

What are maps? & How do you treat them?

What is a Map?

A Map is virtually a bird's eye view of the land drawn on paper. The higher the eye the more ground, but less detail you see, as you can see by the different scale maps. The map is absolutely accurate only when the map is drawn.

Care of Maps

A map should be treated carefully or it will quickly become torn, dirty, creased and ultimately unusable.

Do not write directly on your map with pen, use pencil and press lightly. A light circle over the area is all you need. You never mark the route you are following with a line on the map. Remember to rub all marks off at the end of the lesson.

Protect your map by covering it with a transparent sheet or placing it in a plastic bag. Constant folding/unfolding of maps is the surest way of wearing them out. Maps should be folded lengthwise and folded again like a concertina.

Look after your map and you will prolong its life!

Reliability of Maps

THINGS ON A MAP MAY CHANGE!

- A forest or part of can get cut down
- New houses are built
- Villages and Towns get better
- Buildings get knocked down
- New roads constructed

Maps can be useful for:

- Locating places or features
- Drawing location or base maps
- Understanding the physical and human characteristics of an area
- Appreciating the relationship between places and features on the ground

What is on a map?

Marginal information - This is useful info to help you understand your map/the symbols/conventional signs. It tells you:

- What Sheet Number the map is
- Which area the map describes
- When the map was made
- All information described on the map
- Magnetic Annual Change

Scale - This is to be found at the bottom of the map in Kilometres, Miles and Nautical Miles.

Grid lines - These run up and down the map North and South (northings) and across the map East and West (eastings).