

Resources

Check your local library for information on maps and compasses. If you have access to the Internet, try using various search engines to look for the information you need.

A field trip to a nearby museum or the local U.S. Geological Survey office may provide an excellent hands-on experience in your local community.

Map Colors

- Black—Man-made features
- Blue—Water features
- Green—Wooded areas
- Brown—Contour lines
- Red—Important roads, range lines
- Red tint—Urban areas
- Purple tint—Revisions since last map edition

Map symbols



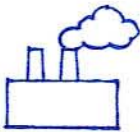
Lake



River



Forest



Factory



Park



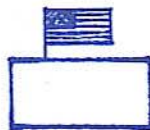
Bridge



Picnic area



Hospital



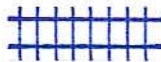
School



Town



Road



Railroad



Capital city



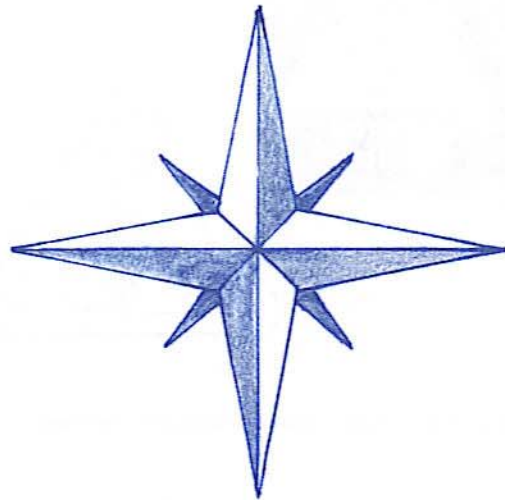
Fire station



Airport

Symbols are often used when people make maps.

Compass Rose



Make a Compass

Things needed:

Magnet

Straight pin or needle

Piece of cork about 1 inch (4 centimeters) wide by ¼ inch (1 centimeter) thick

Bowl or saucer of water

Rub one end of the pin along the magnet about 12 times. Rub in one direction only. Don't rub back and forth. Lift the pin up each time.

Place the pin on the cork. Gently place the cork in the bowl of water. At first, the pin will swing around, then it will point steadily in one direction. It points along the magnetic line between the earth's north and south poles.

What Is Cartography?

Cartography is the art or technique of making maps or charts.