

# **Map**

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## **Q1. What is the globe?**

A globe is the spherical model of the whole earth reduced to a scale. In other words, the globe is the replica of earth in reduced form.

As our earth is spherical and the globe is also spherical, Globe is the true representation of the earth. Globe represents all aspects of the earth such as, shape, area of the continents and oceans, direction, distance etc. truly on scale. Globe is essentially a 3-Dimensional figure. A globe is not a map.

## **Q2. What is a map?**

A map is the graphical representation of the whole earth's surface or part of it onto a plane surface. Maps are drawn to scale and projection. Projections are used to maintain certain properties of the 3-Dimensional spherical earth onto the 2-Dimensional map. Another feature of maps is the use of cartographic symbols. Earth's surface features are not truly represented on map, rather different conventional cartographic symbols are used to represent the features on map.

## **Q3. Characteristics of map:**

- i. Maps are 2-Dimensional.
- ii. Maps are drawn to a predetermined scale.
- iii. Maps are drawn on specific projections.
- iv. Features shown on map are selective *i.e.*, only relevant features which are important for the purpose of map making are shown, not all.
- v. Features are symbolised *i.e.* standardised symbols (points, lines, area) and colours are used to represent.
- vi. Features are generalised *i.e.* intricate detail is simplified.
- vii. Details of features depend on scale.
- viii. All maps concerned with two elements- *location* and *attributes i.e.* characteristics of features.

## **Q4. Classification of maps**

Maps are classified based on many criteria. Both physical and man-made features are shown on map. Besides, maps are drawn to varying scales also. Maps bear a variety of contents too.

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**a. Based on nature of features:**

- i. Physical maps.
- ii. Political maps
- iii. Economic maps
- iv. Cultural maps.

**b. Based on scale:**

- i. **Small scale maps-** when a large area is represented on a map, it is called a small scale map. There is no specific scale boundary to determine a map whether it is small scale or large scale. But generally a map with scale 1:1000000 or more is called a small scale map.

**Example:** wall map, a-Atlas maps etc.

- ii. **Large scale maps-** when a small area is represented on a map, it is called a large scale map. Map with scale 1:50000 or less is called a large scale map.

**Example:** Cadastral map, City map etc.

- iii. **Medium scale maps-** a map with scale in between 1:1000,000 and 1:50,000 is called medium scale map.

**c. Based on purpose:**

- i. **General reference maps-** when the objective of map making is to show the locations of a variety of different features, such as political boundary, coast line, water bodies, physical features, cultural features etc. it is called general reference map.

**Example:** small scale general reference maps are wall maps and atlas maps. Large scale general reference map is a topographical map.

- ii. **Special purpose or Thematic maps-** these are maps concentrating on the structure of distribution of a single attribute at a time or the relationship among several. Generally cartographic symbols are used to prepare such maps.

**Example:** dots and sphere map, maps of election results, cloud cover map, maps of precipitation, temperature, atmospheric pressure etc.

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iii. **Charts-** maps specially designed to serve the needs of navigators, nautical and aeronautical, are called charts. Major difference between charts from maps is, maps are *looked at*, while charts are *worked on*.

**d. Based on content:**

- i. Relief map
- ii. Vegetation map
- iii. Geologic map
- iv. Weather map
- v. Soil map
- vi. Climatic map
- vii. Population map
- viii. Transportation map
- ix. Economic map
- x. Cadastral map
- xi. Statistical amp
- xii. Ecological map and so on.

**Q5. Definition of some important maps:**

1. **Cadastral map-** the term cadastral is derived from the term 'cadastre' meaning 'register of territorial property'. The cadastral maps are drawn to register the ownership of land property by demarcating the boundaries of fields and buildings.
2. **Wall map-** wall maps are generally drawn broadly in order to use in the classroom and these are general purpose maps. Generally the whole world, a continent or large countries are represented and more generalised features are shown.
3. **Atlas map-** these maps are drawn on a very small scale representing the world, continents or countries and give a more or less highly generalised picture of physical and cultural features.
4. **Topographical map-** topographical maps are official maps prepared on a fairly large scale by government officials based on precise surveys. These maps show general surface features in detail comprising both natural landscape and cultural landscape by conventional symbols and colours.