

# Module 2: Mapping

## Topic 2 Content: The Parts of a Map Notes

### Introduction

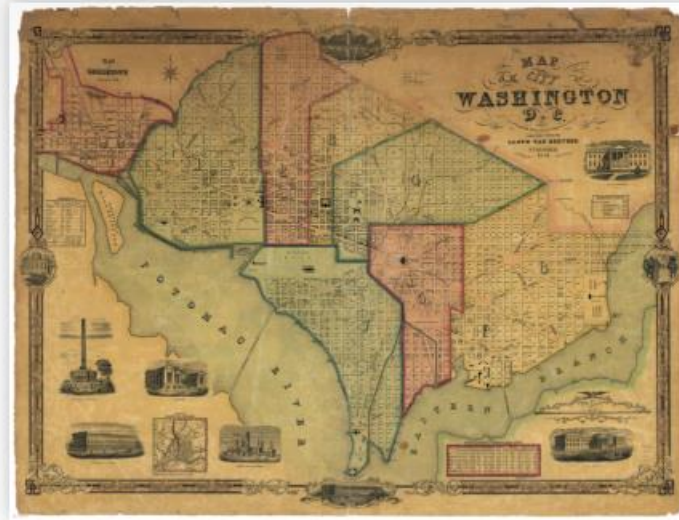
#### The Parts of a Map

##### Introduction

Maps show all sorts of different information. While geographers may use different types of projections, all maps should have five things in common, including:

- A title;
- A legend or key;
- A date;
- A scale; and
- A directional indicator or compass rose.

In this activity, you will learn how to identify each map part and how they are used.



Maps show all sorts of different information. While geographers may use different types of projections, all maps should have five things in common, including:

- A title;
- A legend or key;
- A date;
- A scale; and
- A directional indicator or compass rose.

In this activity, you will learn how to identify each map part and how they are used.

## Module 2: Mapping

### Topic 2 Content: The Parts of a Map Notes

#### Title

#### The Parts of a Map

#### Title

All maps should have a title. The title should be the first thing you identify, as it tells you generally what you will find on the map. For example, this map's title clearly indicates that it is the Map of the City of Washington, D.C.



All maps should have a title. The title should be the first thing you identify, as it tells you generally what you will find on the map. For example, this map's title clearly indicates that it is the Map of the City of Washington, D.C.

# Module 2: Mapping



## Topic 2 Content: The Parts of a Map Notes

### Legend

**The Parts of a Map**

#### Legend

All maps should contain a legend, or key, that provides all the details necessary to read them. While the title presents a general idea of the map's purpose, the legend outlines important information, such as defining all the symbols and colors on the map.



| Color        | Symbol   | Description  |
|--------------|----------|--------------|
| Red          | Star     | Capital City |
| Green        | Circle   | City         |
| Blue         | Square   | Water        |
| Yellow       | Triangle | Highway      |
| Black        | Circle   | Station      |
| White        | Square   | Field        |
| Grey         | Circle   | Mountain     |
| Orange       | Square   | Forest       |
| Purple       | Circle   | Swamp        |
| Brown        | Square   | Desert       |
| Light Blue   | Circle   | Sea          |
| Dark Blue    | Square   | Bay          |
| Light Green  | Circle   | Park         |
| Light Yellow | Square   | Plains       |
| Light Purple | Circle   | Marsh        |
| Light Orange | Square   | Woods        |
| Light Brown  | Circle   | Mountains    |
| Light Grey   | Square   | Valleys      |
| Light Pink   | Circle   | Islands      |
| Light Blue   | Square   | Coastal      |
| Light Green  | Circle   | Mountains    |
| Light Yellow | Square   | Plains       |
| Light Purple | Circle   | Swamp        |
| Light Orange | Square   | Forest       |
| Light Brown  | Circle   | Mountains    |
| Light Grey   | Square   | Valleys      |
| Light Pink   | Circle   | Islands      |
| Light Blue   | Square   | Coastal      |

All maps should contain a legend, or key, that provides all the details necessary to read them. While the title presents a general idea of the map's purpose, the legend outlines important information, such as defining all the symbols and colors on the map.

