

Map Skills



What is a map?

A map is a representation, usually on a flat surface, of the features of an area of the earth or a portion of the heavens, showing them in their respective forms, sizes, and relationships according to some convention of representation.

Now what does that mean?



A map is a representation,
A map is a drawing or model
usually on a flat surface,
of a round Earth on a flat surface,
of the features of an area of the earth
that shows the landforms (mountains, rivers, etc.)
or a portion of the heavens,
or part of the sky in a particular region,
showing them in their respective forms, sizes, and relationships
drawn to scale
according to some convention of representation.
using a well-known form of drawing or model.



Types of Maps

There are three basic types of maps:

PHYSICAL

POLITICAL

and

THEMATIC.



Physical Maps

Physical maps show the natural features of the Earth.

Physical maps do not contain man made features.

For example, a physical map would be a map of what you would see if you were looking down on Earth from space.



When you look at this map, what do you see?

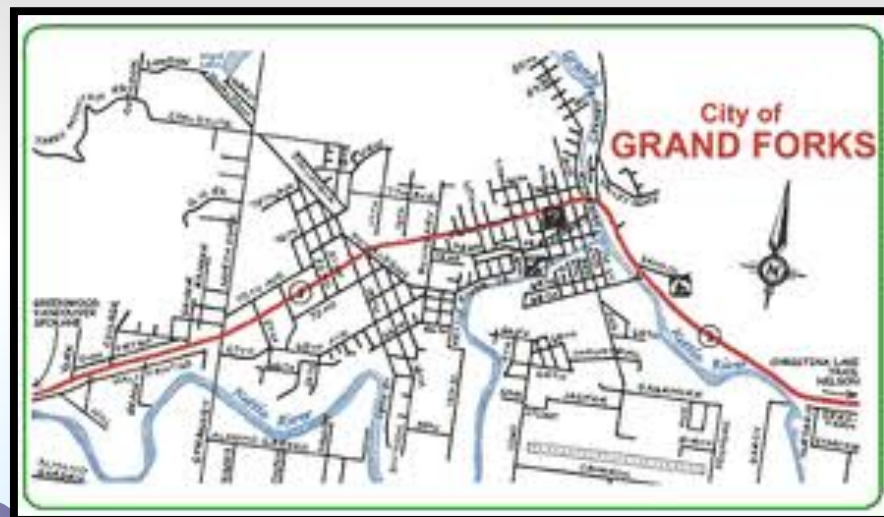


Notice you do not see country borders or city markings. These divisions are created by people. For example, there is no actual line dividing Canada from the U.S.

Political Maps

Unlike physical maps, political maps show how humans have impacted the landscape.

For example: city names, roads, country borders, etc. are all part of political maps.



Political Maps

Political maps change frequently (physical maps change very, very slowly through geologic processes) and must be redrawn often. A political map of the world that is 50 years old is no longer accurate.



Political Maps

Wars and ethnic conflict are two major causes political maps change.



