



What Is a Map?

A map is a flat drawing of a part or all of Earth. A map shows a place from above much as a picture taken high in the sky or from space does. In fact, mapmakers study aerial photographs to help them make more accurate maps.

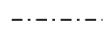


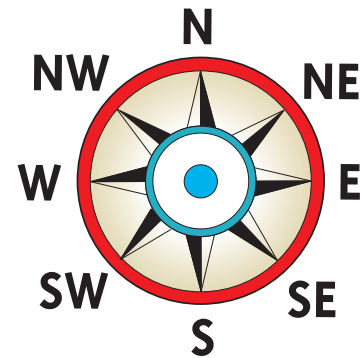
map reader's **Tip**

Another word for mapmaker is cartographer. This word comes from the Latin word *carta*, which means "paper" and the Greek word *graphia*, which means "to write."

Since a map shows a large area in a small space, mapmakers use **symbols** to stand for buildings, roads, cities, and other things. A symbol is a drawing or colour that represents something else. You can find out what each symbol means by checking the map key or legend.

Study the map key for the map on page 353. Then answer the questions.

1. This symbol  stands for _____.
2. The capital of Wyoming is _____.
3. Las Vegas is a city in _____.
4. Two states that share a border with Canada are _____ and _____.
5. Boise is the capital of _____.



Compass Rose

A map also has a symbol called a **compass rose** that shows directions. The four main directions are north, south, east, and west. These are called the **cardinal directions**. A compass rose might show **intermediate directions** too. They are northeast, southeast, southwest, and northwest. Often, abbreviations are used to show the directions on a compass rose.

Use the compass rose to answer these questions.

- The direction between east and south is _____.
- The letters NW stand for _____.
- Colorado is _____ of Idaho.
- Montana is _____ of Wyoming.
- A plane travelling from the capital of Idaho to the capital of Nevada would go in a _____ direction. Draw its route on the map.