

Lesson 2: Types of Maps

Getting Started

✿ Questions to Explore

- How do we use maps to help us understand our environment?



Facts and Definitions

- A **political map** shows boundaries between regions and cities in an area.
- A **resource map** shows the natural resources found in a region.
- A **physical map** shows landforms and bodies of water in a region.
- A **road map** shows highways and roads found in an area.
- Some maps may represent more than one type of map.

⦿ Skills

- Define geography and use geographic terms to describe landforms, bodies of water, weather, and climate. (SS)
- Describe the role of a geographer and apply geographic tools such as maps, globes, compasses, and photographs in the understanding of locations and characteristics of places and regions. (SS)
- Identify the absolute and relative location of communities. (SS)

✂ Materials

- *All Kinds of Maps* by Susan Ahmadi Hansen
- scissors
- glue

Introduction

Explain to your child that there are different types of maps. Each type of map provides the reader with specific information about a region. Many maps show us details about the environment of the land, such as landforms, bodies of water, and natural resources.

Read the book *All Kinds of Maps* with your child. Tell her that in this lesson she will learn about four different types of maps.

Activities

Activity 1: Types of Maps

Introduce your child to the following types of maps. You can view samples of the first three types in *All Kinds of Maps*:

- **Political map:** Shows countries and their boundaries, as well as main cities and towns (pp. 11 and 21)
- **Physical map:** Shows the physical features of an area such as mountains, rivers, and other types of landforms (p. 9)
- **Road map:** Shows roads, railroad tracks, airports, and other points of interest (p. 12)
- **Resource map:** Shows the natural resources or primary economic activity produced or available in an area (refer to the following web link for an example)



Resource Map Example

www.beyondthepage.com/link/11564/

Explain that some maps represent two different types of maps. For example, a single map might show boundaries and cities along with landforms and bodies of water.

Give your child the "Types of Maps" page. Look at the descriptions of maps on the top half of the page. Discuss the information provided by each type of map.

Give your child examples of times when you might need a specific type of map, for instance:

- I would want a political map to look at where my state is located in relation to other states.
- I would look at a physical map to locate the mountain ranges in my region.
- I would look at a resource map to get an idea of what type of farming can be found in a certain state.
- I would use a road map to find my way from my hotel to the mall.

On the bottom of the page your child will find six different maps. She will label each as either a political, physical, road, or resource map.

Answer Key:

- road, resource, political
- political, physical, resource

Activity 2: Reading a Political Map and a Physical Map

Cover up the title of the "Reading a Political and Physical Map" page, and ask your child to identify the types of maps found on the page. (The top map is political and the bottom map is physical.) Review each state in the top map to make sure your child can identify the states based on their abbreviations (AR = Arkansas, LA = Louisiana, MS= Mississippi, KY = Kentucky, TN = Tennessee, AL= Alabama, VA = Virginia, NC = North Carolina, SC = South Carolina, GA = Georgia, FL= Florida).

Then let her answer the questions about each map.

Answer Key:

1. What type of map is this? (political)
2. Which states border South Carolina? (North Carolina [NC] and Georgia [GA])
3. What do the stars on the map represent? (state capitals)
4. What is the capital of Mississippi? (Jackson)
5. Which states border Florida? (Georgia and Alabama)

1. What type of map is this? (physical)
2. What river is closest to the Sierra Nevada Mountains? (Colorado River)
3. What is the longest mountain range on this map? (Appalachian Mountain—Let her know that the Rocky Mountain Range is actually the longest in North America because it extends into Canada, not on this map)
4. What is the longest river on the map? (Mississippi River)
5. Which river or mountain range is closest to you? (answers will vary)

Activity 3: Resource Map

The "Resource Map" sheet has a map of the U.S. and natural resources pictured at the bottom. Your child will cut out the natural resources and glue them where they belong based on the clues on the "Resource Map Clues" page.

