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GRADE 4

# Why Maps Are Important

Have you ever been in the car for a long drive? Maybe your family drove to another state to visit relatives or go on a vacation. There are millions of miles of roads in the United States. How did you know which roads to take? You probably used a map.

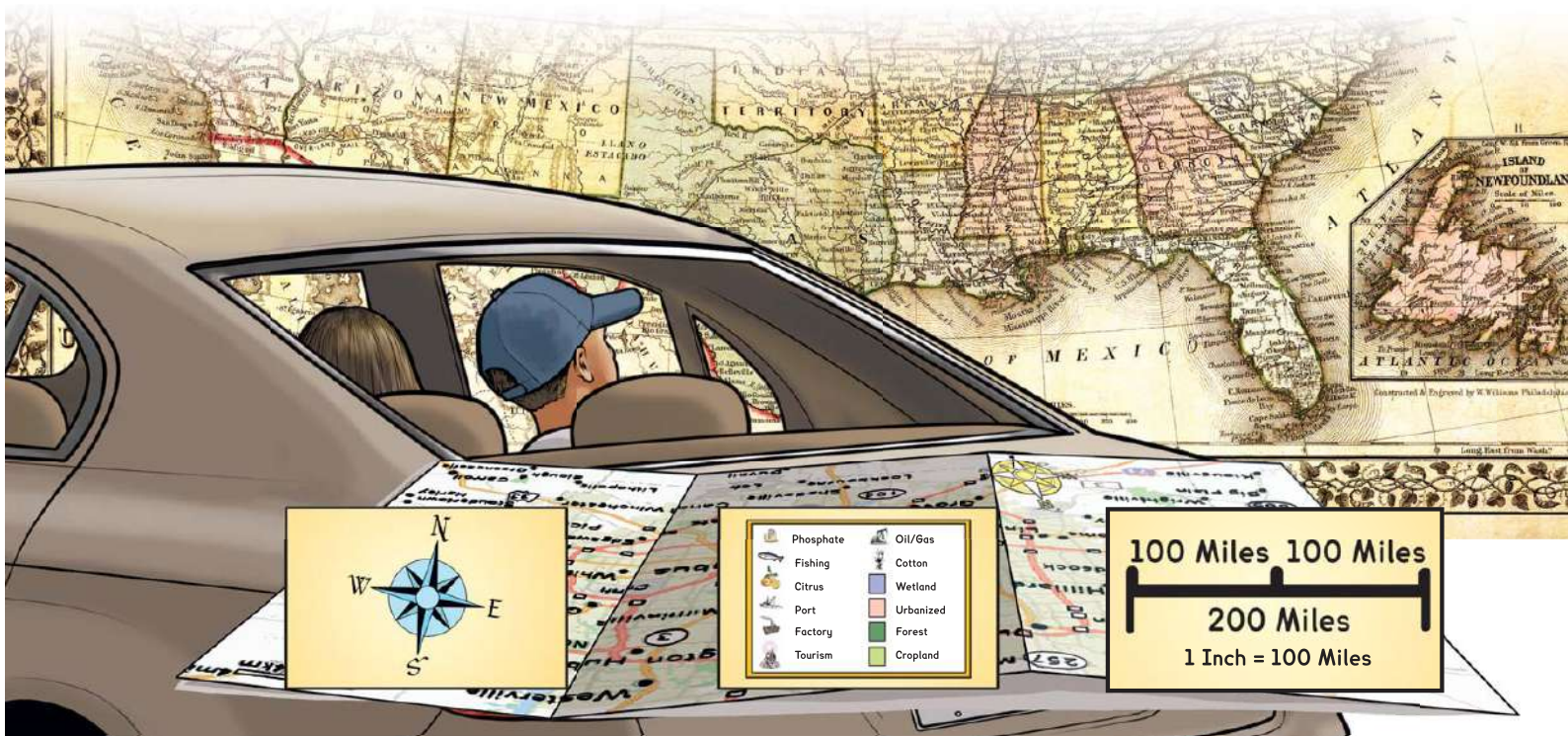
People have been using maps for hundreds of years. At first, maps were very difficult to draw. People had to really know the area in order to draw a picture of it that others could use. Today, we use satellites in space to take pictures of the Earth. Experts then use computers to draw and highlight important places.

Most maps are full of information. That information starts with a title that tells what part of the country the map is showing. Next, you'll find a special symbol called a compass rose. The compass rose shows the different directions. The map

may use other symbols to help you understand what the map is showing. Those extra symbols are explained in a box called the map key or legend. The map key might tell you that capital cities are marked with a star or that hospitals are marked with a large blue H.

