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HOW TO USE MAPS

Different Kinds of Maps

JULIA J. QUINLAN

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Different Kinds of Maps

JULIA J. QUINLAN

DISCARDS

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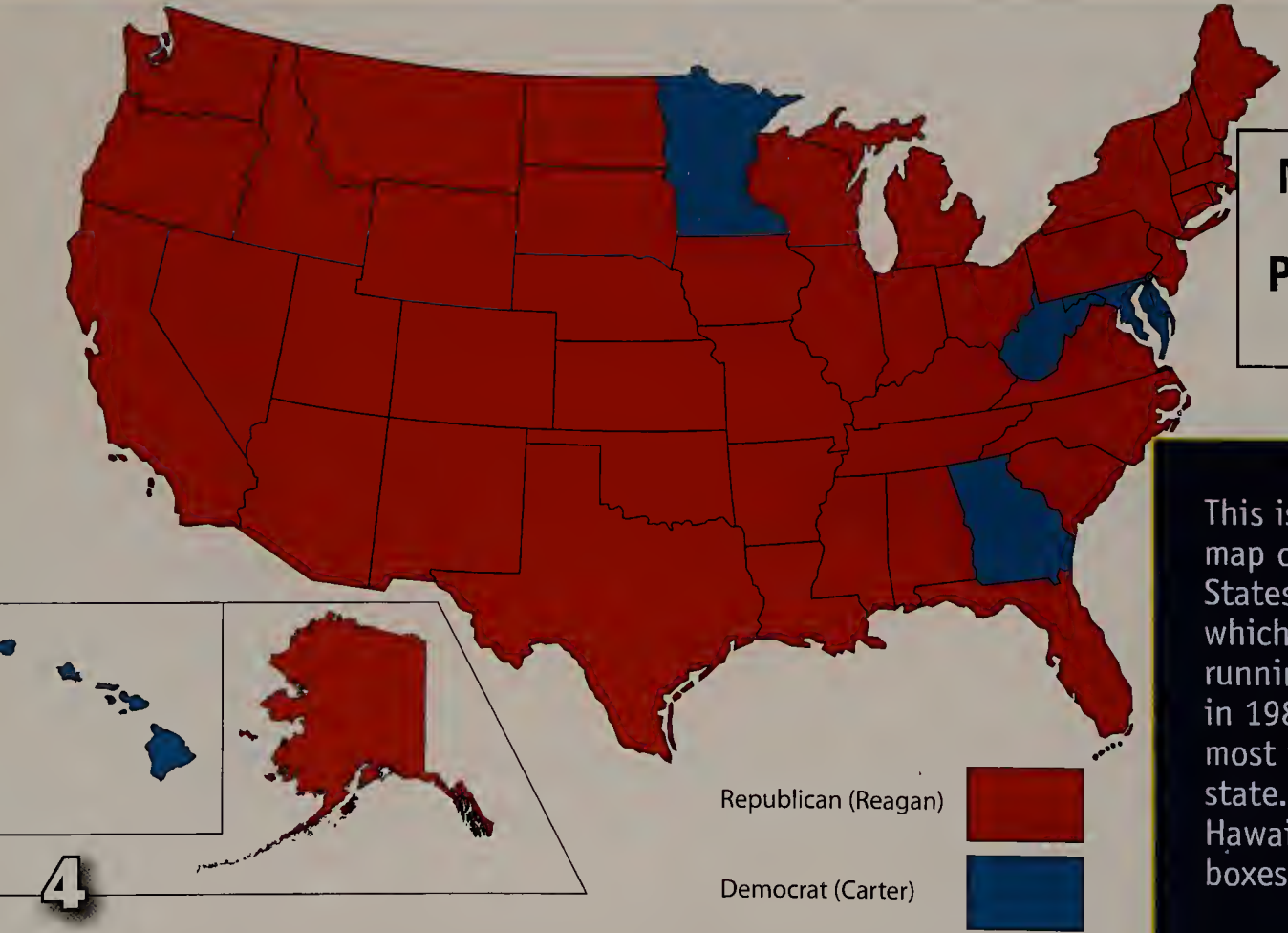
Contents

A Map of Everything!

Mountains, countries, houses, and subway systems can all be shown on maps. Maps take **information** about a place and make it easy to understand. People use different kinds of maps to show different kinds of information.



Map of the 1980 U.S. Presidential Election

This is an electoral map of the United States. It shows which of the people running for president in 1980 won the most votes in each state. Alaska and Hawaii are in the boxes on the side.

If you got lost in a big city, it would make sense to look at a street map. Want to know which parts of a country have the most people living in them? Look at a **population** map. Do you need to find the highest mountain in the United States? Look at a **topographic** map. These maps use **contour lines** show how high or low land is.