Answer Key:

- I am above the Gulf of America.
I am between Mississippi and Georgia.
I am sometimes called the "Cotton State." (Alabama)
- I am by the Pacific Ocean.
I am located below Oregon.
You can call me "The Grape State." (California)
- I am by the Atlantic Ocean.
Florida is below me, and Alabama is beside me.
Some people call me "The Peach State." (Georgia)
- Minnesota is above me and Missouri is below me.
I am between Nebraska and Illinois.
One of my names is "The Corn State." (Iowa)
- Iowa is above me, and Arkansas is below me.
I am between Kansas and Illinois.
I am also known as "The Lead State." (Missouri)
- I am the largest state on this map.
I am above the Gulf of America.
People here call me "The Beef State." (Texas)
- I am by the Atlantic Ocean.
There is a state north of me with a similar name.
You can call me "The Rice State." (South Carolina)

Wrapping Up

Ask your child what kind of information can be found on a political map, physical map, road map, and resource map.

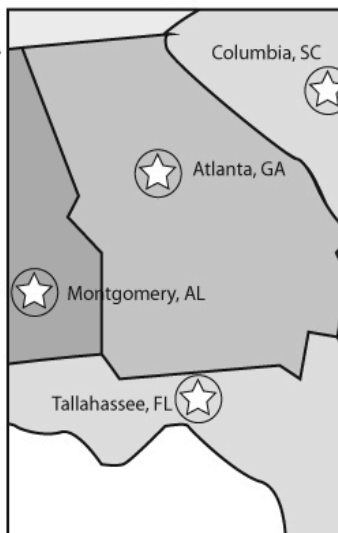
Life Application

Look through a variety of maps in books or online. Discuss the different types of maps you found. Encourage your child to practice reading each map.

Types of Maps

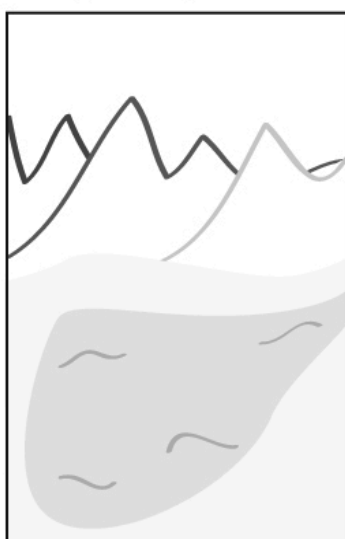


Economic or **resource maps** feature the type of natural resources or economic activities that dominate an area. Cartographers use symbols to show the locations of natural resources or economic activities. For example, oranges on a map of Florida tell you that oranges are grown there.



Political maps do not show physical features. Instead, they indicate state and national boundaries and capital and major cities. A capital city is usually marked with a star within a circle.

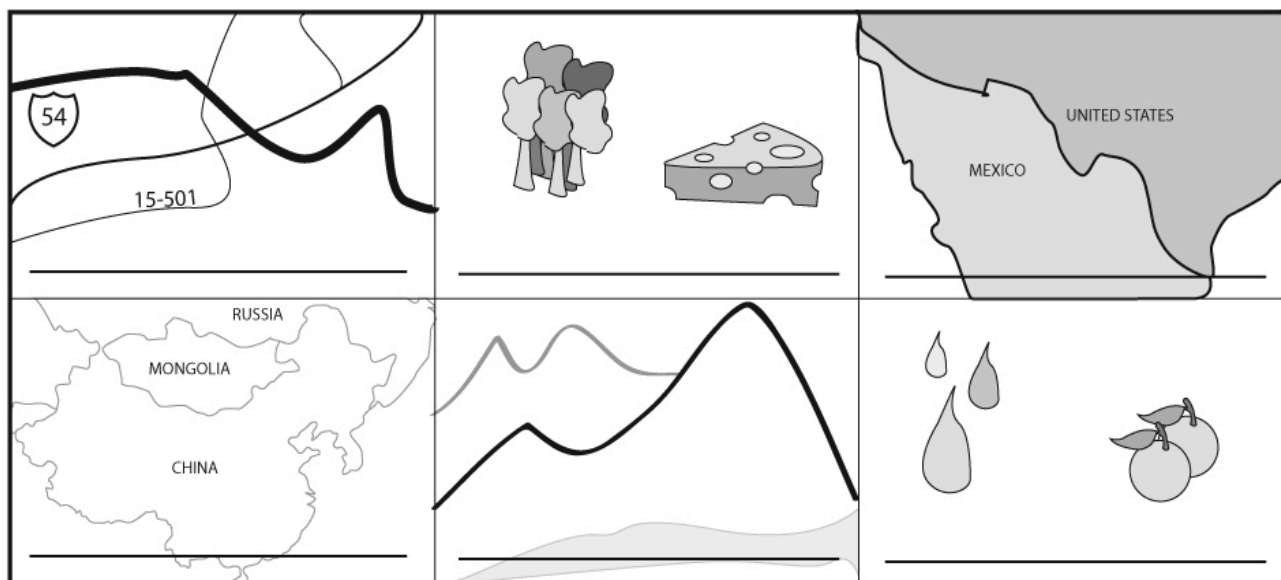
Physical maps illustrate the physical features of an area, such as the mountains, rivers and lakes. The water is usually shown in blue. Colors are used to show relief—differences in land elevations. Green is typically used at lower elevations, and orange or brown indicate higher elevations.