Keys can also have a map scale to show distances. This helps people figure out how long it will take to travel from one place to another. If the scale shows that two cities are 60 miles apart, you know how much farther you need to go before you arrive.

Maps can show continents, oceans, mountains, rivers, lakes and other landforms. They help us understand the shape, size and location of important areas in our state. Studying Florida will mean looking at a lot of maps. That's a good thing, because you will be able to tell where everything is!



## Connections

### Cartography

Have you ever looked at a map and wondered how it was made? Cartography is the art and science of mapmaking. People who make maps are called cartographers. Mapmaking has changed a lot since the first maps were made.

In ancient times, people drew

maps on walls. Early mapmakers had few tools to help them. The maps they drew were not always accurate. Today, mapmakers have tools like computers and satellite pictures they can use to make maps that are very accurate. We can even access maps through a computer that shows us what the

land really looks like.

The next time you or your family uses a map while taking a trip, see if you can find the name of the company that made it. Now that you know a little more about cartography, you can thank the people who help you get where you're going!





# Reading Maps

Maps can tell us a lot about the world. They can show you which direction to travel and how to find new places to visit. Maps can tell us how tall the nearest mountain is, where you can find a lake to fish in and take you to the closest train station. The two most common types of maps are physical and political. Let's take a look at how types of maps give us information.

## Map Types and Titles

Physical maps give information about what the land looks like. A physical map shows where people can find forests, mountains, rivers, lakes and other landmarks. These maps use different colors to show different elevations. Elevation is how high an area of land is above sea level. They may also use color to show where the

land changes from beaches to grassy plains to hilly forests. Physical maps usually include information about landforms and national parks. They are helpful for people who want to know where to enjoy nature.

Political maps give information about cities and where people live. These maps have symbols that help people find cities, towns, roads and highways. These maps use solid or dotted lines to show the borders between states and countries. States and countries are also shaded in different colors to stand out from one another. Political maps are helpful for people who want to see where cities, borders and important places are located.

A road map shows all of the roads, bridges and tunnels in an area. They show travelers all

of the possible ways to get from one place on the map to another. Road maps can show cities, roads and highways. They may also include airports, train stations and other ways to travel. Road maps are helpful for people who need to plan a long trip.

Sometimes, we need more than one map. That's when an atlas is useful. An atlas is a group of maps that are combined into a book. An atlas of Florida might have a map for each county or each major city. An atlas of the United States may have 50 maps, one of each state. For a long time, many people kept a road atlas in their cars. Today, people tend to use a GPS tool instead.

## Symbols and Legends

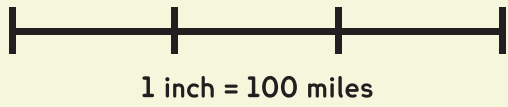
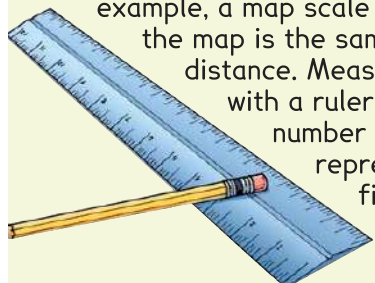
Most maps use symbols to show important



## What is a map scale?



A map scale is often part of the map legend. It helps us figure out distances. A map scale shows the relationship between real-life distances and the distances shown on the map. It makes it easy to figure out how far apart any two places are. For example, a map scale may show that 1 inch on the map is the same as 100 miles in actual distance. Measure the distance on a map with a ruler, and then multiply that number by the number of miles represented by 1 inch. You can find out how far it is to your next destination!



## Highlands and Flagler Counties

### Florida Counties

**Highlands:** You might think Highlands County is full of high lands, but it's mostly coastal plains! There are some nice rolling hills here, though. What a fun place to ride a bike! If you're in the mood for more speed, power on over to the county seat, Sebring, to see the Ferraris and Lotuses at the U.S. Grand Prix auto race. Or check out one of Highlands County's 95 lakes. Yes, you read that right, 95!

**Flagler:** The county seat is Bunnell, but the heart of Flagler is the beach. Walk your dog on the dunes and then hit a funky seafood dive for a fresh fish sandwich or some steamed shrimp. The key word is relax – you can surf, boat or even play a little golf. Flagler is full of farms, but it's still one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. That sounds kind of funny, when you find out that the city of Marineland has a population of 10 – and that's up from six in 2000!