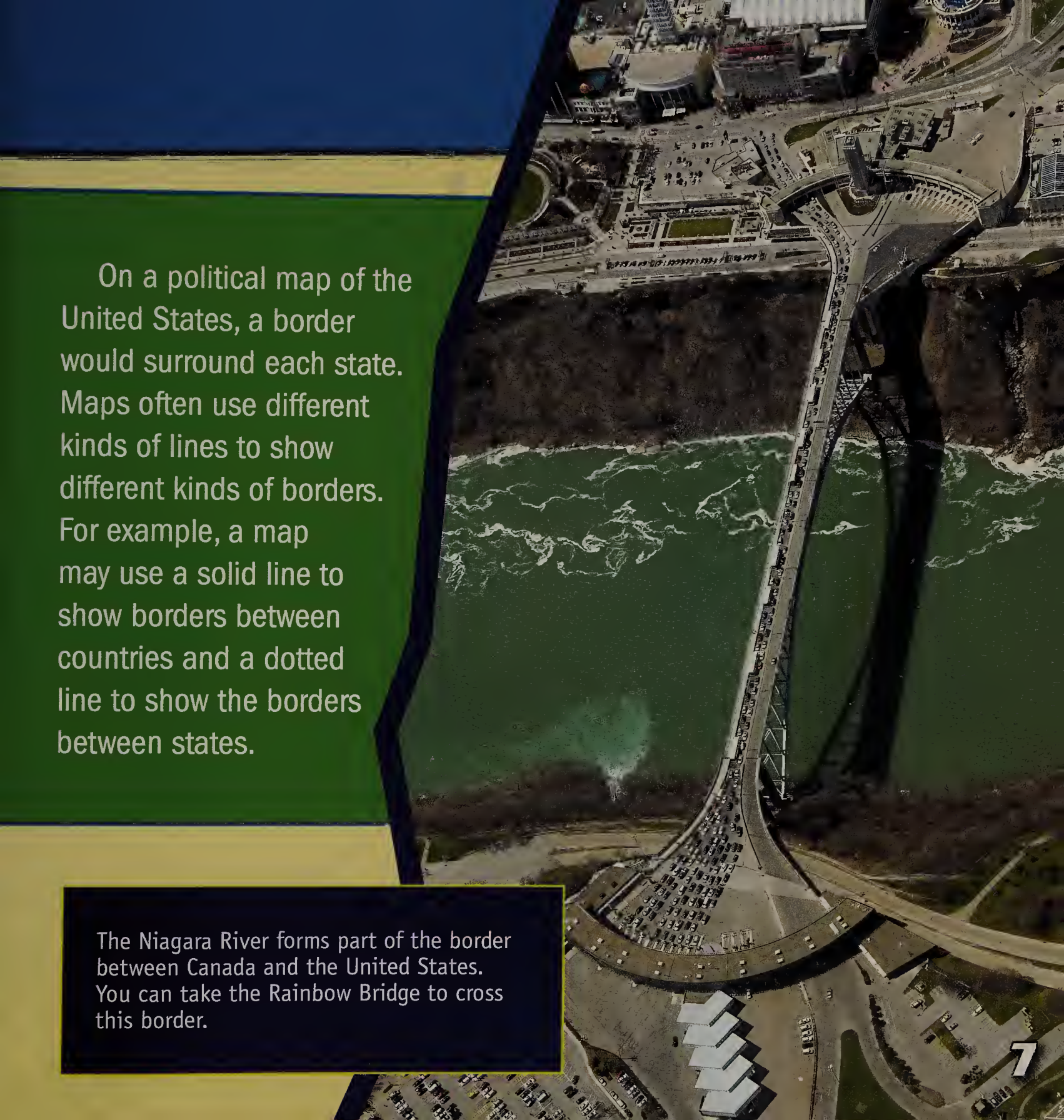
This is a physical map of the United States. It shows the country's landforms and bodies of water. Like the map on page 4, it shows Alaska and Hawaii in boxes on the side.

Countries, States, and Towns

Costa Rica is made up of seven provinces. This political map uses different colors to show Costa Rica's provinces.

Political maps show us the borders between different places. For example, political maps of Europe have borders around each country. This lets us see that France and Germany are different countries. Though the borders on political maps are important, most of them cannot be seen in real life.

On a political map of the United States, a border would surround each state. Maps often use different kinds of lines to show different kinds of borders. For example, a map may use a solid line to show borders between countries and a dotted line to show the borders between states.

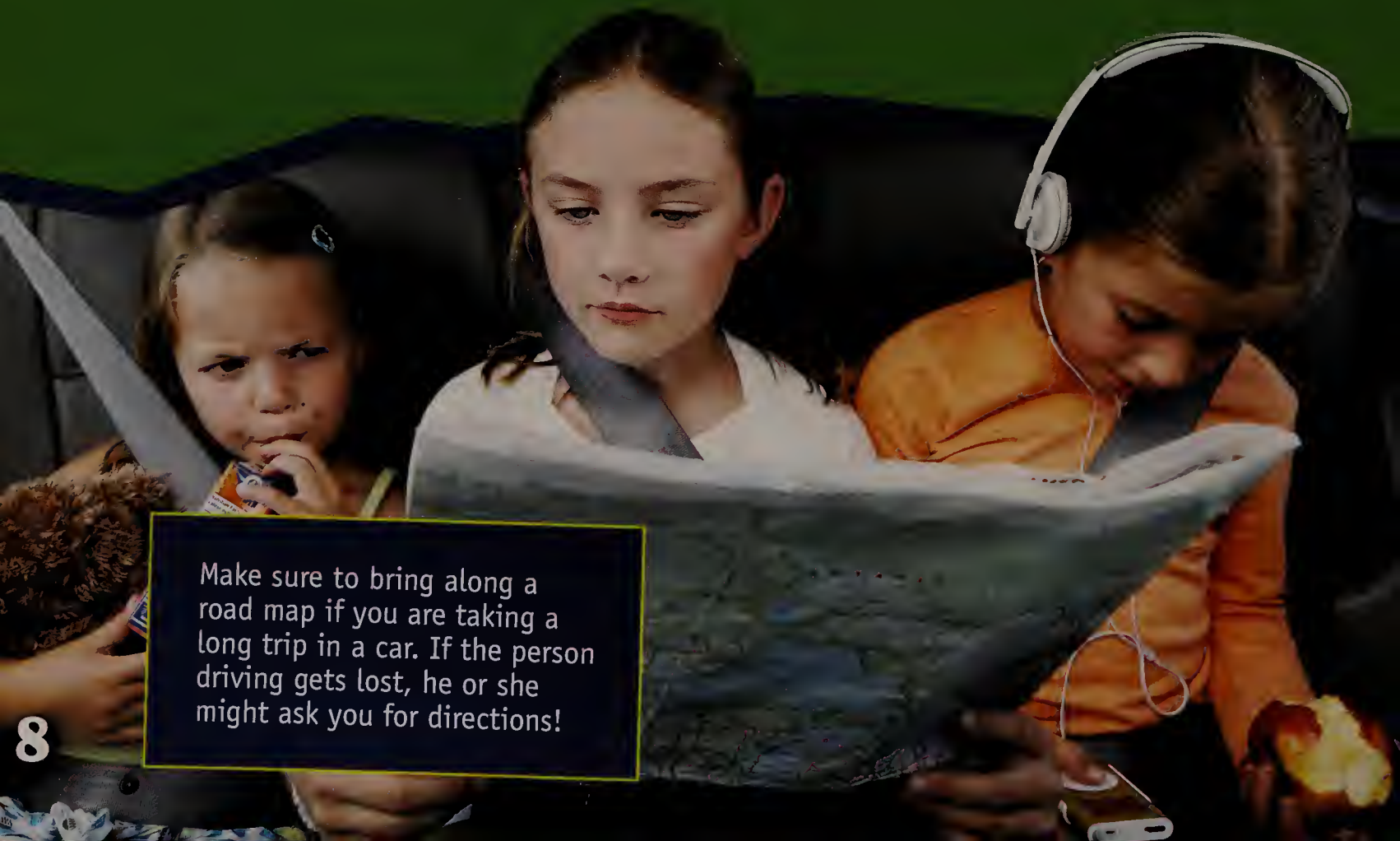


The Niagara River forms part of the border between Canada and the United States. You can take the Rainbow Bridge to cross this border.