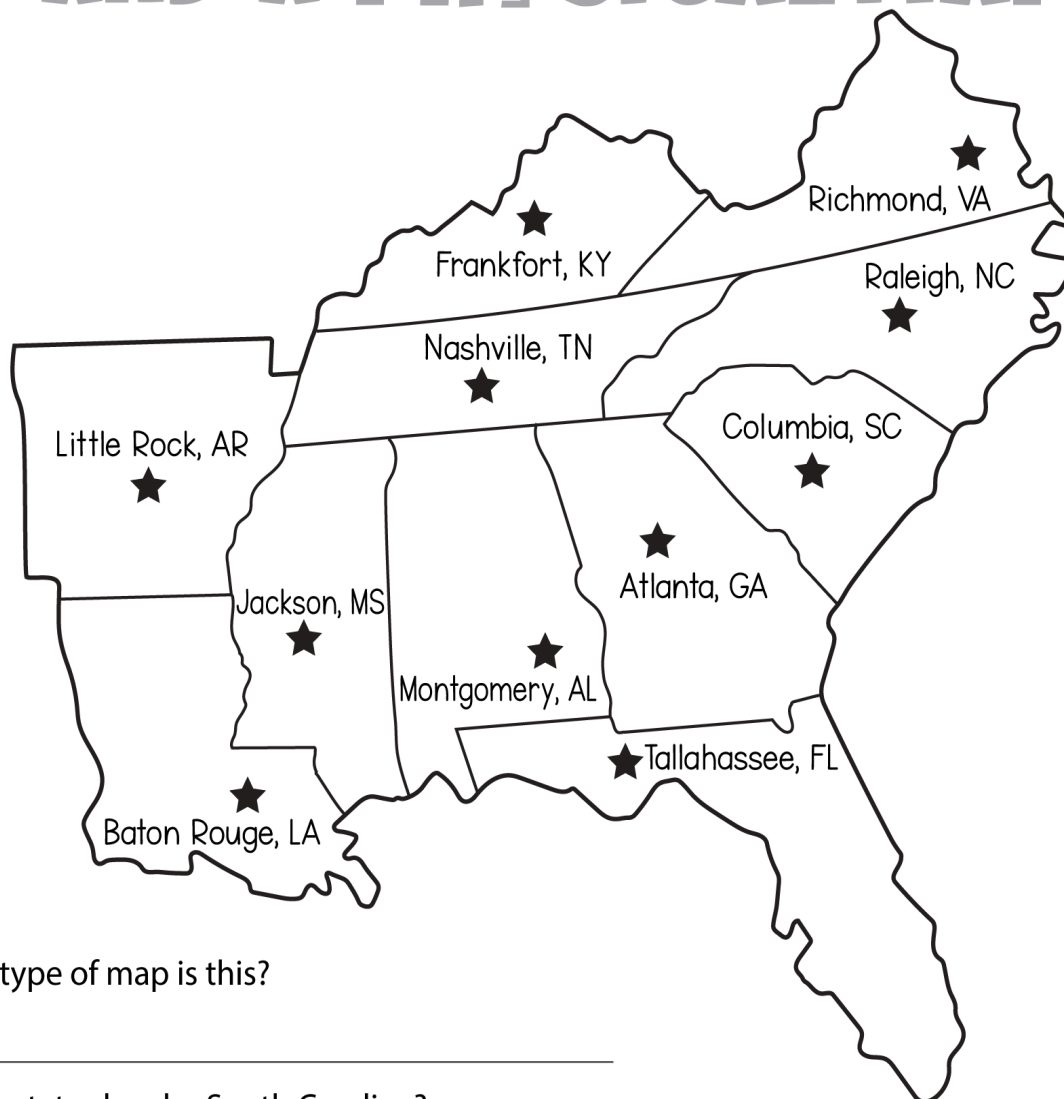
Road maps show highways, major roads, airports, railroad tracks, cities and other points of interest in an area. People use road maps to plan trips and to get driving directions.