World Political Map 2012



World Political Map 1989



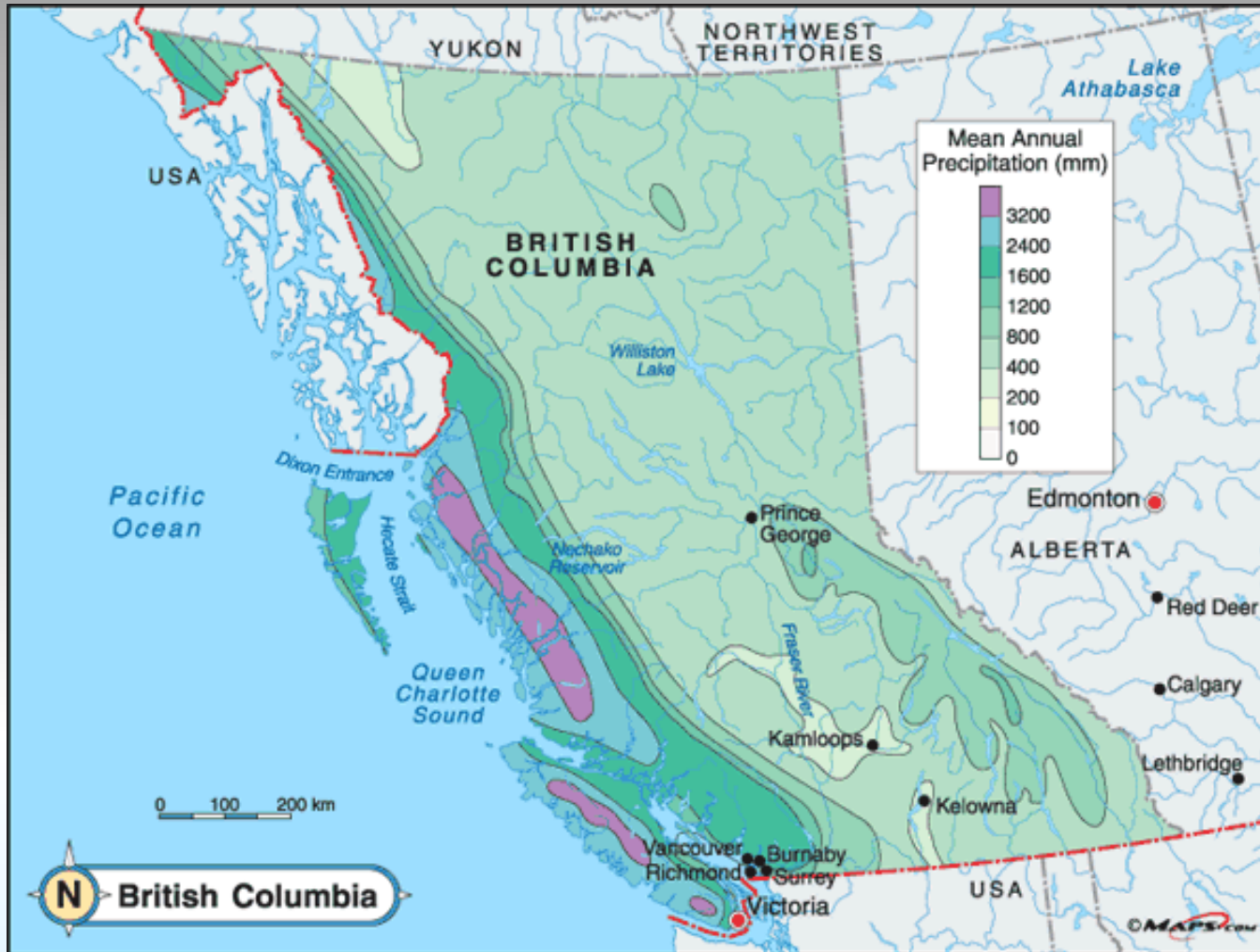
Thematic Maps

Thematic maps can represent a variety of information including things like climate, precipitation, vegetation, elevation, population, life expectancy, etc.

Thematic maps are generally used when you are looking at a single piece of information.