Driving Around

When you get lost on a car trip, what do you look at? A road map! Road maps use lines to show the major roads and highways in an area. There are road maps of states, countries, and even whole **continents**.

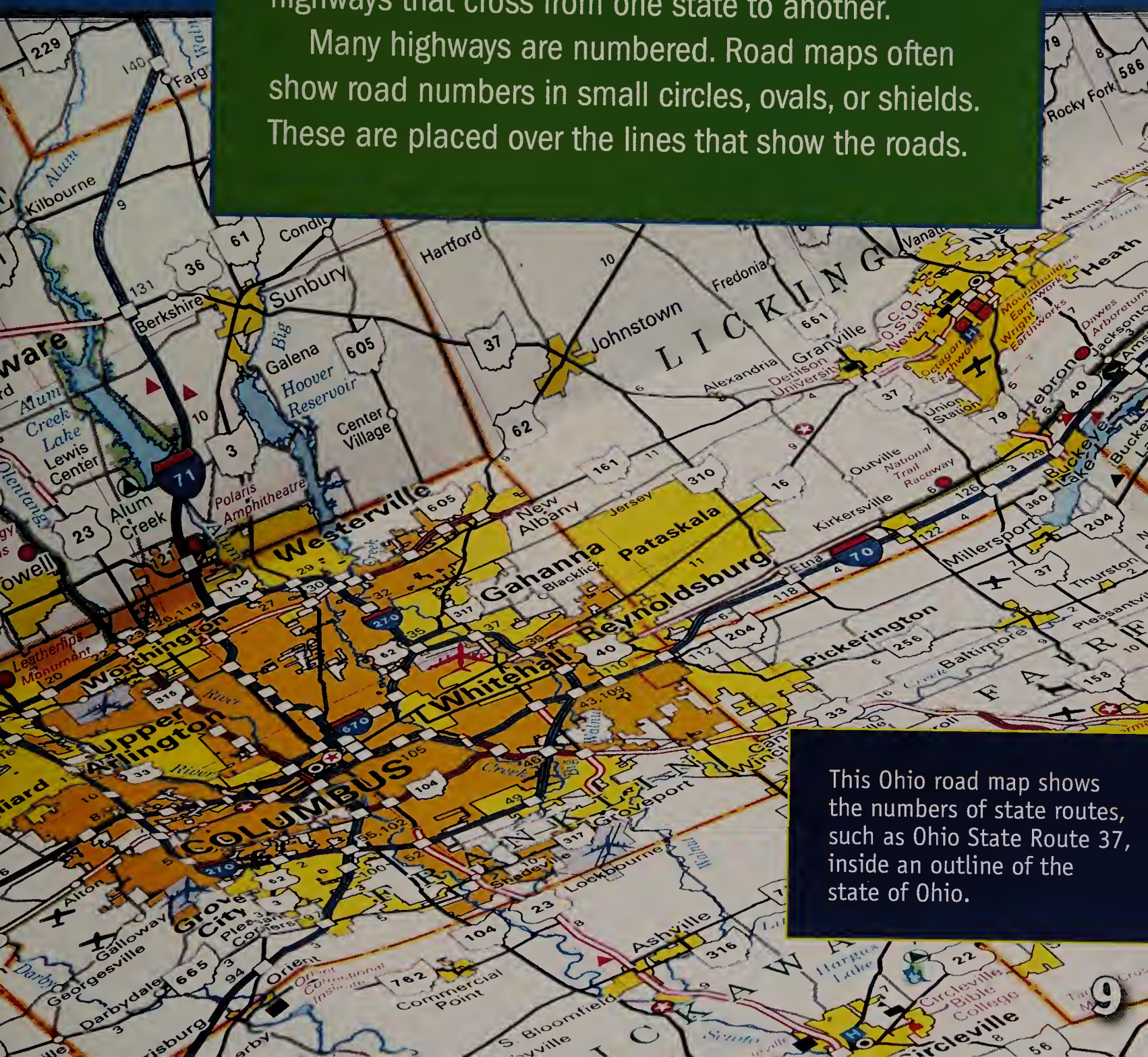
Road maps use different kinds of lines to show different kinds of roads. For example, many road maps of the United States use double



Make sure to bring along a road map if you are taking a long trip in a car. If the person driving gets lost, he or she might ask you for directions!

lines to show **interstate highways**. These are highways that cross from one state to another.

Many highways are numbered. Road maps often show road numbers in small circles, ovals, or shields. These are placed over the lines that show the roads.



This Ohio road map shows the numbers of state routes, such as Ohio State Route 37, inside an outline of the state of Ohio.

Subways, Buses, and Boats

Some cities have big **transit systems.** Transit systems can have subways, buses, and even boats. Cities make maps of their transit systems to help people find their way. New York City has more than 20 subway lines. Imagine trying to find your way without a map!

This is a street map of downtown Chicago, Illinois. It has enough detail that you could use it to find your way around that part of the city.