Directions: Label each map as either a political, physical, road, or resource map.



READING A POLITICAL MAP AND A PHYSICAL MAP



1. What type of map is this?

2. Which states border South Carolina?

3. What do the stars on the map represent?

4. What is the capital of Mississippi?

5. Which states border Florida?



1. What type of map is this?

2. What river is closest to the Sierra Nevada Mountains?

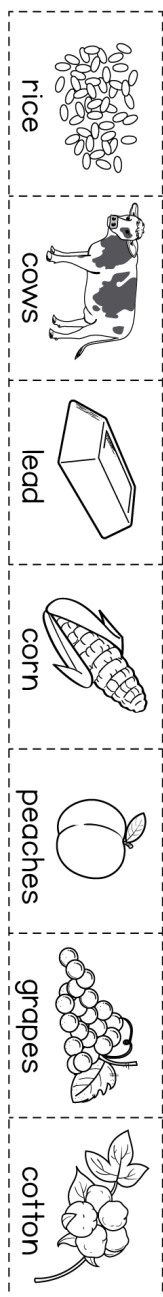
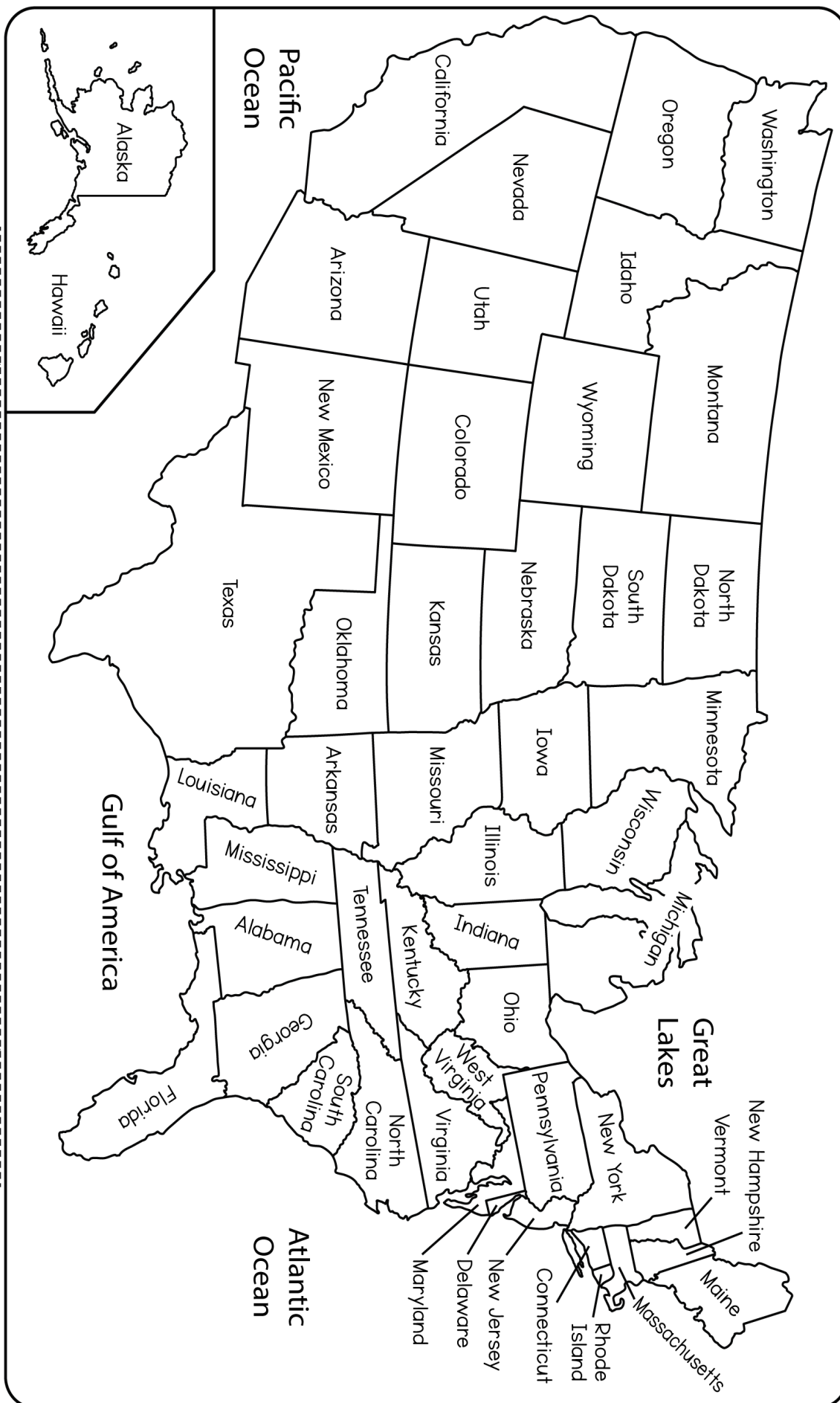
3. What is the longest mountain range?