Thematic Map: BC Precipitation



Map Components

Title

Grid

Compass

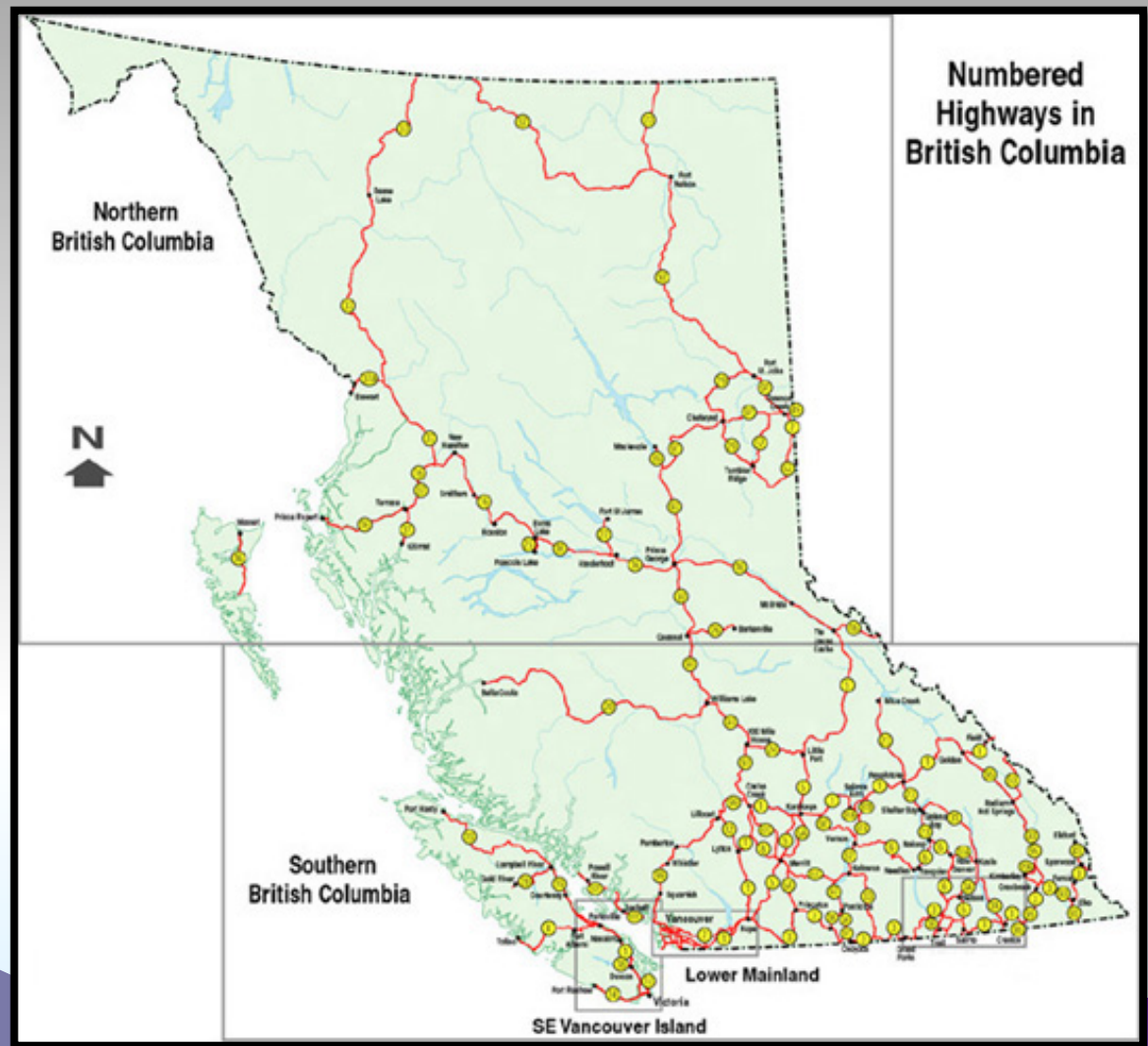
Key or Legend

Scale

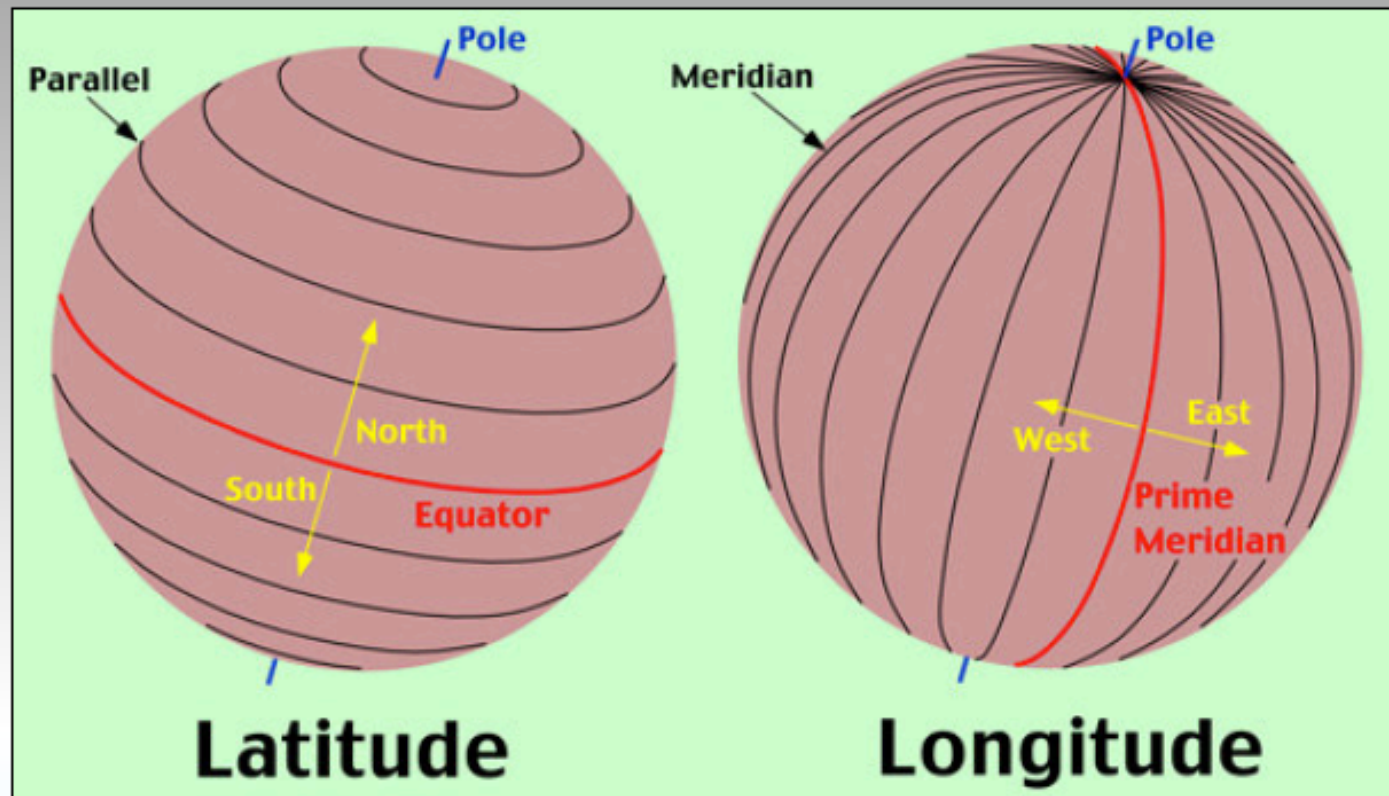


Title