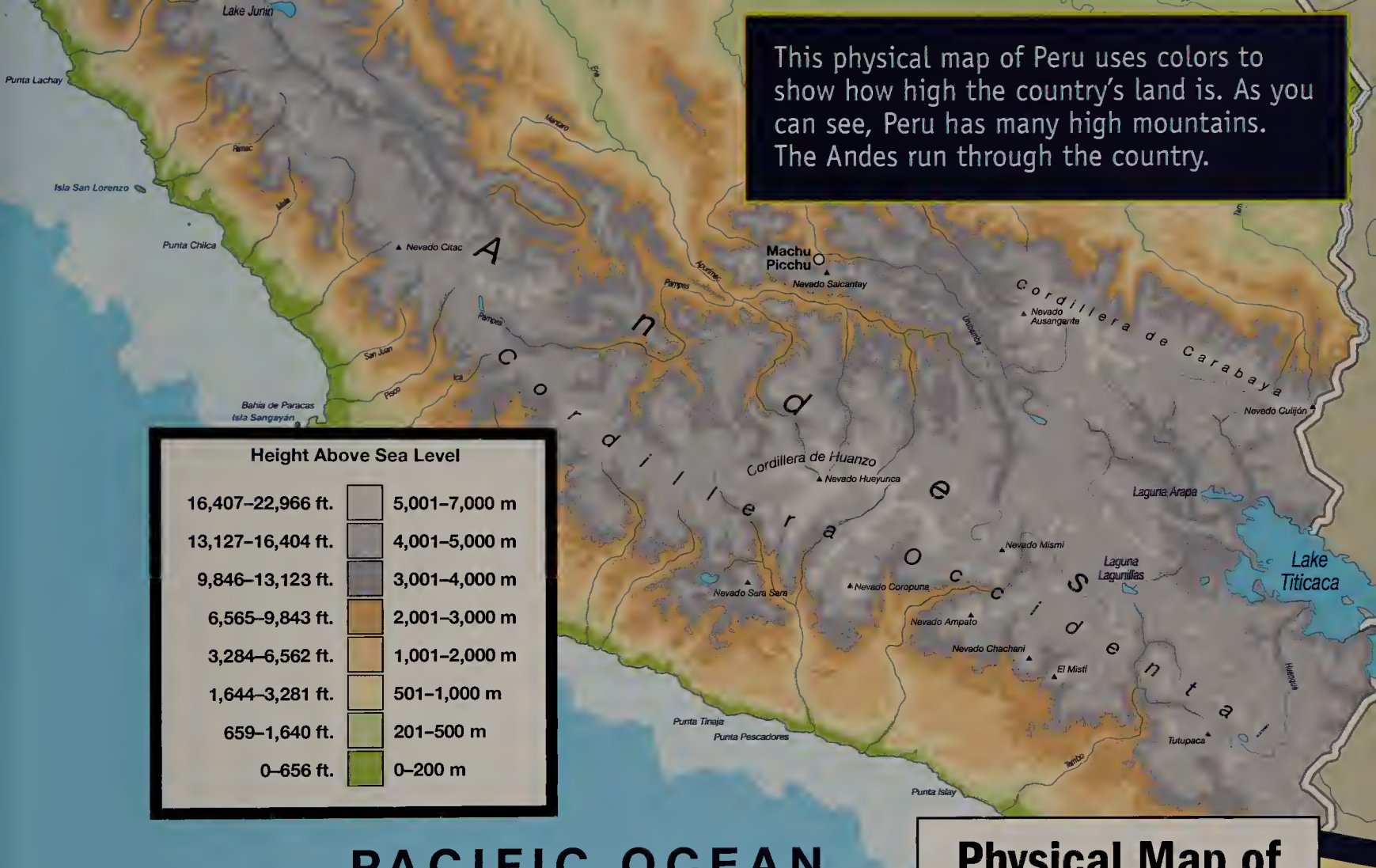
Street maps are another useful tool. While road maps show only the biggest roads, street maps show all of the streets in a city or town. They can also show where important places, such as post offices, hospitals, and schools, are. Street maps use **symbols** to show where these places are. For example, an "H" might stand for a hospital.

This father and son are riding on a bus. Buses are part of many cities' transit systems.

Big Mountains and Deep Valleys

Physical maps use shading and color to show where natural **features**, such as mountains, valleys, and flatlands, are. They also show where rivers and lakes are. On a physical map of the United States, you could easily find the Rocky Mountains. They would be shaded to make them stand out.

Machu Picchu is an ancient city high in the mountains of Peru. A people called the Incas built the city in the 1400s. Can you find Machu Picchu on the map on page 13?



