

My Map Skills



How Do We Understand Our World?

My name: _____

My class: _____

Welcome!


This booklet belongs to YOU.

Bring it to every I&S lesson.

Write in it. Draw in it. Make it yours.



Geo says:

Hi! I am Geo, your geography helper. 

I will pop up to give you tips along the way.

When you see me, read what I say carefully.

Here is what you will learn in Phase 1 (4 weeks):

- 1** What a map is.
- 2** The six parts of every map (T.O.D.A.L.S.).
- 3** Continents and oceans.
- 4** How to read scale on a map.
- 5** How to write in I&S.



Section 1. Self-Check Start



The big idea

This is what we will explore in this unit:

★ Remember!

Different maps tell different stories of the same place.

How a map is drawn (perspective) and how zoomed in it is (scale) changes what we see.



Geo says:

You do not need to understand all of this on day 1.

By the end of Phase 2, you will. Trust the journey. ★



My notes:



What do I think NOW?

Answer in one sentence each. There is no wrong answer.

We will look at this page again in Wk 8.



Your turn!

Question 1. What is a map FOR?



Your turn!

Question 2. Where is Qatar on the world map?



Your turn!

Question 3. Are all maps the same? Why or why not?



Your turn!

Question 4. Can a map ever be WRONG? Or just different?



Draw the world

Spend 10 minutes. Draw the world from memory.

Label Qatar. Do not look at a map.



Geo says:

This is a diagnostic activity, not a test. ✨

It is the start of your journey.

In Wk 8, you will draw the world again. You will be amazed.



Draw the world here



Section 2. Skills



What is a map?

A map is a picture of a place.

Maps help us find our way.

Maps show where things are.

Maps come in many shapes and sizes.



New word: cartography

The work of making maps. Based on Paul Grace MYP 1, p.30.




New word: cartographer

A person who makes maps.



Geo says:

Tip: when you see "Based on Paul Grace MYP 1, p.X", that means we wrote the idea in our OWN words. 

We took it from the textbook on page X.

This is called paraphrasing. You will do this too soon!




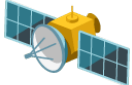




My notes:



Six types of maps

Each kind shows different things.

 Political <i>borders, countries</i>	 Physical <i>mountains, rivers</i>	 Road <i>streets, routes</i>
 Satellite <i>photo from space</i>	 Topographic <i>how high the land is</i>	 Data <i>facts, numbers, climate</i>


★ Remember!

Different maps show different things.

The same place can look very different on different maps.



Geo says:







Based on Paul Grace MYP 1, pp.32-33. 



In real life you will see many of these mixed together.

My notes:

★ T.O.D.A.L.S.

The six parts of every good map. Learn this!

