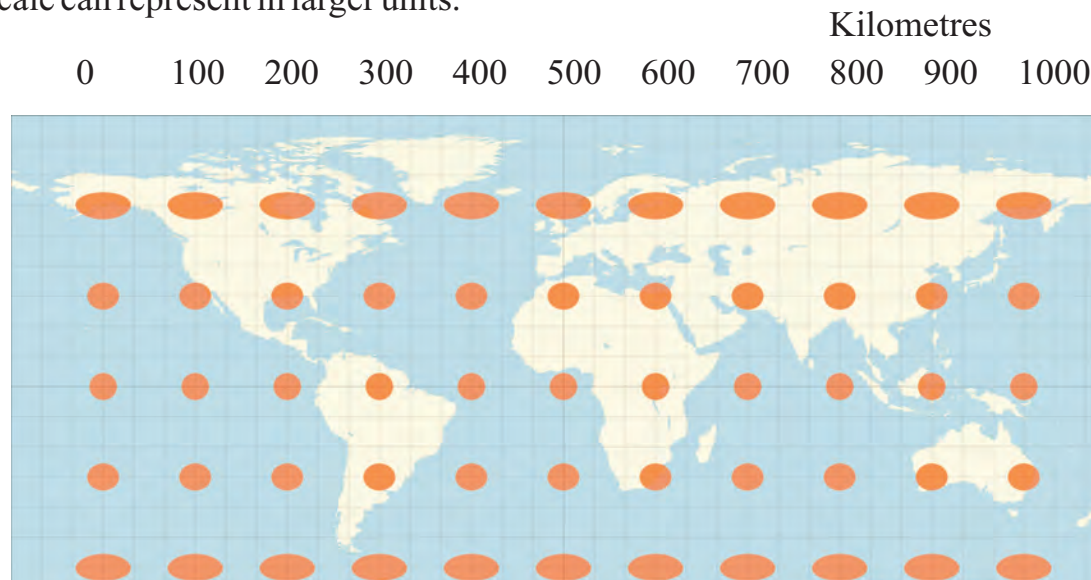


**2. Sub-directions :** Besides these four directions, there are four sub-directions. Between the North and West is North-West, between North and East is North-East, between South and West is South-West and between South and East is South-East.

**3. Distance (Scale) :** Every map is drawn according to a scale. The distance between two places is shown many times smaller than the actual one. The scale helps us to know the actual distance between those places.

For example, if the distance scale represents 1 cm = 1000 km, we can calculate the actual distance between two places by measuring the distance on the map in centimetres.

This scale is provided in a corner of the map. Every map is free to represent distance in its own way. If the area is smaller, the scale can represent in smaller units and if the area is larger, the scale can represent in larger units.



*The Scale of the Map 1 cm = 100 km*

**4. Colour Scheme :** We know that earth's surface is uneven. It has mountains, plains, valleys, plateaus, etc.

When we want to show these physical features on a map, we use different colours. All maps follow common scheme of colours. For example, in a map blue colour is used to show oceans, seas, lakes and rivers. Some maps use light and deep blue colours to show seas and oceans. Light blue colour indicates shallow water while deep blue colour shows deep water. Green colour is used to show plains and low lands. Yellow and brown is used to show lands higher than the low lands or plains. High mountains are shown in deep brown.





**5. Signs or Symbols:** A map has a limited space and we cannot show all the features of the earth in their actual shape on it. Therefore, some certain signs and symbols are used on maps to represent cities, rivers, mountains, lakes, valleys, etc. The use of these symbols makes the map easier to read.

Important Signs and Symbols used in Maps				
<b>Boundaries</b>	Narrow Gauge		District	
International	Railway Station		Village/Town	
State	<b>Water Features</b>		Fort	
District	River		Dam	
Tehsil/Village	Stream		Spring	
<b>Roads</b>	Canal		Temple	
Metalled	Bridge		Mosque	
Unmetalled	Well: lined/unlined		Church	
Cart-road	Tanks: Perennial/Dry		Graves	
Footpath	<b>Others</b>		Lighthouse	
<b>Railways</b>	<b>Capital:</b>		Trees	
Broad Gauge	National:			
Metre Gauge	State			

For example, international boundaries are shown with the help of dotted thick lines. A small circle indicates a city. If the city is a capital, a double or a coloured circle drawn to show it.



## THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. A map is a drawing of the whole or a part of the earth's surface on a flat sheet.
2. A book of maps is called Atlas.
3. The art of making maps is called cartography.
4. Maps are of different types such as political maps, physical maps, climatic maps, etc.
5. A map is drawn with the help of several signs and symbols.
6. These signs and symbols make the map easier to draw and read.



## EXERCISE

### A. Write 'T' for True and 'F' for False :

1. A map is full of geographical data. ( )
2. A book of maps is called Atlas. ( )
3. In a map, blue colour is used to show lands. ( )
4. The art of making maps is called photography. ( )
5. Every map is drawn according to a scale. ( )

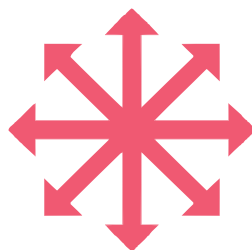
### B. Fill in the blanks :

1. The top of the map shows \_\_\_\_\_ direction.
2. In a map, brown colour indicates \_\_\_\_\_ land.
3. A person who prepares maps is called a \_\_\_\_\_
4. A book of only maps is called an \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ make the map easier to read.

### C. Match the following :

- |  |     |                    |
|--|-----|--------------------|
| 1. Boundaries of continents, countries | ( ) | (a) Climatic map   |
| 2. Mountains, plains, valleys          | ( ) | (b) Vegetation map |
| 3. Temperature and weather conditions  | ( ) | (c) Political map  |
| 4. Sea ports, trade routes             | ( ) | (d) Physical map   |
| 5. Forests and grasslands              | ( ) | (e) Commercial map |

### D. Look at the diagram and write the direction of each arrow shown in it :





**E. Answer the following questions :**

1. What is a map ?
2. How is a map more useful than a globe ?
3. What is an atlas ?
4. How is a scale useful in a map ?
5. What is cartography ?
6. Why are signs and symbols used in maps ?

***Project / Activity***

**F. Prepare a chart of the signs and symbols used in a map.**

**G. Take an outline map of India. Show the mountain ranges of the Himalayas, Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal and Northern Plains using proper colours.**