



GEOGRAPHY

Class: 6th

Chapter 4: Maps



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Maps

Globes and Maps

We widely use maps to study the different places on the Earth. Though, a globe gives us a three dimensional representation of the Earth, it has a few disadvantages.

Following are the differences between a globe and a map:

Map	Globe
It is a two dimensional representation of the Earth.	A globe gives us a three dimensional representation of the Earth.
A map is easy to carry and use.	Often globes are difficult to carry as they are bulky.
In a map, we can study about villages, districts and cities.	A globe is useful only if we have to study continents and oceans.
A map presents a distorted view of the location, shapes and sizes as it is flat.	As a globe is round, it presents a less distorted images of continents, distance between them etc.

A map is a drawing of the Earth's surface or its part on a flat surface according to a scale. The collection of various maps in a book is called an **Atlas**. The maps in an atlas are of different sizes and scales.

Different Types of Maps

There are broadly three different types of maps:

Physical Maps: These maps display the physical features of the Earth like plains, plateaus, mountains, rivers etc. These maps are also called relief maps.

Political Maps: These maps show the villages, towns, cities and countries of the world with their boundaries.

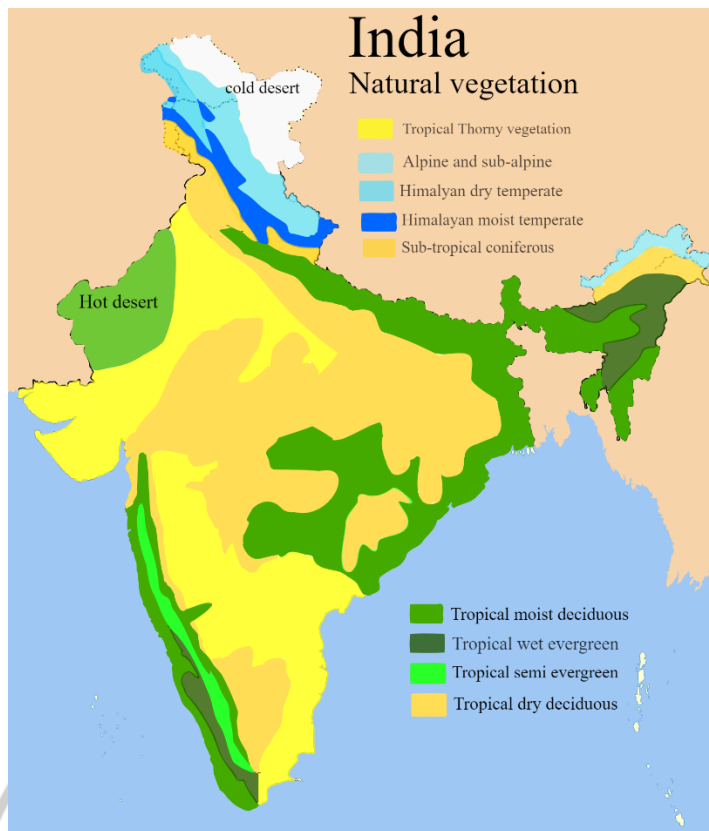
Thematic Maps: These maps only provide us with specific information such as the demographic map of Asia, distribution of minerals in a region, distribution of rainfall etc.



Physical Map of India



A political map showing the boundaries of cities, states, countries and continents



A map showing the natural vegetation of India is an example of a thematic map.