## Module 2: Mapping

### Topic 2 Content: The Parts of a Map Notes

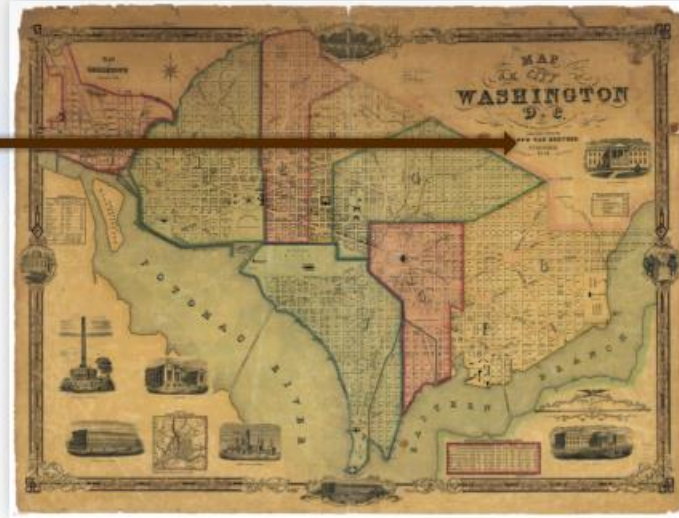
Date

#### The Parts of a Map

##### Date

Maps and geography change constantly, so all maps should have a date marked on them. For example, this 1851 map remains useful for historical purposes if you were researching the population growth of Washington, D.C. However, if you were planning a trip to the nation's capital, you would want to use a map with current street names and buildings.

**LLOYD VAN DERVEER**  
PUBLISHER.  
Camden, 1851. N. Jersey.



Maps and geography change constantly, so all maps should have a date marked on them. For example, this 1851 map remains useful for historical purposes if you were researching the population growth of Washington, D.C. However, if you were planning a trip to the nation's capital, you would want to use a map with current street names and buildings.

## Module 2: Mapping

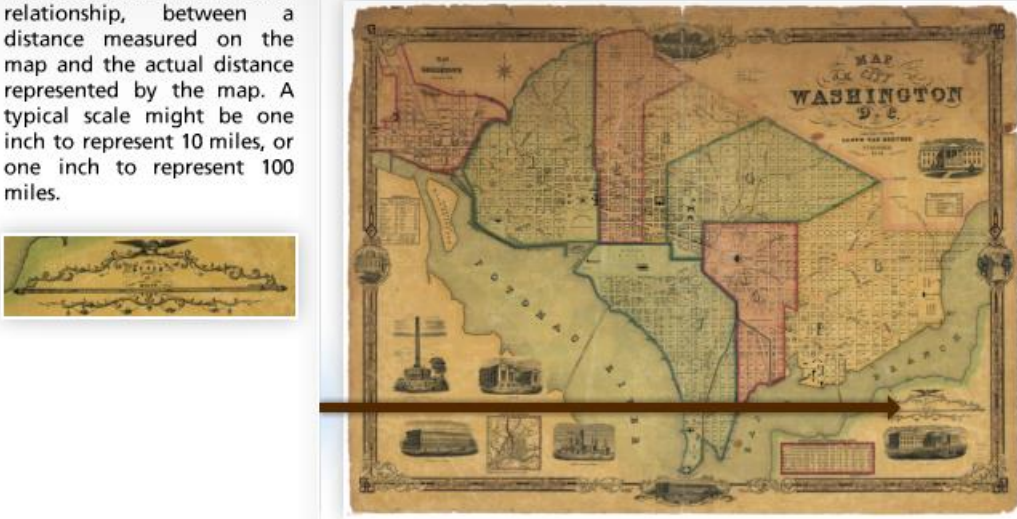
### Topic 2 Content: The Parts of a Map Notes

#### Scale

**The Parts of a Map**

**Scale**

All maps should have a scale. The scale shows the ratio, or relationship, between a distance measured on the map and the actual distance represented by the map. A typical scale might be one inch to represent 10 miles, or one inch to represent 100 miles.