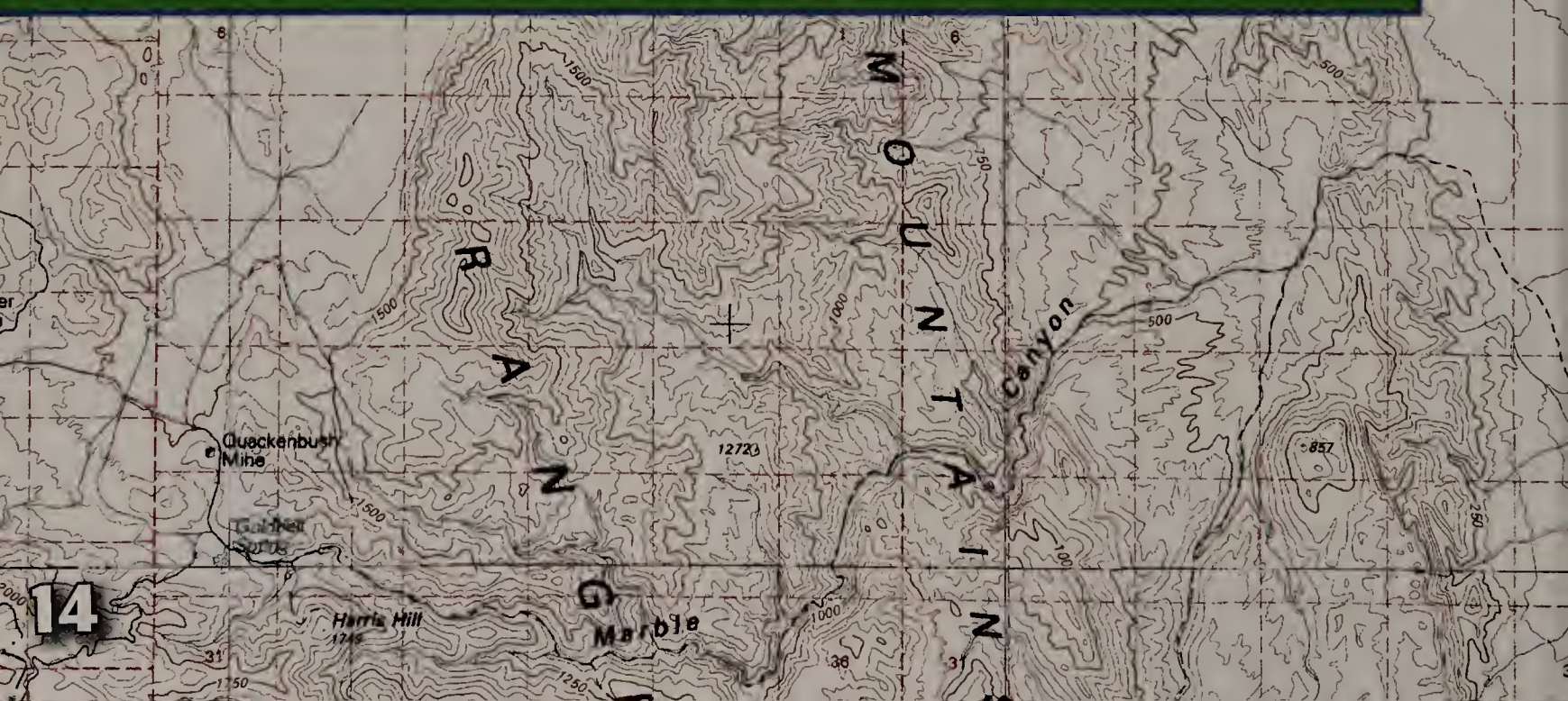
Physical Map of Southern Peru

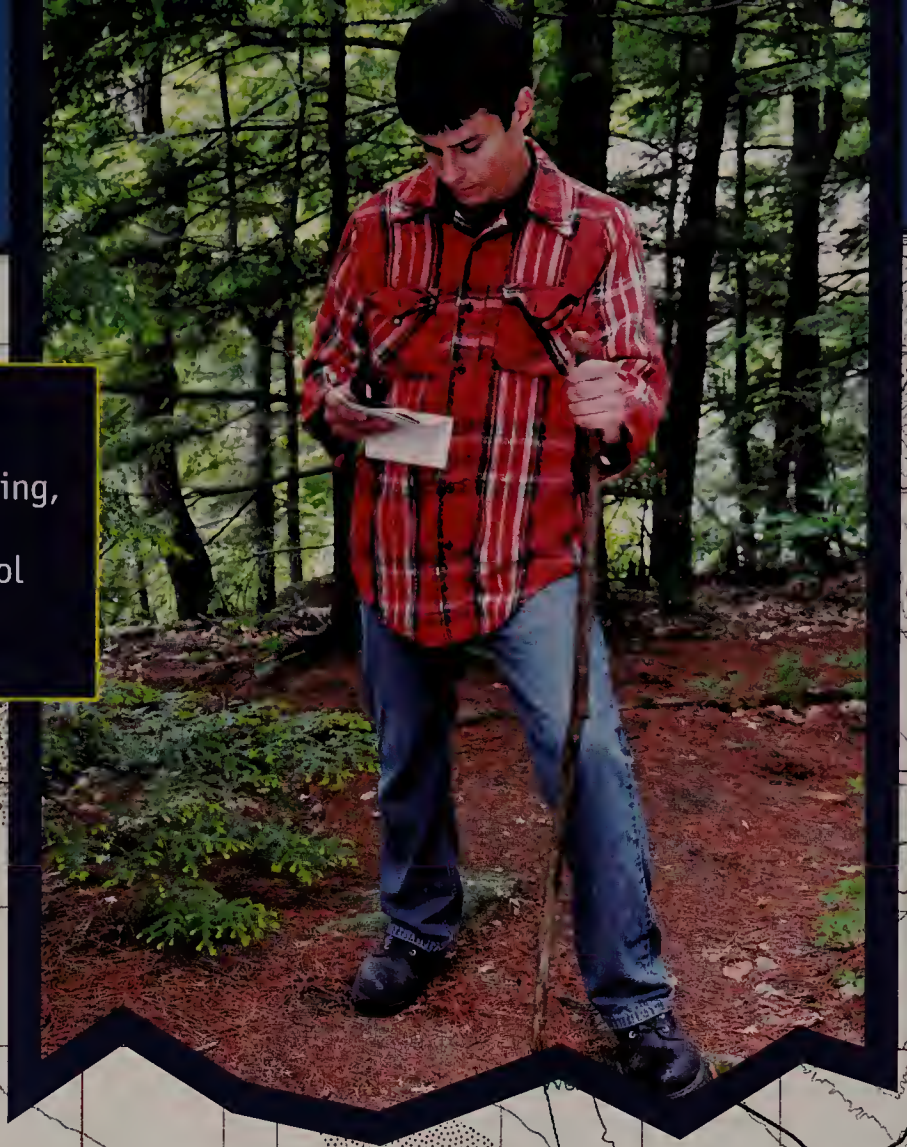
Relief maps show natural features in a **three-dimensional** way. You can touch a relief map and feel all of the mountains. Looking at a relief map is like looking at a small version of the land the map shows. Some relief maps and physical maps use color to show rivers, lakes, and forests.

Topographic Maps

Topographic maps use contour lines to show how high or low land is. All of the points along a contour line show land of the same **elevation**, or height. Each contour line is a set number of feet or meters above or below the line next to it. This means that when lines on a topographic map are close together, the elevation of the land is changing fast. You might be looking at a mountain or cliff.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) makes topographic maps of the whole country. People who like exploring nature, such as hikers, often use these maps.

