Introduction to the Various Kinds of Maps

As you view the maps in the classroom and listen to a Map in My Lap book, answer these questions.

What do you think this map would be used for?

Why do you think the creator of the map chose these particular colors?

What do you think the different symbols mean on the map?

How many types of these map have you used?

Why do you think there are such a variety of maps?
Name_________________  **Anchor Chart Directions**

**Directions:** Work in your assigned map group. Read the summary about your assigned map type. Highlight the characteristics of this type of map as you read. Discuss your findings with your group. Find an appropriate example of your assigned map type on the Internet. Create a rough draft of your anchor chart on notebook paper or in your social studies notebook. Your rough draft should include: 1) an actual example of this kind of map, 2) at least 5 characteristics from the summary written on the page and arrows pointing to the map showing where these characteristics can be found on an actual map and 3) the legend to the actual map. Be sure to show your teacher the draft and get approval to move on.

**Group Challenge:**
1. Work with your team to create an anchor chart for your assigned type of map.
2. Your poster must include:
   - At least five characteristics of this type of map that your group has identified and applies specifically to your type of map.
   - A well constructed and appropriate legend for your type of map.
   - A well-labeled and titled map.
   - A neat and colorful map.

Possible Group Roles (Roles can be combined if there are only a few people in your group.)

1) Summary Reader (reads the summary)
2) Map Maker(s) (draw(s) a good example of the kind of map assigned and its legend)
3) Grammarian (makes sure spelling and grammar are perfect)
4) Scribe (highlights the characteristics of this kind of map on the summary sheet and make sure there are at least 5 characteristics pointed out on the anchor chart)
5) Rubric Checker (makes sure all of the requirements are met)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>Your Score</th>
<th>Score Earned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title and Labels</strong></td>
<td>Title is large, printed clearly, and describes content well. Map is well labeled. No spelling errors.</td>
<td>Title and labels are large, printed clearly and describes content. Few spelling errors.</td>
<td>Title and labels are difficult to read or very small. 5 or more spelling errors.</td>
<td>Title and/or labels are missing. Lots of spelling errors.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Written Content and Accuracy</strong></td>
<td>At least 5 characteristics of this type of map identified on the poster</td>
<td>4 characteristics of this type of map identified on the poster</td>
<td>3 characteristics of this type of map identified on the poster</td>
<td>3 or less characteristics of this type of map identified on the poster</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legend</strong></td>
<td>Legend is well-constructed and very appropriate for this kind of map.</td>
<td>Legend is well-constructed and mostly appropriate for this kind of map.</td>
<td>Legend is present and somewhat appropriate for this kind of map.</td>
<td>Legend is not well-constructed and not appropriate for this kind of map.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Colorfulness</strong></td>
<td>Map is accurately colored and appropriate for this type of map.</td>
<td>Map is mostly accurately colored for this type of map.</td>
<td>Map is somewhat accurately colored for this type of map.</td>
<td>Map is not accurately colored for this type of map.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Neatness</strong></td>
<td>The anchor chart is exceptionally attractive in terms of design, layout, and neatness.</td>
<td>The anchor chart is attractive in terms of design, layout, and neatness.</td>
<td>The anchor chart is acceptably attractive though it may be a bit messy.</td>
<td>The poster is distractingly messy or very poorly designed. Not attractive.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**
A Political Map Summary

Have you ever looked in a social studies text book and see a map of the United States of America? Was this map divided up into the 50 states and was it very colorful? If so, you were probably looking at a political map of the United States of America. What is a political map?

A political map is a map that shows the territorial or governmental boundaries of cities, counties, states, or countries. Often this type of map is very colorful in colors not found in nature. A political map might include colors like blue, purple, pink, red, green, yellow, orange and any other color the cartographer decides to use.