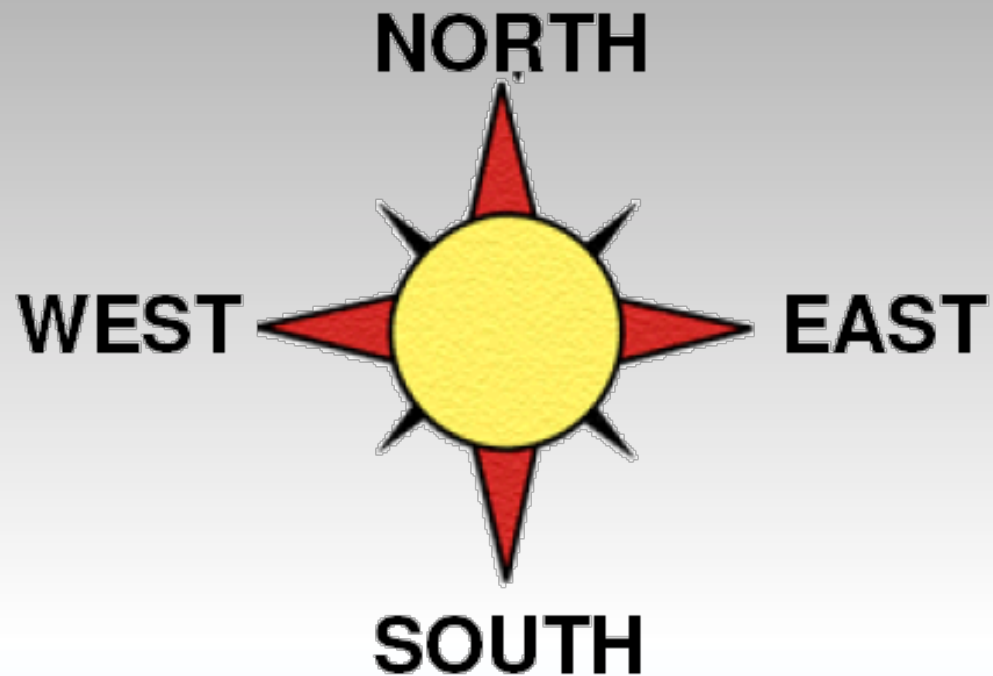
- The Title of a map indicates what the map is about.
- This is the first place you should look when reading a map.
- What does this map show?



