

# Module 2: Mapping


## Topic 1 Content: Types of Maps Notes

### Introduction

#### Types of Maps

- Political Maps
- Physical Maps
- Thematic Maps
- Topographic Maps
- Geologic Maps
- Bathymetric Maps

#### Introduction



Maps are not just for finding your way downtown or locating a country across the world. Maps are used to show all sorts of different information. In this interactivity, click each of the tabs to examine the different types of maps.

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## Topic 1 Content: Types of Maps Notes

### Political Maps

#### Types of Maps

Political Maps

Physical Maps


Thematic Maps

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Geologic Maps

Bathymetric Maps

#### Political Maps



Generally, political maps show political boundaries such as countries, states, or counties. Political maps often show some key physical elements such as oceans and rivers to help you see where they are located compared to the important political features on the map. Take a moment to view the political map of the continental United States.

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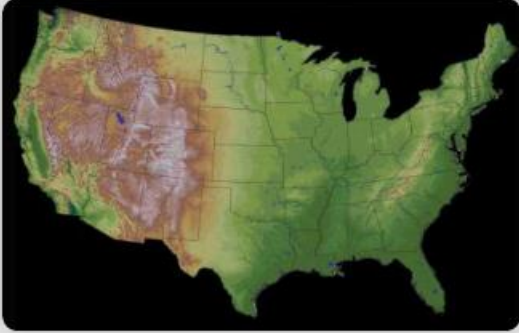
## Topic 1 Content: Types of Maps Notes

### Physical Maps

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#### Physical Maps



Physical maps show elements such as rivers, lakes, mountains, plains, peninsulas, plateaus, and much more. Often, physical maps show major countries and cities so that you can see the relative locations of the physical elements. Here you can view a physical map of the United States.

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### Topic 1 Content: Types of Maps Notes

#### Thematic Maps

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### Thematic Maps



Thematic, or special purpose maps, emphasize a central theme or topic. They often show patterns of a specific characteristic over the Earth's surface, such as temperature, population, or crop growth. Thematic maps can emphasize social themes like population distribution. Thematic maps can also emphasize environmental themes like resource availability and use. The image shows the population density of the United States. On this map, areas in blue represent areas with a higher population. Areas that are yellow, green, or white have lower populations.

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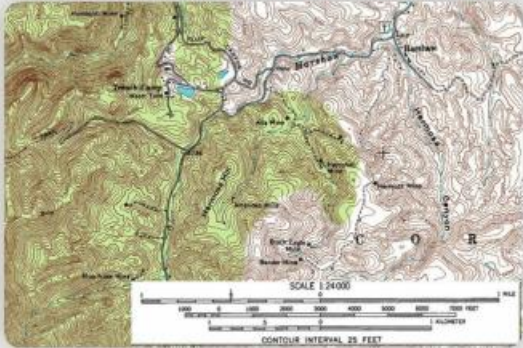
## Topic 1 Content: Types of Maps Notes

### Topographic Maps

#### Types of Maps

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#### Topographic Maps



A topographic map shows Earth's surface in three dimensions. These maps show elevations, distances, directions, and slope angles using contour lines. Topographic maps will show both natural and human-created features.

*Photo Credit: United States Geological Survey*

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## Topic 1 Content: Types of Maps Notes

### Geologic Maps

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#### Geologic Maps



In Earth science, it is important to look at the rock structure exposed at the surface. These exposed rocks will give geologists clues about what has taken place in the past, as well as what lies beneath the surface. A map that shows the type and age of exposed rocks at the surface is called a geologic map. On these maps each different rock outcrop is given a different color or pattern. Sometimes, these maps are overlaid on top of topographic maps.

*Photo Credit: United States Geological Survey*

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*Photo Credit: United States Geological Survey*

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## Topic 1 Content: Types of Maps Notes

### Bathymetric Maps

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#### Bathymetric Maps



Maps are also needed underwater. Bathymetric maps are created to describe the landforms and features along the ocean floor. These types of maps are primarily used in the field of oceanography. They are also used in navigation. How else would a submarine travel through the world's oceans? By mapping the ocean floor, scientists have learned that the ocean floor contains many of the same features as the continents.

*Photo Credit: NOAA*

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