A political map does not show topographic features like mountains. It focuses solely on the state and national boundaries of a place. A political map also include the locations of cities--large and small, depending on the detail of the map. Cities are usually identified with a dot. The dot is often drawn to show the the size of the city. A small dot is a small city. A large dot is a bigger city. A state capital is usually identified with a star. A nation’s capital is usually shown with a star and a circle around it.

Political maps have scale—showing a small area in great detail or a large area in less detail. Political maps can cover an entire continent, an entire region, a state, or a country. A political map can show just one city or even a part of a city like a neighborhood.

One of the main purposes of a political map is to show geographical boundaries. The boundaries between countries, cities, or states are indicated by lines. Political maps are typically the first maps that students are introduced to either at home or at school. This type of map is also known as “reference map”.

A political map may still include the water features like rivers and lakes which will be drawn in blue. They may also include some physical features like oceans and mountains; however, their main purpose is to show boundaries between locations.
A Physical Map Summary

Have you ever looked at a map of the continent of Africa and noticed that the northern part of it is colored in yellowish-brown? Did you notice all the green on the western coast of the map? Did you see the big lake in blue in the middle of the continent? If you said yes, then the map you were probably looking at a physical map of Africa.

A physical map shows things like mountains, rivers, and lakes of a city, state, country, continent or even the world. Near-sea level elevations are often colored in dark green and for higher elevations a brown is used. Bodies of water are always shown in shades of blue (light blue for shallow areas and dark blue for deeper waters). To show elevation most maps use a green to brown to gray color scheme to show elevation, the varying shades show relief (height).

In the legend of a physical map is very important. It is here that the colors are explained that are used on the map. The cartographer may use a shape ^^^ to indicate mountains (in brown) and a brown triangle to identify a mountain peak. If the area has a volcano, the cartographer might show this with a by a red triangle. If the map shows a boundary between two countries, an international boundary may be drawn with alternating small rectangles of white and black.
A Topographical Map Summary

There are maps that are not as bright and colorful as physical and political maps. Have you ever seen a map that has oddly shaped circles on it? Did you ever wonder what this map was trying to represent? If you did see a map like this, you were probably looking at a topographic map. Topographic maps are used by hikers and the military when they need to know the elevation of an area.

A topographic map is similar to a physical map in that it shows different physical landscape features. Unlike physical maps, this type of map uses contour lines instead of colors to show changes in the landscape. Contour lines on topographic maps are normally spaced at regular intervals to show elevation changes. The intervals can be 10 feet, 20 feet or even 100 feet changes in elevation. When lines are close together the terrain is steep. When the lines are far apart, the terrain is fairly flat. A mountain may have many close contour lines to show steepness and a high elevation, whereas, flatlands may have spread apart contour lines to show flatness and very little change in elevation.

A legend on a topographic map can have many different symbols. A house may be shown with a black rectangle and bigger buildings may be shown in their shape. Vegetation is indicated in green, bodies of water in blue, and densely built up areas are often colored in gray or red. Boundaries are shown with dashed lines and depending on what kind of boundary (city, state, country) the dashes will be thicker or thinner and of very lengths.
A Resource Map Summary

Have you ever looked at a map of Colonial New England that was covered in symbols like drawings of a fish, timber, ships or other random drawings? If so you may have been looking at a resource map on the major exports of the New England Colonies of the 1700’s. Resource maps are sometimes referred to as an economic map.

An economic or resource map shows the specific type of economic activity or natural resources present in an area through the use of different symbols or colors depending on what is being shown on the map. These maps are very helpful in finding out where companies should look to find a particular resource.

A legend on a resource map will vary greatly depending on which type of resource that is being shown on the map. For example, if the map was showing different types of mines in an area, the legend may contain symbols like a diamond, a gold nugget, or other precious metals. If the map is showing forests in an area, the legend may contain symbols for different kinds of trees (aspen, fir, pine, etc.). A resource map like this is important for communicating what resources can be found in an area.