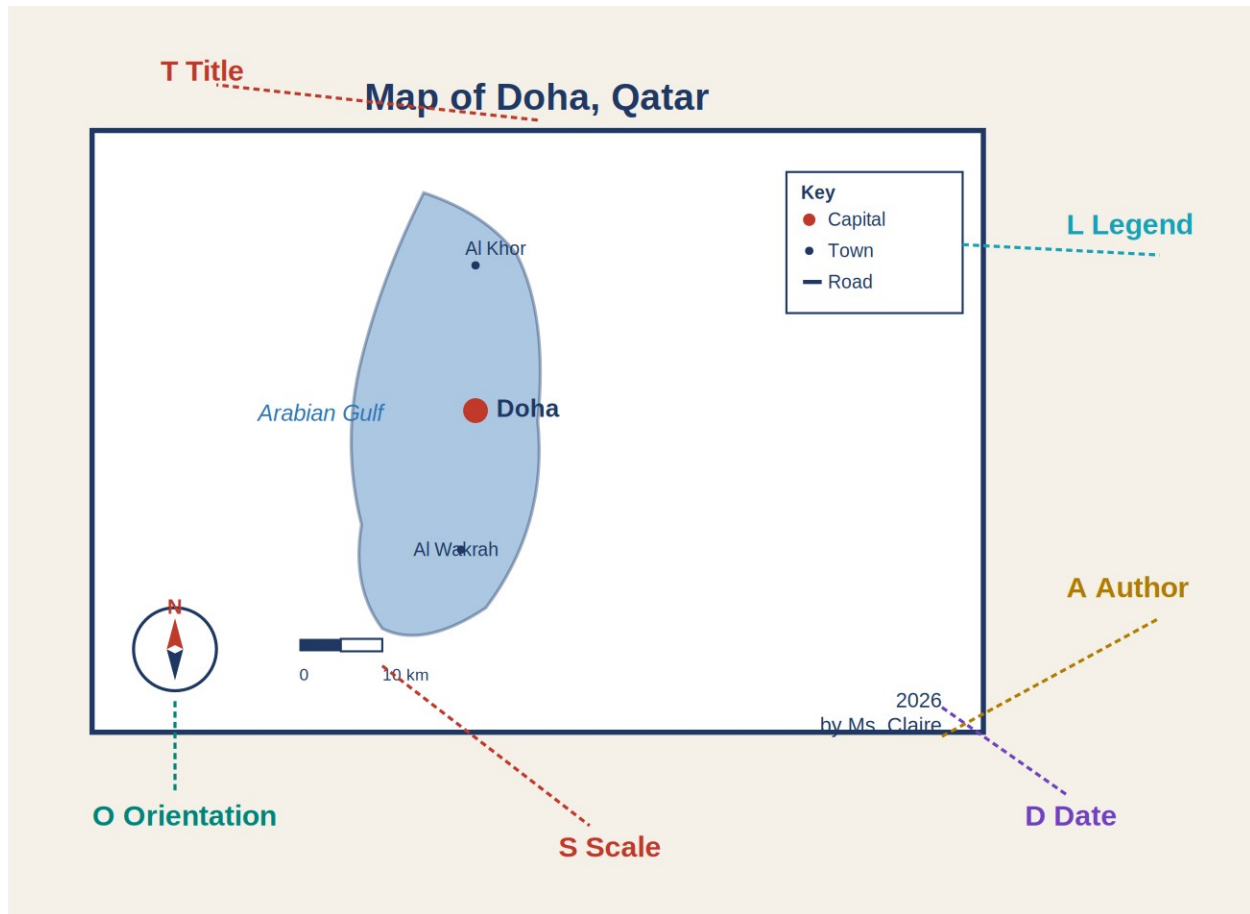
<p>T </p> <p>Title</p> <p><i>What is the map about?</i></p>	<p>O </p> <p>Orientation</p> <p><i>Which way is north?</i></p>	<p>D </p> <p>Date</p> <p><i>When was it made?</i></p>
<p>A </p> <p>Author</p> <p><i>Who made it?</i></p>	<p>L </p> <p>Legend</p> <p><i>What do symbols mean?</i></p>	<p>S </p> <p>Scale</p> <p><i>How zoomed in is it?</i></p>

	<p>Geo says:</p> <p>This page is your anchor. </p> <p>When you forget what is on a map, come back here.</p> <p>Try to say all six in your head, with no help, by Wk 4.</p>
---	--



T.O.D.A.L.S. on a real map

Look closely. Can you find all six parts on this map?



A map of Doha, Qatar. All six T.O.D.A.L.S. parts are labelled.

★ Remember!

Every good map has all six parts.