Components of Maps

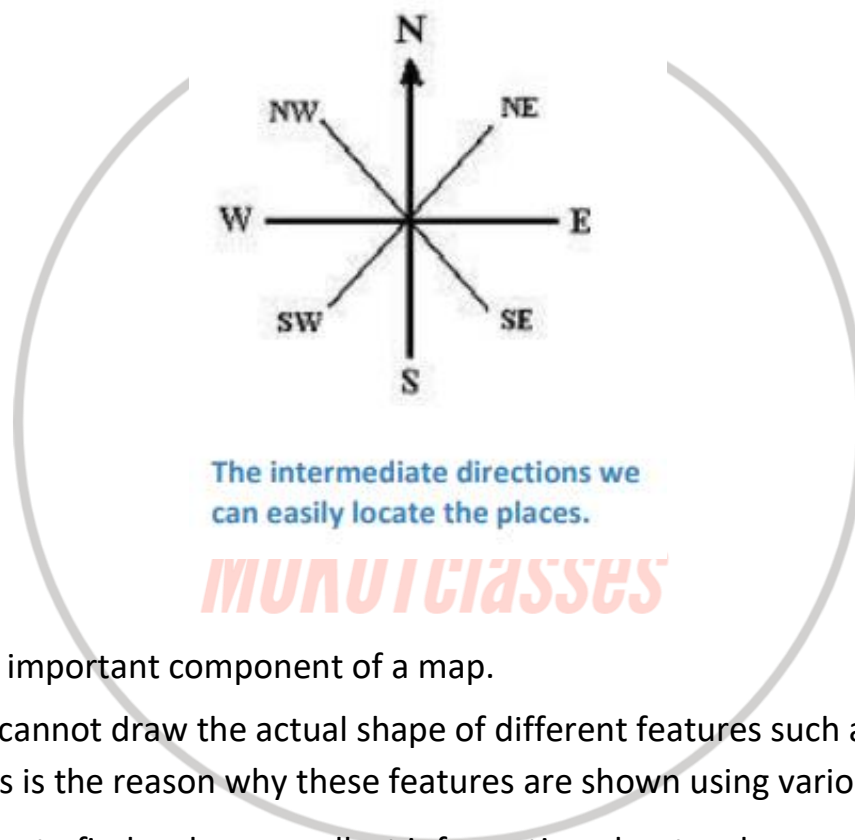
Distance, direction and symbols are the three components of a map.

Distance

- Since the various parts of the Earth are represented on a sheet of paper in a map, we draw these (maps) on a reduced scale.
- The actual large distance is represented by small distance in a map.
- A **scale** is the ratio between the actual distance on the ground and the distance shown on a map. For example, the distance between your home and your friend's home is 20 km. If we have to show this distance on a map, then we will take 1 cm = 10 km. It means that 1 cm on a map will represent a distance of 10 km.
- If you know the scale, you will be able to calculate the distance between any two places on a map.
- A smaller scale is used for displaying larger areas like continents or countries on a map. For example 2 cm may be used to show 200 km of the ground. Such maps are called **small scale maps**.
- When a small area like a village or a district is shown on a map, then a larger scale is used. For example, 2 cm on the map will now show 200 metres only. Such maps are called **large scale maps**. Such maps give us more information than the small scale maps.

Direction

- Maps usually have an arrow marked with the letter 'N' at the upper right hand corner. This arrow depicts the North direction. The other directions which are shown are East, South and West. These four directions are called the cardinal points.
- North-East (NE), South-East (SE), North-West (NW) and South-West (SW) are known as the four intermediate directions.
- With the help of these intermediate directions, we can easily locate places.
- We can also find the direction of a place with the help of a compass. The magnetic needle of a compass always point towards the North-South direction.



Symbols

- Symbols are an important component of a map.
- In any map we cannot draw the actual shape of different features such as roads, railways, bridges etc. This is the reason why these features are shown using various symbols.
- Symbols helps us to find a place or collect information about a place even if do not know the language of a region.
- Symbols are the universal language of a map which can be understood by all.
- There is an international agreement regarding the symbols which are to be used for depicting various features in a map. These are called conventional symbols.
- Certain relief features such as mountains, water bodies, plains and plateaus are represented by brown, blue, green and yellow colours respectively.

Example of symbols

Point features

Tower	
Lighthouse	
Bridge	
Building	
Campsite	
Survey marker	

Linear features

Highway	
Railway	
Powerline	
Trail	
Boundary	
River	

Area features

Moraine	
Coral reef	
Lake	
Swamp	
Tidal flat	
Mangroves	

A Sketch and Plan

A rough drawing, drawn without a scale, is known as a **sketch** map. A sketch is drawn mainly on the basis of observation and memory.

A **plan** is a drawing of a small area on a larger scale. It helps us to find various things like the length and breadth of a room, which is not shown in a map.

