

FEATURES OF MAPS

Title

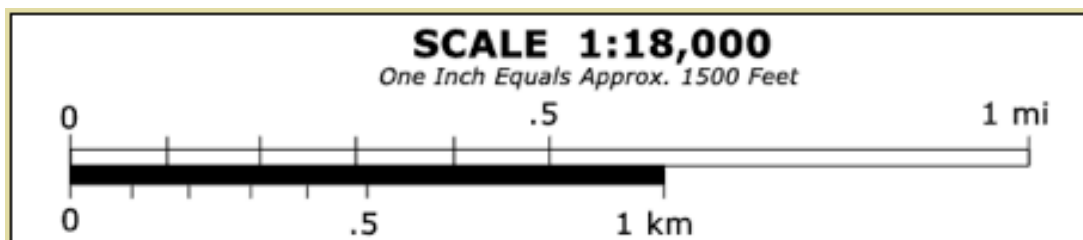
- ◇ Take a quick glance. (Be sure you know what you are looking at.)
- ◇ Usually found in key box or at top of map.
- ◇ Pay particular attention to dates.
- ◇ Read the asterisks! (The little star → *)

Key (Legend)

- ⇒ The way maps show information. Usually in a box.
- ⇒ Guide to colors, patterns, symbols (pictures).
- ⇒ Patterns come in stripes ///, dots :::, crosshatch ##, or shading
- ⇒ For symbols, be sure to notice size and color.
- ⇒ Be sure to notice all the info that is available to you. (Read the fine print!)

Scale

- ◆ Scale indicates distance.
- ◆ Use something you have with you to measure. Don't try to keep your fingers a certain width apart. Very hard to be accurate. Use finger joint length, finger nail width, ID card, even a pencil cap or mark on your pencil. **Don't use pinchy fingers!**
- ◆ Be careful that you are using the required units (miles v. kilometers). If you mix them up, the numbers will be very different!
- ◆ Three types of scale indicators:
 - Representative fraction (1:_____ or 1/_____),
 - verbal scale (1 inch = _____ miles),
 - scale bars/graphic scale (see below).



◆ Large scale v. Small scale:

A map which shows a small territory is called a large scale map. A large scale map shows a small area of land, but it shows it in great detail. A large scale map shows a large amount of detail.

Ex: The representative fraction is 1:4 or 1/4 (large scale, small number in denominator; picture a wedge of pie that has been cut into 4 pieces). Think of that large wedge of pie, which means the denominator is small (4). An object on a large scale map (like a school) would be large.

A map showing a large area, such as an entire country, is considered a small scale map. A small scale map shows more actual territory, but it is less detailed. A small scale map shows a small amount of detail. Ex: 1:100, 1/100 (small scale, large number in denominator; picture a wedge of a pie that has been cut into 100 pieces). Think of that small wedge of pie, which means the denominator is large (1/100). An object on a small scale map (like a school) would be very small.

| Large(r) Scale | Small(er) Scale |
|---|--|
| Large amount of detail | Small amount of detail |
| Items on map will be larger | Items on map will be very small |
| Relatively small area is covered | Relatively large area is covered |
| Smaller number in denominator of representative fraction (1:4 or 1/4) | Larger number in denominator of representative fraction (1:100 or 1/100) |

Compass (Rose)/North Arrow (Direction Indicator)

- Indicates north, south, east, and west—sometimes only **north**.
- Located usually along line of **longitude** in an ocean.
- Follows **longitude**. Points to **north pole**, even if it *looks* slanted.
- (Not often found on thematic maps)