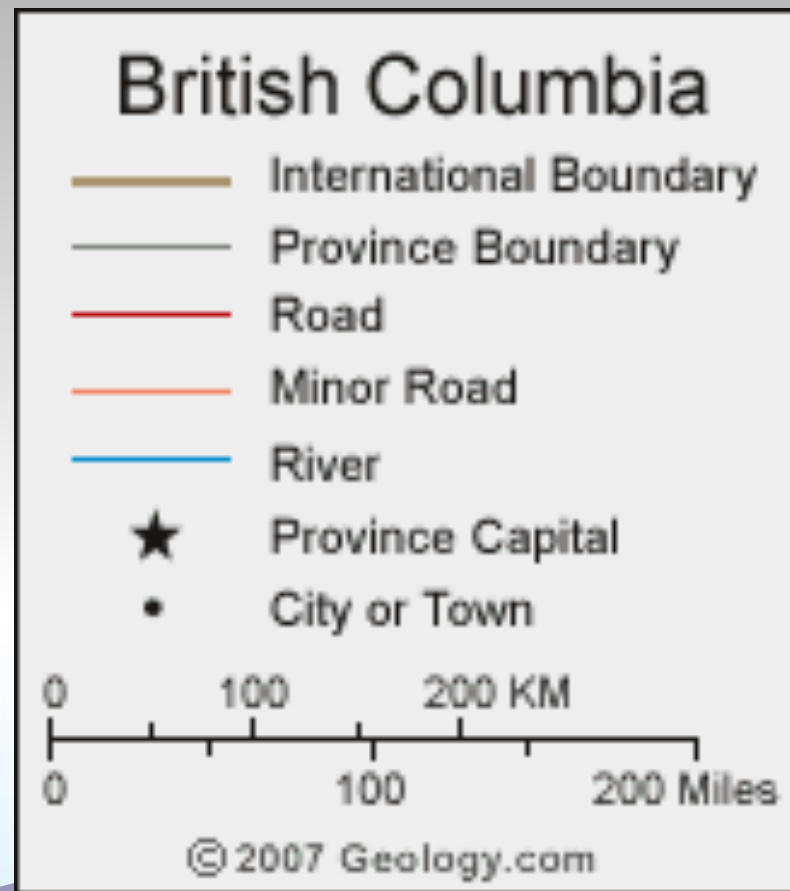
Grid



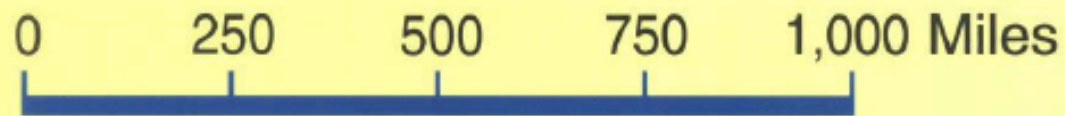
Compass Rose (Cardinal Directions)



Map Legend



SCALE



A map's scale shows the relationship between distance on a map and distance on the earth's surface. The map scale above shows miles and kilometers.



Apply it 😊

To the best of your ability, draw a political map of Grand Forks (or another area).

Include roads, buildings and major landscape features like mountains and rivers.

Remember title, legend, scale and compass



For Next Class:

Please read pages 16-23 and complete the graphic organizer provided in preparation for Monday's lesson.

(I am saying please, because I'm nice 😊 I expect you to do this!)