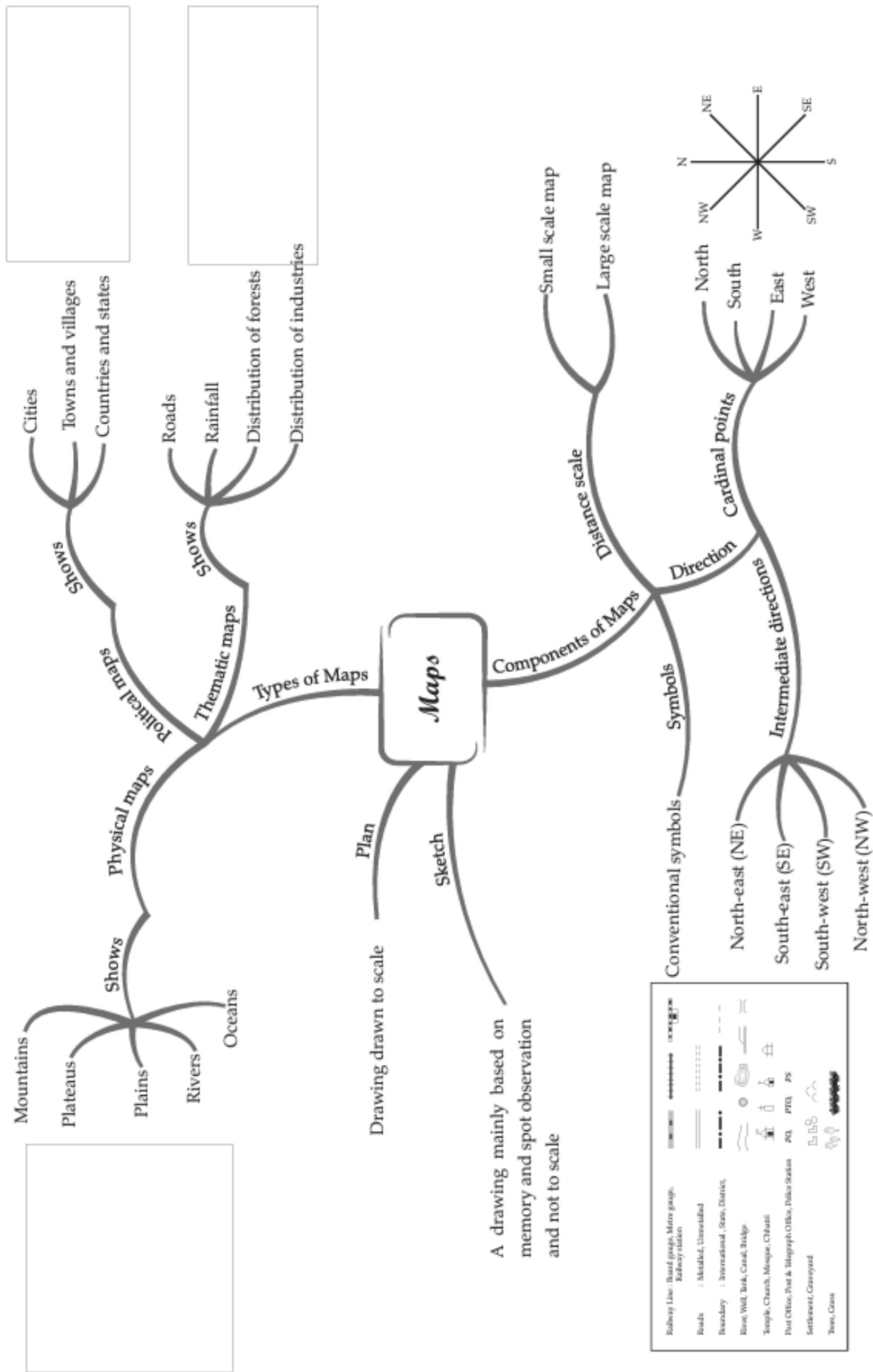


A sketch



A plan

MIND MAP : LEARNING MADE SIMPLE CHAPTER-16



Important Questions

➤ Multiple Choice Questions:

Question 1. Which one is not a component of Map?