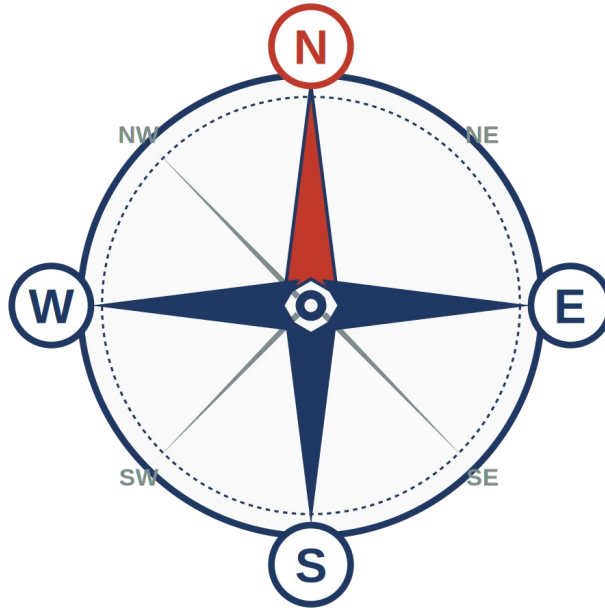
When YOU make a map, do not forget any of them!

 My notes:



Direction

Direction tells us which way to go.



A compass rose. North is at the top. The red arrow points to N.

The four cardinal points

- ↑ North (N). At the top.
- ↓ South (S). At the bottom.
- East (E). To the right.
- ← West (W). To the left.

★ Remember!

A trick to remember the order: N, E, S, W.

Never Eat Sweet Watermelons. 🍉

 My notes:



Continents and oceans



A real photo of Earth. Six continents, five oceans, Qatar marked in red.

The six continents (we use this list)

- 1 Africa.
- 2 America (North + South together).
- 3 Antarctica. The icy one at the bottom.
- 4 Asia. The biggest. Qatar is here!
- 5 Europe.
- 6 Oceania (Australia and the Pacific islands).

Geo says:






Wait, some books say SEVEN continents! 🤔

In some places (like the UK and the USA), people split America into North America and South America. Both lists are right. They just count differently.

In our class, we count America as ONE continent (6 in total).



The five oceans

-  Pacific Ocean. The biggest.
-  Atlantic Ocean.
-  Indian Ocean. Connects to the Arabian Gulf.
-  Southern Ocean. Around Antarctica.
-  Arctic Ocean. The smallest, at the top.

Where is Qatar?



A real photo of the Arabian Peninsula. Qatar is highlighted in red.



Geo says:

Qatar is a peninsula. 📍

A peninsula is land with water on three sides.

Qatar borders the Arabian Gulf, which is part of the Indian Ocean.

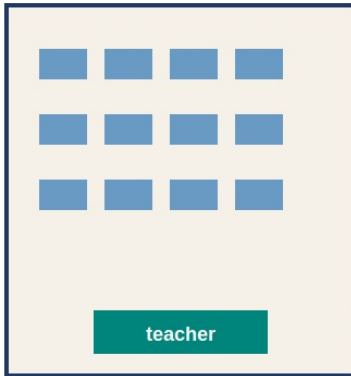


Scale

Scale tells you how zoomed in a map is.

LARGE-scale

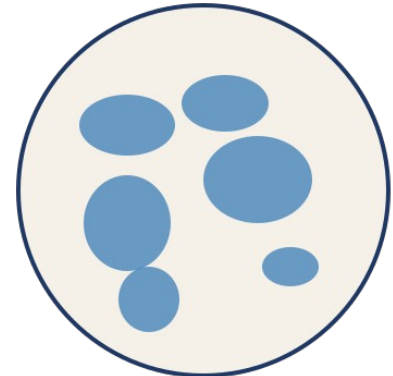
small area, lots of detail
e.g. classroom plan



you can see desks!

SMALL-scale

big area, less detail
e.g. world map



no desks visible!



zoom out

Large-scale: small area, lots of detail. Small-scale: big area, less detail.

★ Remember!

LARGE-scale = SMALL area, LOTS of detail.

SMALL-scale = BIG area, LESS detail.



Geo says:

Yes, this is confusing! 😓

"Large" scale = small area. It feels backwards.

Read it twice. Most students mix this up at first.

1 2
3 4

How scale is shown

There are 3 ways to show scale on a map:



All 3 forms shown together: bar, sentence, ratio.

1. The scale bar

A line with distances marked on it. Easy to read.

2. The sentence

Words that say it: "1 cm = 2 km".

This means: 1 cm on the map = 2 km in real life.

