



photo by Terry Feuerborn

Map It

Will your family travel for the holidays this year? Maybe you're mapping out a trip for 2021, when COVID-19 restrictions might be eased and we can take more vacations.

One of the best parts of planning a journey is looking at maps of places we'd like to go. While most of us use maps on our smartphones or other devices, nothing beats opening up a map or atlas and highlighting the roads we'll take to get where we're going.

This week, The Mini Page learns more about **cartography**, or map-making, and the types of maps we use.

What is a map?

A map, usually made on a flat surface, is a **representation** of our three-dimensional world. It might be a **globe**, which shows us the whole planet, or it might be a flat map that shows us just one state, city or continent. It might even be a sign in a shopping mall that directs you to where different stores are, or a subway map that helps you get from one neighborhood to another.



Reading a map

Most maps use a **scale**. This lets people figure out how far away things are. For example, on a road map, 1 inch might represent 1 mile. So 6 inches between two places on the map would indicate that they are 6 miles apart.

In a map's **legend**, the scale might be shown as 1:1, meaning 1 inch to 1 mile. The

legend also tells us which **symbols** are used to label different types of roads (highways, interstates, scenic routes, etc.) and state capitals and cities.

On a globe, you'll see horizontal and vertical lines. These are called **latitude** and **longitude** lines.

Latitude lines run east and west and are parallel to the **equator**. Longitude lines run north and south from pole to pole. They are not actual lines, but they help people read maps and find the exact location of a place.

Kinds of maps

Maps can show us a huge variety of **characteristics**, or qualities, of a place. Even the maps on our phones can show us just roadways, or can be switched to show what the land actually looks like. For instance, a **topographical** map reveals the shapes of the surface: hills, mountains, valleys, rivers and lakes, and so on.

A **thematic** map might indicate the people or animals who live in the area, or what language is spoken there.

A **political** map will show the countries and their boundaries.



photo courtesy Kentucky Country Day

This student is using Play-Doh to create a topographical map.

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of maps are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

CARTOGRAPHY, GLOBE, GREEKS, GRID, INCH, LATITUDE, LEGEND, LONGITUDE, MAP, MILE, POLES, POLITICAL, REPRESENTATION, SCALE, SENSORS, SMARTPHONE, SYMBOL, THEMATIC, TOPOGRAPHICAL.

L	P	G	R	E	E	K	S	G	D	N	E	G	E	L
O	V	S	M	A	R	T	P	H	O	N	E	W	H	G
N	N	O	I	T	A	T	N	E	S	E	R	P	E	R
G	C	C	I	T	A	M	E	H	T	S	M	I	L	E
I	S	E	L	O	P	H	S	R	O	S	N	E	S	P
T	H	C	N	I	P	O	L	I	T	I	C	A	L	A
U	T	O	P	O	G	R	A	P	H	I	C	A	L	M
D	I	R	G	S	Y	M	B	O	L	G	L	O	B	E
E	Q	C	C	A	R	T	O	G	R	A	P	H	Y	P
E	L	A	C	S	L	A	T	I	T	U	D	E	Q	U



Cook's Corner

Wok-Seared Beef With Orange & Teriyaki

You'll need:

- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 1 pound lean steak, cut into thin strips
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh ginger
- 2 to 3 cloves garlic, minced

- 1 (11-ounce) can mandarin oranges in juice, undrained
- 1/4 cup reduced-sodium teriyaki sauce
- Salt and ground black pepper



What to do:

1. Heat oil in wok or large skillet over medium-high heat.
2. Add steak, ginger and garlic. Cook for 3 minutes or until steak is cooked to medium, stirring constantly.
3. Add oranges with juice and teriyaki sauce and bring to a simmer. Simmer for 2 minutes to heat through.
4. Remove pan from heat and season to taste with salt and pepper. Serves 4.

Adapted from "The Robin Takes 5 Cookbook for Busy Families" with permission from Andrews McMeel Publishing (andrewsmcmeel.com).

* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. little part of something (5) _____
2. underground part of a house (8) _____
3. period of 10 years (6) _____
4. "Single Ladies" singer (7) _____
5. fill with air (7) _____
6. where bats live (4) _____
7. flapjacks (8) _____

LATE	CE	ES	CA
CE	MENT	ADE	ON
CAK	BEY	PIE	PAN
VE	BASE	INF	DEC

Answers: piece, basement, decade, Beyonce, inflate, cave, pancakes.



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History of maps

People have always needed to share with others how to get somewhere. At first they might have scratched crude maps in the dirt.

The ancient Greeks were the first to make cartography into a science. They developed the grid system.

Later, during the Middle Ages, maps were drawn based on religion, myths and legend and were not very accurate. But when explorers started traveling farther away from Europe, they made notes and added detail to their maps as they went.

Modern maps

Today, computers help cartographers create maps that are very accurate. Sensors can be mounted on airplanes or satellites in space. These sensors measure geographic details, which map-makers use to change and improve their maps.

Not only is the Earth changing all the time, but the national boundaries and the movements of people change, too. Up-to-date maps are important to scientists, government officials and businesses.



photo courtesy Ordnance Survey

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPmapping

At the library:

- "Maps" by Aleksandra Mizielinski and Daniel Mizielinski
- "Children's Illustrated Atlas" by DK and Smithsonian Institution

Mini Jokes



Mitch: What do fish and maps have in common?
Micah: They both have scales!

Eco Note



World Wildlife Fund
Australia has come up with a plan to restore large areas of Australian bushland that were blackened by recent firestorms. It suggests that specialized drones could plant up to 40,000 gum trees per day in hard-to-reach areas to create green corridors where wildlife can feed, live and migrate through. The WWF says it is urgent to restore the habitats of koalas and other wildlife lost in the fires. Gum, or eucalyptus, trees are the koalas' main food source.

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For later:

Look in your newspaper for examples of maps.

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