

Reviewing Basic Map Skills

🗺️ Map Legend

1. A map *legend*, or *key*, tells you what the colors, lines, and other symbols on the map mean. Turn to page 23 of the Atlas. Look at map C, “Other European Settlements.” Use your finger to outline the legend.

This map uses colors to show European settlement areas. The map legend tells you what each color represents. Write the group represented by each color.

- a. purple _____
- b. pink _____
- c. green _____
- d. blue _____

🗺️ Map Symbols

2. Turn to page 13. Look at map C, “Treasures of the Indies.” This map uses symbols to show trade goods. Draw a line to match each trade good with its symbol.

Trade Good	Symbol
a. cotton •	• 
b. ivory •	• 
c. silk •	• 
d. spice •	• 

🗺️ More Map Symbols

3. On maps, lines and words can also have meaning. Turn to pages 112–113. Use the map legend and the map to answer the following questions.

- a. How are the state boundaries shown? _____
- b. What color are the names of oceans? _____
- c. What names are shown in black capital letters? _____

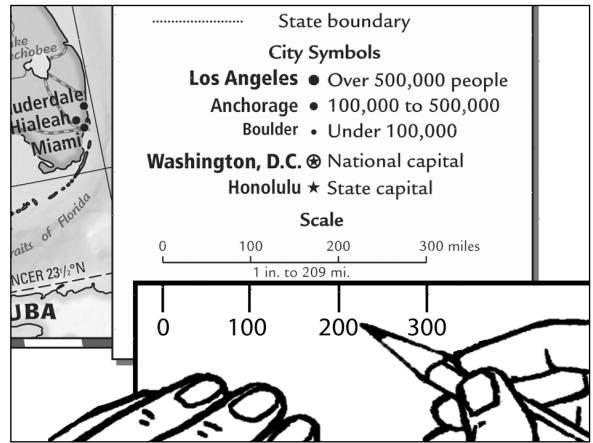
- d. Why are some city names larger than others?

- e. What does the symbol ★ represent? _____

🗺️ Map Scale

4. On the map on pages 112–113, there is a map scale at the bottom of the legend. This scale shows the distance on the map that equals 100, 200, and 300 miles. The scale also shows kilometers.

Here’s a way to use a map scale. Put the edge of a piece of paper just below the scale for miles. On the edge of the paper, mark the map distances in miles. Use the map scale you just made to measure the miles between Chicago, Illinois, and the following cities. Write your answer in the blanks.

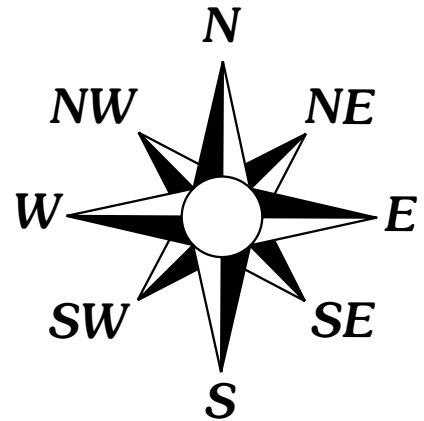


What’s the distance in miles from Chicago to . . .

- a. Milwaukee, Wisconsin? _____
- b. Cleveland, Ohio? _____
- c. Washington, D.C.? _____

🗺️ Directions

5. On pages 112–113, find the compass rose at the bottom of the map. It only labels north (N). The compass rose on this activity sheet labels all four cardinal directions—north (N), south (S), east (E), and west (W). It also shows intermediate directions—northeast (NE), southeast (SE), southwest (SW), and northwest (NW).



On the map, find Houston, Texas. Use the letters that stand for each direction to answer the following.

What direction is it from Houston to . . .

- a. New Orleans, Louisiana? _____
- b. Tulsa, Oklahoma? _____
- c. Nashville, Tennessee? _____
- d. Corpus Christi, Texas? _____
- e. Santa Fe, New Mexico? _____