3. The ratio (1 : 200,000)



Geo says:

A ratio looks like this: 1 : 200,000 (we say "one to two hundred thousand"). 🤔

It just means: 1 step on the map = 200,000 of the SAME steps in real life.

So 1 cm on the map = 200,000 cm in real life. That is the same as 2 km!

Same idea as "1 cm = 2 km". Just a different way to write it.

★ Remember!

Bar, sentence, ratio.

Three ways to say the SAME thing.

You only need to read one to know the scale.

📖 New word: scale

How much a map has been shrunk from real life. Based on Paul Grace MYP 1, p.35.



Section 3. Knowledge



Words I need to know

These words will be on the S1 test. Learn them!



Map. A picture of a place.



Cartography. The work of making maps.



Cartographer. A person who makes maps.



Title. The name of the map.



Orientation. Which way is north.



Date. When the map was made.



Author. Who made the map.



Legend (or Key). What the symbols mean.









Scale. How zoomed in the map is.



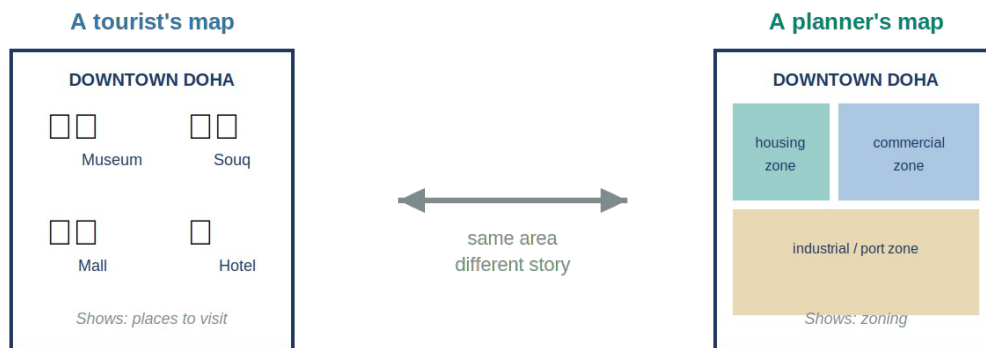
Symbol. A small picture for something on the map.



More words I need

-  Continent. One of the 6 big land areas.
-  Ocean. One of the 5 big seas of the world.
-  Peninsula. Land with water on three sides.
-  Compass rose. Shows directions on a map.
-  Cardinal points. North, South, East, West.
-  Perspective. The point of view of the mapmaker.

Same place, different perspectives



Same place, different perspectives. A tourist sees one thing; a planner sees another.



Geo says:

Tip: cover the right side of these pages.

Test yourself! Can you say what each word means?

Then check. ✓







Section 4. How to Do I&S

The G6 writing move

In I&S, when you write an answer:

Write 2 sentences. Always name a real example.

 Step 1 Make your point. One sentence.	 Step 2 Start: "For example..."	 Step 3 Name a real place. Like Qatar.	 Done! You did it. That is the move.
--	---	---	--

Remember!

Two sentences. With a real, named example.

Not "a place" but "Qatar".

Not "a city" but "Doha".

★ A great answer (example)

Question: How does scale change what a map shows?

Try this!

Sentence 1: Maps show different things at different scales.

Sentence 2: For example, a map of my classroom shows desks and chairs. But a map of Qatar at the same size cannot show desks because the country is too big to fit.

Why is this a great answer?

- ✓ Sentence 1 makes the point.
- ✓ Sentence 2 says "For example".
- ✓ It names a real place: my classroom, Qatar.
- ✓ It gives details: desks, chairs.



Geo says:

This is what gets you to Levels 7-8 at G6. 🌟

You do NOT need big new words like "explain" or "analyse".

Just point + named example + details.

Why this matters

Why this frame matters across your time in I&S

The Observe / Identify / Describe-WHY paragraph frame is your first analytical move. You will keep using it, in different shapes, every year in I&S all the way to Grade 10.