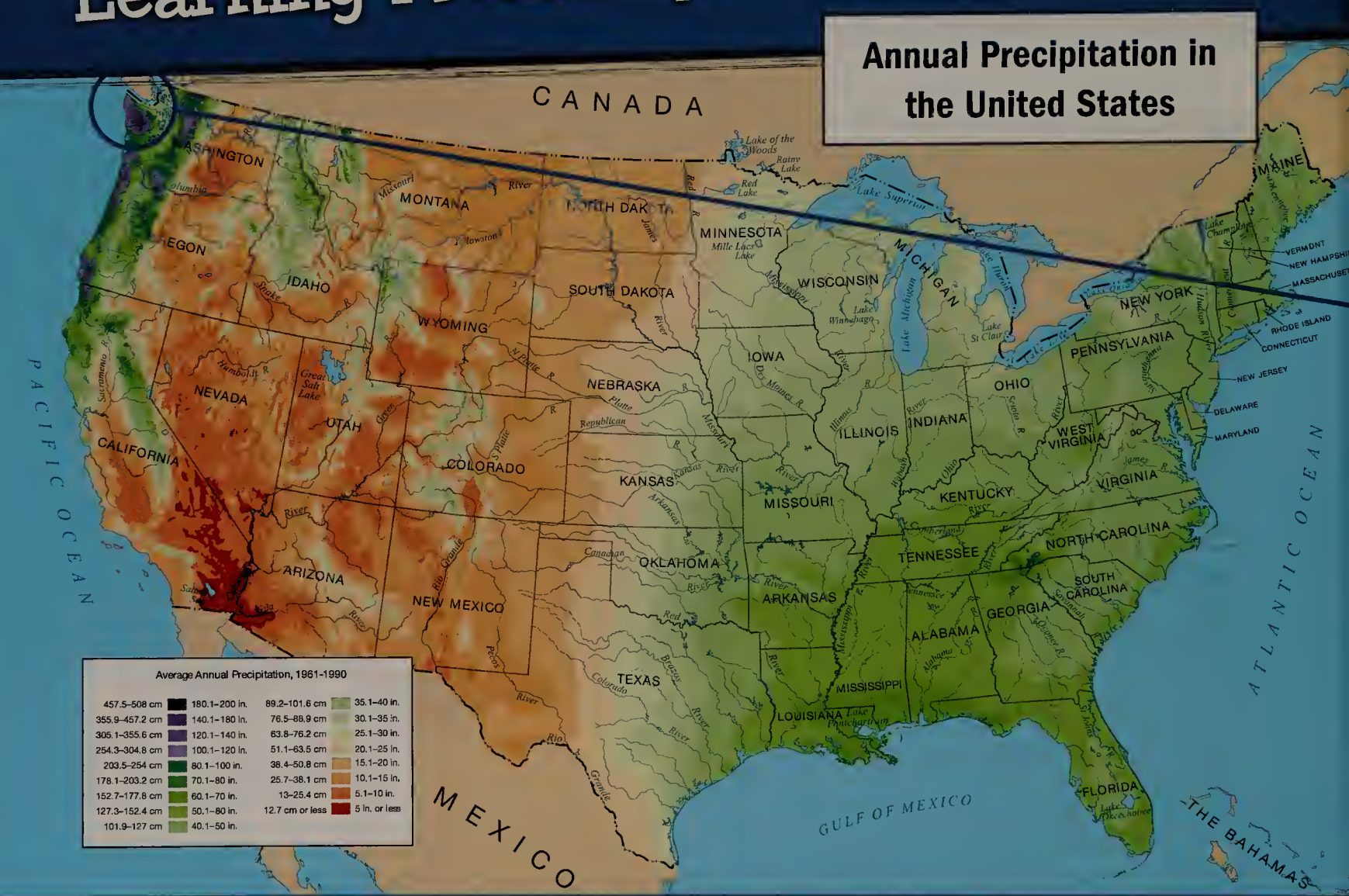




Map: The USGS made this map of Death Valley National Park. *Right:* In orienteering, people find their way using topographic maps and compasses. A compass is a tool that shows which way is north.

Topographic Map of Death Valley, California

Learning From Maps



Not all maps are used for finding your way. Some maps show other information, such as what kind of **climate** an area has. Climate is the pattern of weather in a place. Climate maps may show how much rain a place gets or how hot it gets in the summer.

Population maps show the numbers of people that live in different areas. **Demographic** maps show us certain things about a population. They can show us how old the people who live there are or how much money they make.

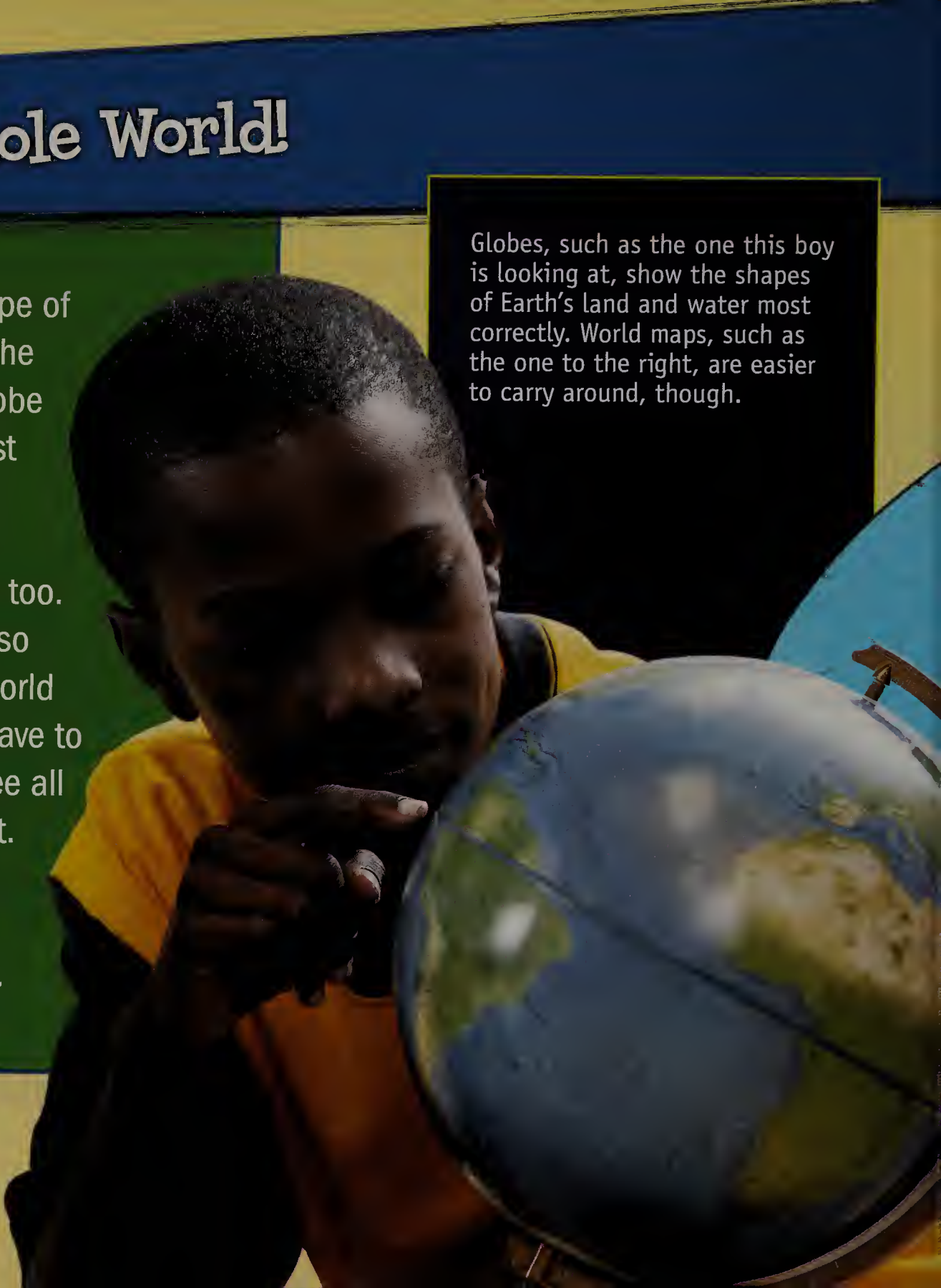
Land-use maps show how people use land. For example, they can show where people grow different crops.