4. What is the longest river on the map?

5. Which river or mountain range is closest to you?

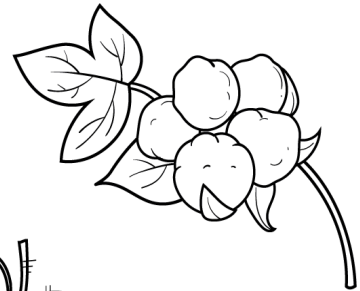
Resource Map

Directions: Cut out the natural resources and glue them where they belong based on the clues.

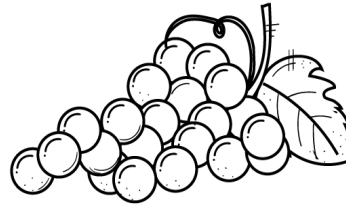


Resource Map Clues

I am above the Gulf of America.
I am between Mississippi and Georgia.
I am sometimes called the "Cotton State."



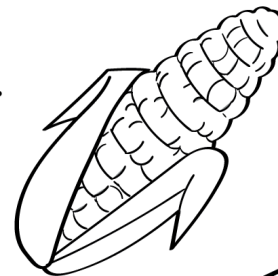
I am by the Pacific Ocean.
I am located below Oregon.
You can call me "The Grape State."



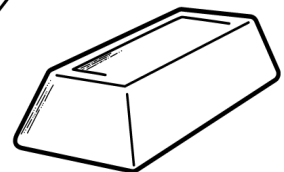
I am by the Atlantic Ocean.
Florida is below me, and Alabama is beside me.
Some people call me "The Peach State."



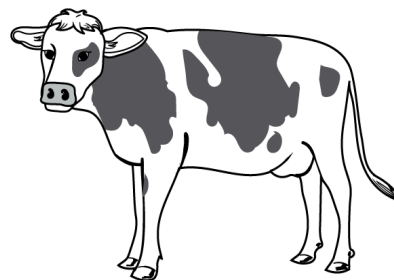
Minnesota is above me and Missouri is below me.
I am between Nebraska and Illinois.
One of my names is "The Corn State."



Iowa is above me, and Arkansas is below me.
I am between Kansas and Illinois.
I am also known as "The Lead State."



I am the largest state on this map.
I am above the Gulf of America.
People here call me "The Beef State."



I am by the Atlantic Ocean.
There is a state right above me with a similar name.
You can call me "The Rice State."