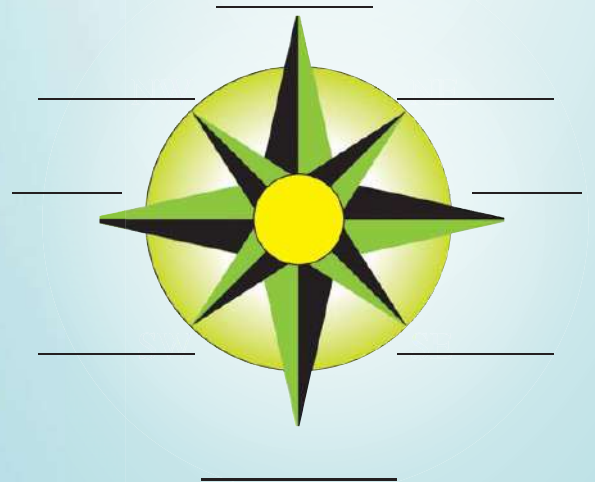
# The Compass Rose

A very important part of every map is the compass rose. A compass rose is a drawing that often resembles a star, and it shows directions on a map. Compass roses are sometimes drawn to resemble a flower, which is where the name comes from. It first appeared on maps during the 14th century.

A compass rose shows the cardinal directions. The cardinal directions are north, south, east and west. Compass roses may also show the intermediate directions. Intermediate directions fall between each cardinal direction, and they are northeast, northwest, southeast and southwest.

Notice that all three maps of Florida found in this week's lesson include a compass rose. Here's your chance to find out how a compass rose can help you answer important questions when using a map. First, label the cardinal and intermediate directions on the compass rose below. Then use the maps and compass rose to help you answer the following questions:

1. Which body of water is located directly west of Florida?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. The two states located to the north of Florida are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. To travel from Jacksonville to Orlando, you would need to travel in which direction?  
\_\_\_\_\_



places or landforms. Cities are usually labeled with a dot. Many maps use larger or smaller dots to show how many people live in a city. The more people who live in a city, the bigger the dot on the map. Capital cities are often marked with a star or in a different color.

Roads are marked using lines that show the road's path. Major highways are usually shown with thicker lines. If a road has a number, that number

is usually written somewhere on the line.

Mapmakers use other symbols to show where different places are. They may use a symbol of a bed to show where hotels are located, silverware for restaurants and dollar signs for banks. Whenever a mapmaker uses a symbol, he or she also adds it to the map legend. A map legend is a list of all the symbols that appear on the map that explains what each represents.



**Road Map of Florida**

## Making a Map Glossary

Maps have a lot of special parts that help make them work. It can be hard to keep track of all the different terms and words.

Some of these special words are listed below. Use the spaces below to write some definitions.

- Compass Rose \_\_\_\_\_
- Latitude \_\_\_\_\_
- Longitude \_\_\_\_\_
- Map Legend \_\_\_\_\_
- Map Scale \_\_\_\_\_
- Physical Map \_\_\_\_\_
- Political Map \_\_\_\_\_
- Road Map \_\_\_\_\_

## *Words to Know*

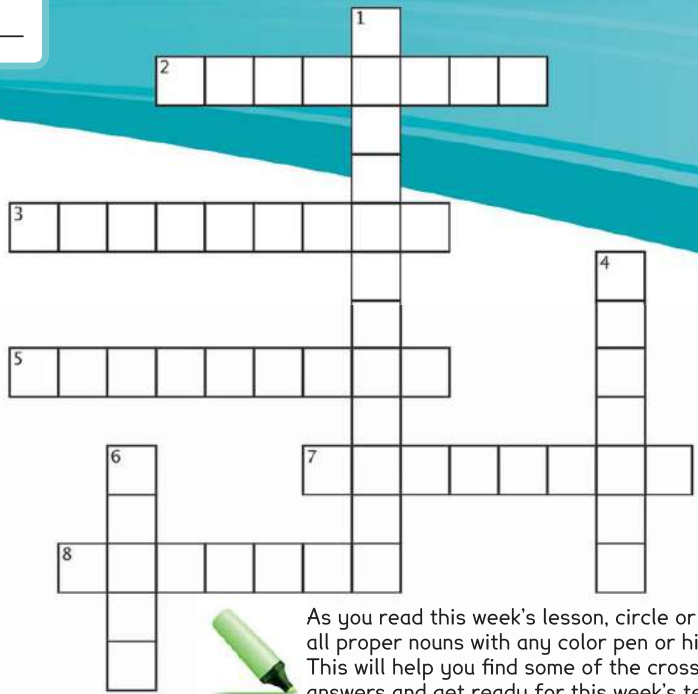
Name \_\_\_\_\_

**ACROSS**

- 2. A map scale helps you figure out the \_\_\_\_\_ between two places.
- 3. how high an area of land is above sea level
- 5. This type of map shows cities, states and countries.
- 7. This type of map shows what the land looks like.
- 8. This Florida county is a great place to relax!

