



Key Vocabulary

sketch map	A simple map with only basic details.
key	Helps us understand map symbols. Also known as a legend.
compass rose	This is printed on a map to show different directions.
map symbol	A picture or a sign on a map that represents something else.
Ordnance Survey	A survey organisation in the UK which prepares very detailed maps of the country.
route	A way of getting from a start point to a finish point.
compass	A tool which shows people which direction they are travelling in and helps them find their way.
climate	The usual weather conditions of an area.

What Is a Map?

A map is a drawing of an actual place that uses lines and **symbols** to represent real-life objects. People have used maps for hundreds of years to help them travel from place to place.

Types of Maps

There are many different types of maps, such as:

Sketch maps

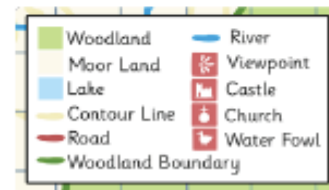
Road maps

Ordnance Survey maps

Climate maps

Key Features

Key features of maps include: a title, a **compass rose**, **symbols**, a **key** and different colours for important things, such as green for forests and blue for rivers.



Compass Directions

People use a **compass** to help them position and use a map accurately. The main points of a **compass** are north, south, east and west.



Planning a Route

When planning a journey using a map, people think about the quickest or safest **route**.



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Using an Atlas

An **atlas** shows maps of **continents**, countries, **oceans** and the **physical features** of a place. Its contents page shows a list of all the maps and the page that they can be found on. The index page lists, in alphabetical order, all of the countries, cities and towns that can be found in the **atlas** and shows which page number to look on.

Did you know?

A map maker is called a cartographer.

The oldest maps were made on clay tablets.



Physical Features

Atlases show us the **physical features** of a place. These can include forests, lakes and rivers. On the index page beside the page number, there is sometimes a letter that tells you the kind of feature it is, e.g. m = mountain and r = river.



An Aerial View

Maps are usually drawn from an **aerial view**. We can look at **aerial** photographs to see the main **physical** and **human** features of places. **Aerial** photos are photos taken by aircraft or other flying objects, e.g. drones. A satellite photo is taken from a satellite in space.

More About Maps

Did You Know...?

Maps cannot possibly show everything. They are drawn to scale.

Seas are smaller areas of water than **oceans**. They are found where the land and water meet.

