



Guide to Mapmaking

Maps help us to learn about where places are, how far they are from each other, and what we can find there. Some maps show us land and water (such as lakes and oceans) while others may show us roads and buildings. Did you know that there are even some maps which show how many people live in a town, or what kinds of plants are found there? People can make maps to explain just about anything about a place.



Map: A drawn picture of a place, usually drawn to *scale* on a flat surface.

Cartographer: A person who makes maps.

Key Elements

DOGSTAILS makes it easy to remember the important parts of a map. Not every map will have all of these parts:

Date	D When the map was made
Orientation	O Directions (north arrow)
Grid	G Locates places on the map
Scale	S What the map distance is
Title	T What, where, and when
Author	A Who made the map
Index	I Map address of places
Legend	L What the symbols mean
Sources	S Basis for map information

Map Elements

Title: This explains what the map shows.



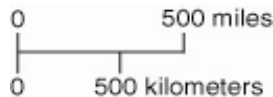
Orientation: In most cases, "north" is at the top of a map. A **north arrow** points to north; a **compass rose** shows all four directions (N, S, E, W).



Date: This shows when the map was made.

Author: The person who made the map.

Legend or Key: This shows what the map's symbols and colors mean.



Scale: This shows distance on the map.

Index: Just like an index in a book, a map index tells you where to find certain places on a map.



Grid: Crossed lines drawn on the map to help you find special places on the map.

Sources: This tells where the information on the map came from.