- (a) Distance
- (b) Direction
- (c) Scale
- (d) Symbol

Question 2. When drawing a small area on a large scale is called:

- (a) Plan
- (b) Map
- (c) Symbol
- (d) Sketch

Question 3. A large scale map is used to show:

- (a) Small area
- (b) Large area
- (c) (i) & (ii) both
- (d) None

Question 4. A plan is a drawing of a small area on a:

- (a) Small scale
- (b) Large scale
- (c) (i) & (ii) both
- (d) None

Question 5. Green colour is used for showing:

- (a) Mountains
- (b) Plateaus
- (c) Plains
- (d) Waterbodies.

Question 6. Topographical map are those:

- (a) Smaller than the atlas map
- (b) Are used by engineers
- (c) Larger than cadastral map



(d) Are based on actual survey of small area

Question 7. Symbol on map that represent human and physical features on surface of Earth is classified as

- (a) Legend
- (b) Grid
- (c) Key
- (d) Both a and c

Question 8. Which of the following is not the limitation of the globe

- (a) Maximum distortion is seen in the region around the poles
- (b) Represents earth on the flat surface
- (c) Details are not given in the form of symbols
- (d) Can study the detail part of the earth

Question 9. Atlas map are drawn on a _____ scale.

- (a) Infinite
- (b) Small
- (c) Very large
- (d) Large

Question 10. Plan is useful to show

- (a) Details such as length and breadth of a room or place
- (b) To find the location of place of the map
- (c) Details of counties river, ocean
- (d) Can be put together to make an Atlas

Question 11. Which of the following is not among the cardinal direction

- (a) South
- (b) North-east
- (c) East
- (d) West

Question 12. Boundaries between different states are shown in _____ .

- (a) Political Map
- (b) Relief Map
- (c) Vegetation
- (d) Commercial Map

Question 13. Usually top of the map indicates _____ direction.

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

Question 14. Map showing the distribution of important crops, minerals, industries etc are called

- (a) Distribution map
- (b) Political map
- (c) Divided map
- (d) Physical map

Question 15. In map Light brown colour is used to show

- (a) Rainfall
- (b) Mountains
- (c) Rivers
- (d) Forest

➤ **Fill in the blanks:**

1. The blue colour is used for showing _____.
2. A _____ is used to find the main directions.
3. _____ colour is used for showing mountains.
4. A globe can be useful when we want to study the earth as a _____.

➤ **Write true (T) or false (F):**

1. A scale is necessary for a map.
2. Direction is not a component of maps.
3. A physical map shows natural features of the earth.

➤ **Very Short Questions:**

1. Which map provides detailed information?
2. Which map shows distribution of forests?
3. What is an Atlas?
4. What are the three components of a map?
5. When should we use a globe?
6. What are intermediate directions?

7. What are the four cardinal directions?
8. What do you mean by the term 'the scale of the map'?
9. What is Compass?
10. What are physical maps?

➤ Short Questions:

1. Define Political Maps.
2. Write the color used for the following: water bodies, mountain, plateau and for plains.
3. What is called the north line?
4. What do you mean by Thematic Maps?
5. What are called conventional symbols?
6. How are maps more helpful than a globe?

➤ Long Questions:

1. Mention some of the disadvantages of magnetic compass?
2. Mention different types of maps with examples.
3. What are the basic characteristics of a good map?
4. What do the following colours represents on the map?
Blue, Red, Yellow, Green, Brown and Black.
5. Explain the major components of maps.

