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## Maps : Our Guides

We already know that the globe is a model of the earth. Though it is easy to use, it gives very little information. It is impossible to get information about small things such as a district, a village or a state. Besides, it is also not possible to carry the globe around. For these reasons, maps need to be used.

### Map

A map is made on a flat surface like a paper. It can also be folded and carried around. A part or the whole plain surface of the earth can be shown by a map. It can be pasted in a book also. There are some books which contain only maps. The book of maps is called an **Atlas**.

By a map, we can know the correct position or location of continents, oceans, mountains, rivers, forests, minerals, etc. Knowledge about landforms, climate, etc. can be found quite easily.

### Language of a Map

In a map, a lot of symbols, lines, points, colours, etc are used, which together are known as **language of a map**. To understand a map, we have to master its language.

### Directions

There are four directions in a map – East, West, North and South.

To understand the directions, spread a map on a table. The upper part always depicts the **north** and the lower part always depicts the **south**. **East** lies on the right while the **west** lies on the left.

Besides these four directions, there are some **sub-directions** as well. Between north and east lies the **north-east** and between north and west lies the **north-west**. In the same way, **south-east** lies between south and east while **south-west** lies between south and east.

The directions are depicted in all maps as in the figure given alongside.



Directions in a Map



## Scale

The actual distance between any two places is shown as a reduced distance on a map. Thus, this ratio between the actual distance and the distance shown on the map is called a **scale of the map**.

A cartographer can use any scale, large or small, according to his wish. We can find the distance between any two places with the help of this scale.

Suppose, on a map, the distance between two places is 4 cm and the scale being 1 cm = 100 km, then the actual distance is  $4 \times 100 = 400$  kms.

The scale may be large or small but every map must have a scale. Thus, any distance can be shown correctly.

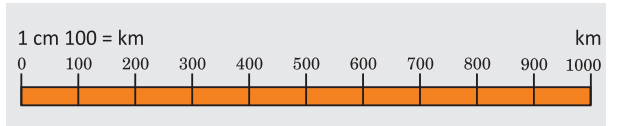
## Colour Scheme

In a map, many different colours are used. Different colours represent different landforms, according to the height. Generally, oceans, seas, rivers, and lakes are represented by **blue** colour. Plains and low lying lands are shown by **green** colour, plateaus by **yellow** colour and mountains are shown by **dark brown** colour.

Sometimes, different colours are used to show vegetation, population density, rainfall distribution etc.

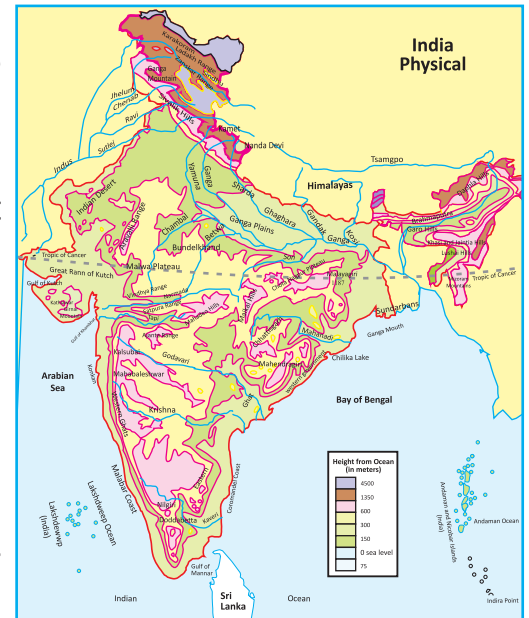
## Symbols

In a map, some special symbols are used to show cities, rivers, roads, railway lines,



## Remember

A map without a scale is useless. It is called a sketch.



|  |                      |  |                        |  |                 |  |             |
|--|----------------------|--|------------------------|--|-----------------|--|-------------|
|  | Metalled Road        |  | Capital of the country |  | Cotton          |  | Temple      |
|  | Non-metalled Road    |  | Dam                    |  | Rubber          |  | Church      |
|  | Railway              |  | River                  |  | Coal            |  | Mosque      |
|  | Air Route            |  | Canal                  |  | Manganese       |  | Post Office |
|  | International Border |  | Handpump               |  | Iron & Steel    |  |             |
|  | Interstate Border    |  | Deciduous Forest       |  | Shipyards       |  |             |
|  | City                 |  | Tea                    |  | Industrial Area |  |             |
|  | State Capital        |  | Tobacco                |  | Bridge          |  |             |
|  |                      |  |                        |  |                 |  |             |

Symbols used on a Map



capitals, air routes, bridges etc. Some symbols are universal in all the maps.

For studying a map, a person has to have knowledge of its language, directions, scale, colour scheme, symbols. Without this knowledge, a map cannot be studied.



In India, different maps are prepared by the Geological Survey of India, Dehradun. The head of the GSI is called the Surveyor General of India.

## Learnt by Now



- A map can be made on a flat surface like paper.
- The book of maps is called an atlas.
- The symbols, scale, lines, dots, colours etc. used in a map are called its language.
- A map has four directions and four sub-directions.
- Without knowing the language of a map, it is not possible to study it.



## Exercise

### A. Tick (✓) the correct answer : (MCQs)

1. What is the book of maps called ?

- (a) Album  (b) Atlas  (c) Book

2. Which direction is at the lower part of a map ?

- (a) East  (b) North  (c) South

3. How much is the actual distance shown in a map ?

- (a) More  (b) Reduced  (c) Same

4. In a map, what colour are the water bodies ?

- (a) Blue  (b) Yellow  (c) Green

### B. Answer the following questions :

1. Why do we need a map ?
2. What is an atlas ?
3. What do you understand by the language of a map ?
4. Which are the main directions and sub-directions in a map ?
5. Why is a scale given in a map ?
6. What is the importance of colour scheme in a map ?

### C. Fill in the blanks :

1. A map can also be pasted in a \_\_\_\_\_.



2. To understand a map, one should also know its \_\_\_\_\_.
3. In a map, the \_\_\_\_\_ distance between two places is shown as a reduced distance.
4. Generally, the plateau in a map is shown by \_\_\_\_\_ colour.
5. The map prepared without a scale is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

**D. Write True or False :**

1. With a globe, it is easy to know about small places. \_\_\_\_\_
2. With a map, we can know about any place on the earth. \_\_\_\_\_
3. It is not necessary to give scale in every map. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The colours in a map depict landforms according to height. \_\_\_\_\_
5. It is not necessary to know the language of a map to understand it. \_\_\_\_\_

**E. Write the following :**

1. The direction to the right in a map : \_\_\_\_\_
2. The direction between north and east : \_\_\_\_\_
3. The direction between south and west : \_\_\_\_\_
4. The direction between north and west : \_\_\_\_\_
5. The direction in the lower part of the map : \_\_\_\_\_

**■ Creative Task**



1. On a map, measure the distances between different cities and write in a table.
2. Take an outline map of India and colour its mountains and water bodies.