The image shows a historical map of Washington, D.C., titled "MAP OF WASHINGTON D.C." with "LAWRENCE & BROTHERS" as the publisher. The map is color-coded and includes various landmarks and a grid. A scale bar is visible at the bottom of the map. To the left of the main map is a smaller inset map showing a different geographical area. A black arrow points from the text on the left towards the scale bar on the main map.

All maps should have a scale. The scale shows the ratio, or relationship, between a distance measured on the map and the actual distance represented by the map. A typical scale might be one inch to represent 10 miles, or one inch to represent 100 miles.

## Module 2: Mapping

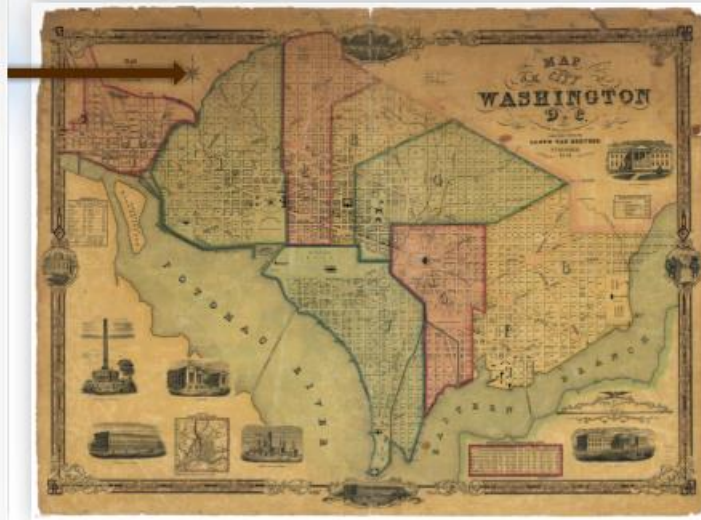
### Topic 2 Content: The Parts of a Map Notes

#### Compass Rose

##### The Parts of a Map

##### Compass Rose

Finally, all maps should have a directional indicator, typically called a compass rose. If you know which direction on the map is north, you can figure out the other cardinal directions of south, east, and west.



Finally, all maps should have a directional indicator, typically called a compass rose. If you know which direction on the map is north, you can figure out the other cardinal directions of south, east, and west.

## Module 2: Mapping

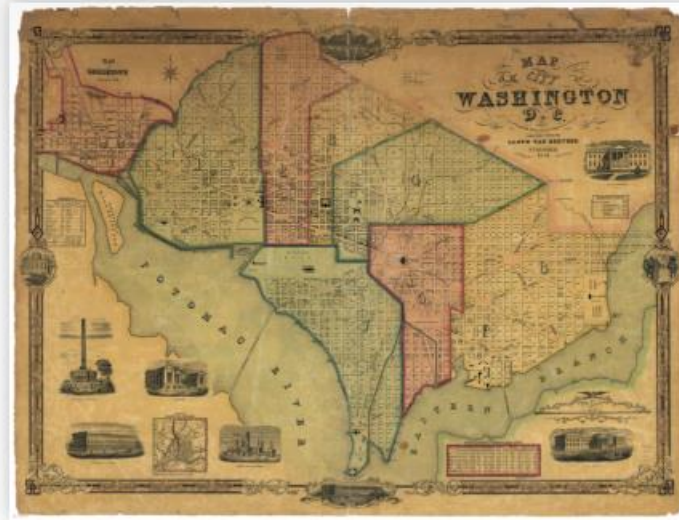
### Topic 2 Content: The Parts of a Map Notes

#### Summary

##### The Parts of a Map

##### Summary

Unfortunately, not all maps have the five parts of a good map, which you now know are a title, a legend or key, a date, a scale, and a compass rose. One element map makers often neglect to include is the compass rose. Instead, the orientation of most maps is such that the top of the map points north. In other maps, particularly those in the southern hemisphere, the top of the map points south.



Unfortunately, not all maps have the five parts of a good map, which you now know are a title, a legend or key, a date, a scale, and a compass rose. One element map makers often neglect to include is the compass rose. Instead, the orientation of most maps is such that the top of the map points north. In other maps, particularly those in the southern hemisphere, the top of the map points south.