ANSWER KEY –

➤ Multiple Choice Answer:

1. (d) Symbol
2. (a) Plan
3. (a) Small area
4. (b) Large scale
5. (c) Plains
6. (d) Are based on actual survey of small area
7. (a) Legend
8. (d) Can study the detail part of the earth
9. (b) Small
10. (a) Details such as length and breadth of a room or place
11. (b) North-east

12. (a) Political Map
13. (b) North
14. (a) Distribution map
15. (b) Mountains

➤ **Fill in the blanks:**

1. water bodies
2. compass
3. Brown
4. whole

➤ **Write true (T) or false (F):**

1. True
2. False
3. True

➤ **Very Short Answer:**

1. Thematic maps provide detailed information.
2. Thematic map shows distribution of forests.
3. When many maps are put together we get an Atlas.
4. There are three Components of Maps – distance, direction and symbol.
5. A globe can be useful when we want to study the earth as a whole.
6. The four intermediate directions are north-east (NE), southeast (SE), south-west (SW) and north-west (NW).
7. There are four major directions, North, South, East and West. They are called cardinal points.
8. Scale is the ratio between the actual distance on the ground and the distance shown on the map.
9. It is an instrument used to find out main directions. Its magnetic needle always points towards north-south direction.
10. Maps showing natural features of the earth such as mountains, plateaus, plains, rivers, oceans etc. are called physical or relief maps.

➤ **Short Answer:**

1. Maps showing cities, towns and villages, and different countries and states of the world with their boundaries are called political maps.

2. Blue is used for showing water bodies, brown for mountain, yellow for plateau and green is used for plains.
3. Most maps contain an arrow marked with the letter 'N' at the upper right hand corner. This arrow shows the north direction. It is called the north line.
4. Some maps focus on specific information; such as road maps, rainfall maps, maps showing distribution of forests, industries etc. are known as thematic maps.
5. Symbols give a lot of information in a limited space. There is an international agreement regarding the use of these symbols. These are called conventional symbols.
6. A globe can be useful when we want to study the earth as a whole but when we want to study only a part of the earth, as about our country, states, districts, towns and villages, it is of little help. In such a situation we use maps.

➤ Long Answer:

1. The compass is very stable in areas close to the equator, which is far from "Magnetic North". At some point close to the Magnetic Pole, the compass will not indicate any particular direction but will begin to drift in a non direction indicating manner. Also, the needle starts to point up or down when getting closer to the poles, due to the so-called magnetic inclination. Cheap compasses with bad bearings may get stuck due to this; therefore, indicate a wrong direction.
2. **There are three types of maps. These are:**
 - Physical maps show natural features of the earth such as mountains, plains, plateaus, rivers, etc.
 - Political maps show cities, towns villages, different countries and states of the world with their boundaries.
 - Thematic maps lay emphasis on specific information; such as road maps, rainfall maps, maps showing distribution of forests, population, etc.
3. Maps are the basic tools of geography that enable us to depict spatial phenomenon on paper.

A good map will have:

- **Legend:** A good map will have a legend or key which shows the user what different symbols mean. For instance, a square with a flag on top usually represents a school and roads are represented by a variety of widths and combinations of lines.
 - **Direction:** Without a north arrow, it is difficult to determine the orientation of a map. With a north arrow, a user can determine direction.
 - **Title:** A map's title provides important clues about the cartographer's intentions and goals.
4. **Several of the principle colors include:**

- **Blue:** lakes, rivers, streams, oceans, reservoirs, etc.
- **Red:** major highways, roads, urban areas, airports, special interest sites, military sites, place names, buildings, borders.
- **Yellow:** built-up or urban areas.
- **Green:** parks, golf courses, forest, orchards, highways.
- **Brown:** deserts, historical sites, national parks, military reservations or bases, contour (elevation) lines.
- **Black:** railroads, highways, bridges, place names, buildings, borders.

5. **There are three Components of Maps – distance, direction and symbol:**

- **Distance:** Maps are drawn to reduced scales. But this reduction is done very carefully so that the distance between the places is real. Therefore, a scale is chosen for this purpose. When large areas like continents or countries are to be shown on a paper, then we use a small scale. When a small area like village or town is to be shown on paper, then we use a large scale.
- **Direction:** Most maps contain an arrow marked with the letter 'N' at the upper right hand corner. This arrow shows the north direction. It is called the north line. When we know the north, we can find out other directions, for example east, west and south.
- **Symbols:** It is not possible to draw on a map the actual shape and size of different features such as buildings, roads, bridges, trees, railway lines or a well. So, they are shown by using certain letters, shades, colours, pictures and lines. These symbols give a lot of information in a limited space. With the use of these symbols, maps can be drawn easily and are simple to read.