

Map - A map is a representation or a drawing of the earth's surface or a part of it drawn on a flat surface according to a scale.

Atlas - When many maps are put together we get an Atlas. Atlases are of various sizes ~~measurements~~ measurements drawn on different scales.

They are of different types of maps. Some of them are

described below.

## Physical Maps

Maps showing natural features of the earth such as mountains, plateaus, plains, rivers, oceans etc., are called physical or ~~or~~ relief maps.

## Political Maps

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

## Thematic maps

Some maps that focus on ~~the~~ specific information, such as road maps, rainfall maps, maps showing distributions of forests, industries etc, are known as thematic maps.

These are three components of Maps - distance, direction and symbol.

### Distance

Scale is the ratio between the actual distance on the ground and the distance

shown on the map. Scale is very

important on any map. If you know the scale, you will be able to calculate the distance between any two places on a map. When large areas like continents or countries are to be shown on paper, then we use a small scale. It is called

the small scale map. When a small area like a village or town is to be shown on paper, then we use a large

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scale that is 5cm. It is called large scale map.

### Direction

There are four major directions North, South, East and West.

They are called cardinal points.

Other four intermediate directions are north-east (NE),

south-east (SE), south-west and north-west (NW). We can find out

the directions. Its magnetic needle always points towards

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north-south direction.

### Symbols

It is the third important component of a map. It is not possible to draw on a map

the actual shape and size of different features such as building, roads, etc. So, they

are shown by using certain letters, shades, colours, pictures

and lines. These symbols give

a lot of information that can be understood by all.

There is an international agreement regarding the use of the symbols. These are called conventional symbols.

Various colours are used for the same purpose - For example, generally blue is used for showing water bodies, brown for mountains, yellow for plateaus and green is used for plains.