Hoh Rain Forest, seen here, is in western Washington. As you can see on the map to the left, that area is one of the rainiest parts of the United States.

The Whole World!

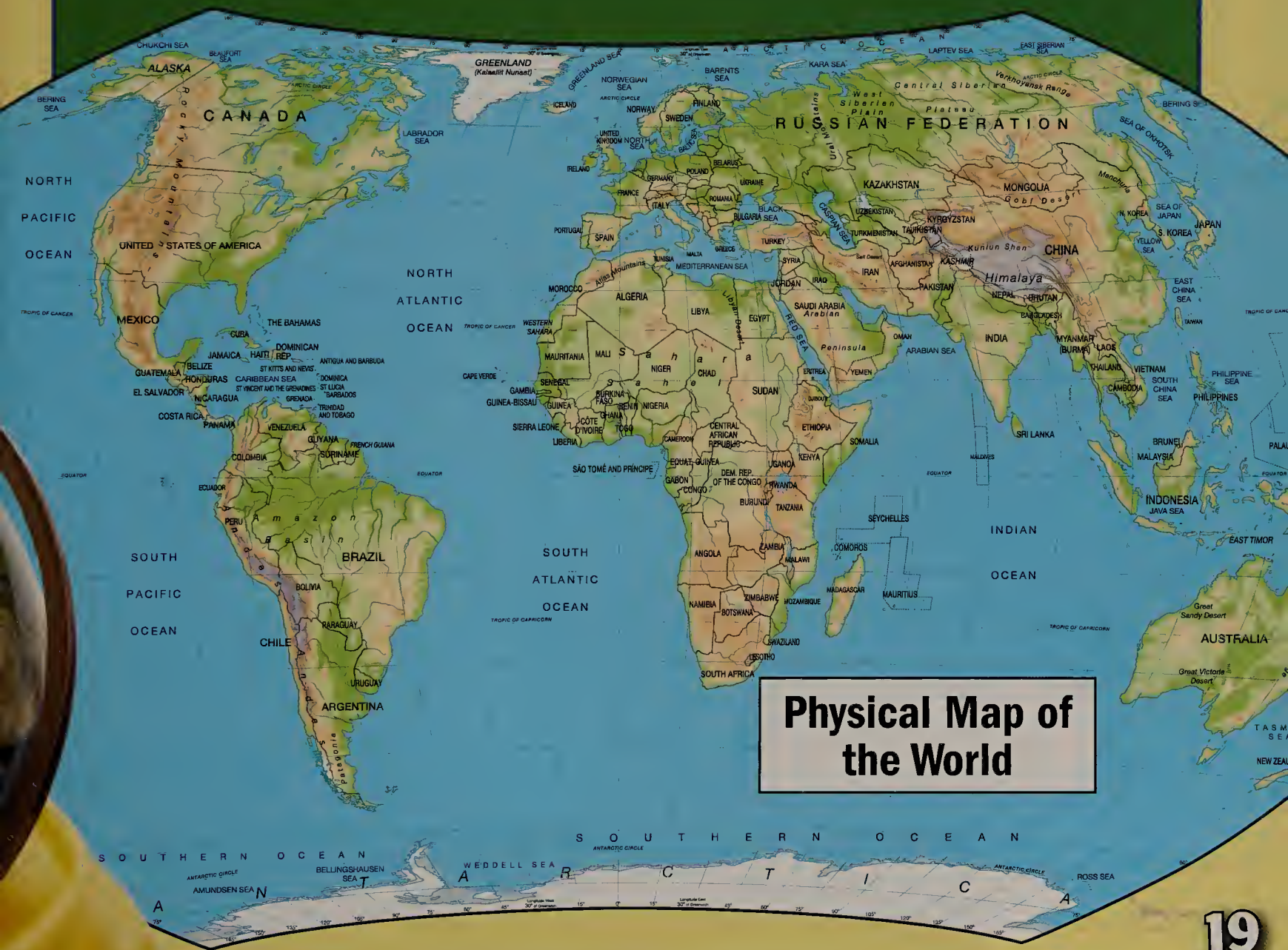
A globe is a type of map that shows the whole world. A globe is not flat, as most maps are. It is a **sphere**, or a ball. Earth is a sphere, too.

World maps also show the whole world but are flat. You have to spin a globe to see all the countries on it. World maps show you the whole world at one time.



Globes, such as the one this boy is looking at, show the shapes of Earth's land and water most correctly. World maps, such as the one to the right, are easier to carry around, though.

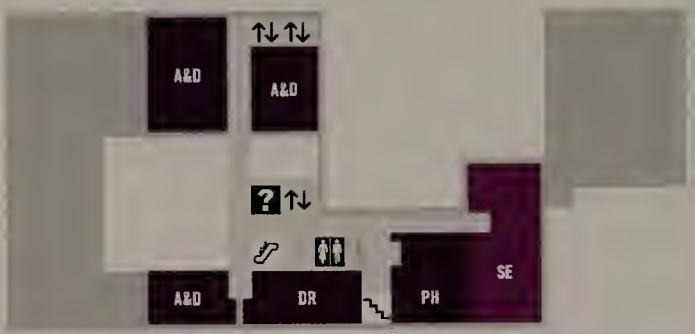
However, mapmakers must change the shapes of landmasses to make everything fit on one map. This often makes countries that are far north or far south look bigger on the map than they are in real life.