Another type of resource map may show the economic activity of a place. In this type of resource map, you may see symbols for meat processing (steak) or dairy farm (bottle of milk). They may even use colors to show where a crop is grown like yellow (bananas) and brown (coffee).
A Road Map Summary

Have you ever taken a road trip with your family in the car? Did your parents or the driver get out a map before starting out on the journey and map out where you were going to be driving? If so then you were looking at a road map; however, nowadays you are more likely to use the GPS on your phone to know how to get to your destination. But GPS or paper map, they are both road maps.

Road maps are used to show highways and roads with varying levels of detail, as well as, important natural and manmade locations such as connecting cities or national parks. Road maps differentiate between the sizes of roads. For example, a national highway might be shown as wide line and red, whereas, a smaller road might be narrow and gray.

Road maps, also known as route maps, indicate roads and other transport links. They are navigational maps that include political boundaries. Road maps also may show points of interests such as tourism sites, prominent buildings, recreational facilities like parks, restaurants, train stations, and airports. The maps can be of different sizes, shapes, and scales.

Legends on road maps vary but most often interstate highways are drawn with a thick red line. A U.S. highway will be drawn in red, but the line is not as thick. For areas with tolls (where you have to pay to drive on the road) they will be drawn in with a green line.

![Legend]

Legend

- Interstate highway
- Highway
- Toll road
- Mileage marker
- Mileage marker and city at same point
- Point of Interest
- Elevation high point
- Body of Water

For example, there are 25 miles between the city of Ardmore and the mileage marker.
A Population Map Summary

Have you ever wondered how you could figure out how many people live in a metropolitan area and the suburbs surrounding it? Have you ever looked at a map to figure out the population of a city? If you were trying to compare populations of cities, then the best way to do this is to use a population map.

A map that shows information about the number of people living in a certain area is known as a population map. They may also be called a population distribution map. These maps shows how the population is spread across a given area. A population density map shows the number of people per square mile.

A legend for a population map typically uses varying colors to show the population of an area. For example a population of less than 10 people per square mile may be shown in tan. Then population from 10 to 49 per square mile may be colored in yellow followed by 50 to 250 people per square mile may be shown by orange and more than 250 people per square mile may be shown by red. This may be indicated in squares. Some population maps use a black dot that gets bigger depending on the size of the areas population.
Name___________________________ Gallery Walk Recording Sheet

1. Type of map: ___________________________________________________________

   Three characteristics of this type of map:
   1) _______________________________________________________________________
   2) _______________________________________________________________________
   3) _______________________________________________________________________

   Two symbols in the legend and what they mean:
   1) _______________________________________________________________________
   2) _______________________________________________________________________ 

2. Type of Map:____________________________________________________________

   Three characteristics of this type of map:
   1) _______________________________________________________________________
   2) _______________________________________________________________________
   3) _______________________________________________________________________

   Two symbols in the legend and what they mean:
   1) _______________________________________________________________________
   2) _______________________________________________________________________

3. Type of Map:______________________________

   Three characteristics of this type of map:
   1) _______________________________________________________________________
   2) _______________________________________________________________________
   3) _______________________________________________________________________

   Two symbols in the legend and what they mean:
   1) _______________________________________________________________________
   2) _______________________________________________________________________
4. Type of Map: ____________________________

   Three characteristics of this type of map:
   1) ________________________________________
   2) ________________________________________
   3) ________________________________________

   Two symbols in the legend and what they mean:
   1) ________________________________________
   2) ________________________________________

5. Type of Map: ______________________________________________

   Three characteristics of this type of map:
   1) ________________________________________
   2) ________________________________________
   3) ________________________________________

   Two symbols in the legend and what they mean:
   1) ________________________________________
   2) ________________________________________

6. Type of Map: ____________________________

   Three characteristics of this type of map:
   1) ________________________________________
   2) ________________________________________
   3) ________________________________________

   Two symbols in the legend and what they mean:
   1) ________________________________________
   2) ________________________________________