**DOWN**

- 1. person who draws maps for a living
- 4. A \_\_\_\_\_ rose is the part of a map that tells direction.
- 6. a group of maps collected together into one book



As you read this week's lesson, circle or highlight all proper nouns with any color pen or highlighter. This will help you find some of the crossword answers and get ready for this week's test.

# Latitude and Longitude

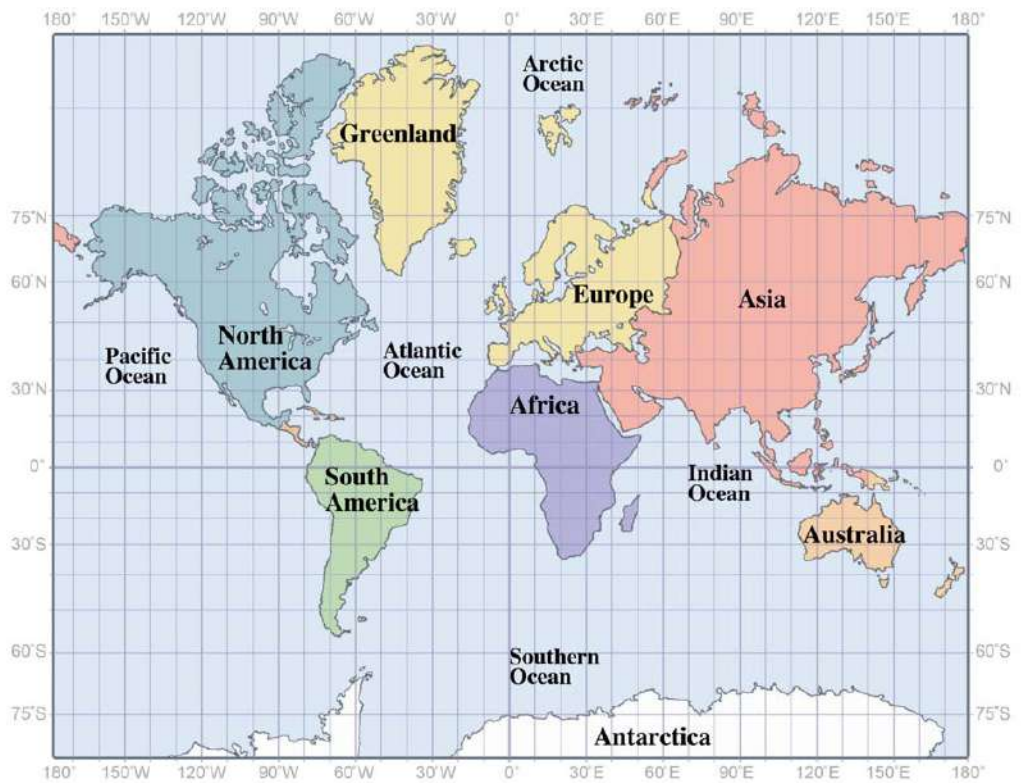
## Mapping & Charting

Have you ever looked at a map that had a lot of lines going up and down and side to side? Those lines show latitude and longitude. Latitude and longitude are used to help people find an exact location on Earth. Latitude lines run east and west. Longitude lines run north and south.

The line at 0° latitude is called the equator. The equator divides the Earth into hemispheres. The Northern Hemisphere includes all of the land and oceans that are north of the equator, and the Southern Hemisphere includes everything to the south. The equator crosses parts of South America, Asia and Africa.

The line at 0° longitude is called the prime meridian. It divides the planet into Eastern and Western hemispheres. The prime meridian crosses through parts of Europe and Africa.

Look at the map on this page. Lines of latitude and longitude have been labeled. Use this information to complete the following tasks:



- 1. Find the equator and the prime meridian. Highlight both lines.
- 2. If you were to travel to the place where the equator and the prime meridian meet, would you be on land or over water?
- 3. Find the line of latitude at 60° north. What three continents does that line cross?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Find where the line for 30° south meets the line for 60° west. On which continent do those lines meet?

5. Find two lines that meet in Australia. Name them.

Imagine that you were only allowed to use one type of map for the rest of your life.

### Let's Write

Which type of map would you choose to use? Why would that map be the best choice? Use details from this week's issue of Studies Weekly to help you write your response. Remember to use proper spelling, grammar and punctuation.

- 1. This week, we read about three types of maps. Name them, and briefly describe what each type of map shows.
- 2. What tools does a cartographer use?
- 3. What information might a map key give you?
- 4. How do most maps show where roads and cities are?

### Think & Review

If you'd like to make any editorial comments about our paper, please write to us at [feedback@studiesweekly.com](mailto:feedback@studiesweekly.com).