In Grade 6 (now), the frame is three steps: Observe what you see, Identify one specific feature, Describe WHY that feature matters.

In Grade 7, a fourth step joins: you will give evidence and explain a cause. The

frame becomes Claim, Evidence, Explanation.

In Grade 8, you will add a “however...” counter-paragraph. By Grade 10, you will be writing full essays in this shape under timed conditions for future exams.

Step 3 (Describe-WHY) is the step that turns description into thinking. Get it right here, in Grade 6, and you have built the foundation for every essay that comes after.

Without Step 3, your paragraph cannot reach Bands 5-6. With Step 3 fully written, you have a paragraph that would still be doing analytical work in Grade 10.

1 Wk 1: What is a map?

1

L1: Draw the world from memory. Diagnostic.

2


L2: Look at three different maps. What do they show?

Words for this week:

 Map. Cartographer. Cartography. Perspective.



Geo says:

Homework: list 3 times you used a map this month. 



My notes:

2 Wk 2: T.O.D.A.L.S. and types

3

L3: Build the T.O.D.A.L.S. wall chart with the class.

4


L4: Label T.O.D.A.L.S. on a map of Qatar (FORMATIVE).

Words for this week:

 Compass rose. Cardinal points. Key. Symbol.



Geo says:

Homework: draw a compass rose. Label N, S, E, W. 



My notes:

3 Wk 3: Continents and oceans

5

L5: Label the 6 continents and 5 oceans on a world map.

6

L6: Find Qatar! Plus the Wk 3 quiz (FORMATIVE).

Words for this week:



Continent. Ocean. Peninsula.



Geo says:

Homework: label all 6 continents from memory. 🌍

Use your atlas only if you need it.



My notes:

4 Wk 4: Scale, then S1 test!

7

L7: Scale lesson. Compare three maps at different scales.

8

L8 (Lesson 2 of Wk 4): S1 MAP SKILLS TEST. 40 min.

★ Remember!

S1 test: Lesson 2 of Week 4. ★

CLOSED BOOK. The booklet stays in your bag during the test.

Memorise from the booklet BEFORE the test. That is the work.

Bring: pencil, ruler. Nothing else.



Geo says:

No homework on Wk 4 because the test is on Thu. 📝

Spend 20 minutes each evening reading and TESTING yourself on the booklet.

Cover the page. Try to remember. Then check. That is how memory works. 💪



Section 6. The Summative (S1)

The S1 Map Skills Test

Lesson 2 of Week 4. 40 minutes. In class. On paper.

There are 3 sections:

1

Section 1: Label T.O.D.A.L.S. features on a Qatar map.

2

Section 2: Label the 6 continents and 5 oceans.

3

Section 3: Write 2-3 sentences on scale, with a named example.

Remember!

For Section 3: use the G6 writing move.

Two sentences. Name a real place. Give details.

That is what gets you to Level 7-8.







My notes:



How the test is assessed


MYP Criterion A: Knowing and Understanding. You get a level 1-8.

-  Level 1-2. You can identify a few features.
-  Level 3-4. You describe most features.
-  Level 5-6. You describe all features and give a clear example.
-  Level 7-8. You describe all features AND give a specific named example with a reason.



Geo says:

You do not need new big words to reach Level 7-8.

You need MORE DETAIL and a NAMED EXAMPLE. 

That is the G6 calibration rule.



My notes:



Section 7. Self-Check End



After the S1 test

Fill this in *AFTER* you sit the S1 test. Be honest.



Your turn!

Which Section of the test felt **EASIEST**? Why?



Your turn!

Which Section felt **HARDEST**? Why?



Your turn!

Did you use a **NAMED EXAMPLE** in Section 3? Yes / No.



Your turn!

What is one thing you understand **NOW** that you did not before?



Geo says:

You finished Phase 1! 🎉

You learned T.O.D.A.L.S., continents, oceans, and scale.

You sat your first MYP I&S test.

Hand this booklet in. Phase 2 starts in Wk 5. ★