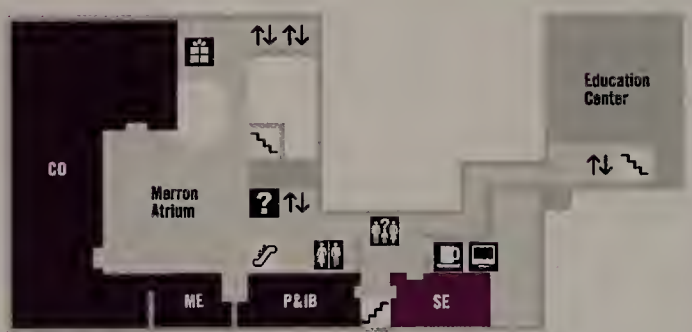
Floor Plans

The Museum of Modern Art

3 Architecture and Design (A&D)
Drawings (DR)
Photography (PH)
Special Exhibitions (SE)

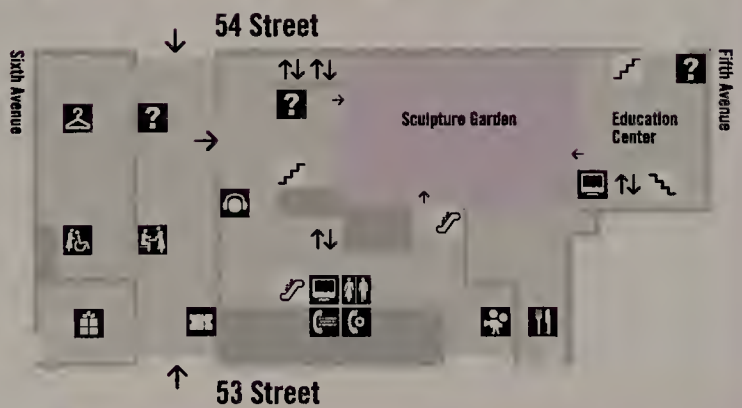


2 Contemporary Galleries (CO)
Prints and Illustrated Books (P&IB)
Media (ME)
Special Exhibitions (SE)
Café
Store



1 Lobby
Store
Restaurant
Sculpture Garden

PLEASE NOTE:
The Sculpture Garden closes during inclement weather.



Legend

- Tickets
- Information
- Education and Family Information
- Member Services
- Audio Programs
- Checkroom
- Wheelchair Pick-up
- Restroom/Baby Changing Station
- Family Restroom
- Film Desk
- Store
- Café
- Restaurant
- MoMA.guide
- Telephone
- TTY
- Elevator
- Escalator
- Stairs
- Non-public Area

This map shows what is on the first three floors of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. Museum maps are often floor plans. They help visitors find their way around.

Floor plans are maps of the insides of buildings. They show the shapes and sizes of rooms. Floor plans use symbols to show where doors, windows, and staircases are. Thick lines often show walls, while empty rectangles in those lines often stand for windows. Some floor plans even show where furniture is in a building.

Many malls have floor plans. They show where each store is. This helps shoppers find their way. They also show where the restrooms and food courts are. All kinds of buildings have floor plans. Floor plans sometimes have measurements. They show how long a wall is or how big a window is.

People often look at floor plans before they buy or build a house. People use floor plans to decide where to put their furniture, too.

Maps, Maps, and More Maps!

Maps can show us many things. When a weatherman tells you that it is going to rain, how does he know? He looks at a weather map. Weather maps show what the weather is like at a certain time. If you want to see lots of maps in one place, look in an atlas. Atlases are books with maps of every country.

Maps are very useful. Whether you want to learn about faraway countries or an upcoming blizzard, there is a map that you can use!

Could you find where you live on a globe? Looking at a globe helps you understand how big the world is.

Glossary

climate (KLY-mut) The kind of weather a certain place has.

continents (KON-tuh-nents) Earth's seven large landmasses.

contour lines (KON-toor LYNZ) Lines on a topographic map that show areas of the same elevation.

demographic (deh-muh-GRA-fik) Having to do with the study of groups of people.

elevation (eh-luh-VAY-shun) The height of an object.

features (FEE-churz) Special parts.

information (in-fer-MAY-shun) Knowledge or facts.

interstate highways (in-ter-STAYT HY-wayz) Highways that cross from one state to another.

population (pop-yoo-LAY-shun) A group of people living in the same place.

sphere (SFEER) An object that is shaped like a ball.

symbols (SIM-bulz) Objects or pictures that stand for something else.

three-dimensional (three-deh-MENCH-nul) Having height, width, and depth. A flat picture, such as a photograph, is two-dimensional. A sculpture is three-dimensional.

topographic (tah-puh-GRA-fik) Having to do with a type of map that shows different regions, such as mountains, lakes, and forests.

transit systems (TRANT-sut SIS-temz) All the ways, such as subways and buses, that people use to get around places.

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Index

Web Sites

Due to the changing nature of Internet links, PowerKids Press has developed an online list of Web sites related to the subject of this book. This site is updated regularly. Please use this link to access the list:
www.powerkidslinks.com/maps/different/

TITLES IN THIS SERIES

DIFFERENT KINDS OF MAPS

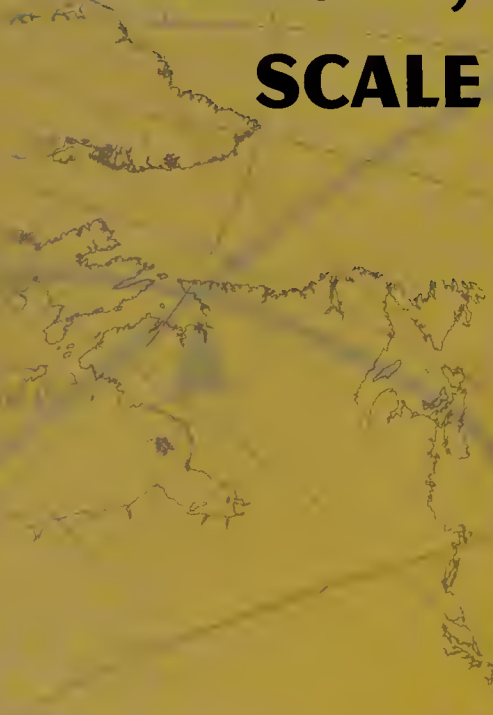
GPS AND COMPUTER MAPS

HOW TO DRAW A MAP

KEYS, LEGENDS, AND SYMBOLS IN MAPS

LATITUDE, LONGITUDE, AND DIRECTION

SCALE AND DISTANCE IN MAPS



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