

Map Skills and Directions

Grade 2-4 · Ages 7-10 · Geography · Maps & Landforms · ★★

Circle the correct answer for each map and directions question.

1. On many maps, what does a star symbol usually mark?
 - (A) a capital city
 - (B) a river
 - (C) an airport
 - (D) a mountain
2. What imaginary line lies 23.5 degrees north of the equator?
 - (A) the Arctic Circle
 - (B) the Tropic of Capricorn
 - (C) the Tropic of Cancer
 - (D) the Prime Meridian
3. What is the line at 0 degrees longitude called?
 - (A) the Tropic of Cancer
 - (B) the equator
 - (C) the border
 - (D) the Prime Meridian
4. On a contour map, what do closely spaced contour lines show?
 - (A) deep water
 - (B) steep land
 - (C) a city
 - (D) flat land
5. What do we call a map that shows the different time zones of the world?
 - (A) a weather map
 - (B) a physical map
 - (C) a floor plan
 - (D) a time zone map
6. Why does a flat world map stretch the land near the poles?
 - (A) map makers like big shapes
 - (B) the poles are really bigger
 - (C) a round Earth cannot be flattened without stretching
 - (D) the ice spreads out

- 7.** What do cartographers do?
(A) they forecast the weather
(B) they make maps
(C) they build bridges
(D) they study stars
- 8.** What do we call the north that a compass needle points to?
(A) magnetic north
(B) the Prime Meridian
(C) the equator
(D) true north
- 9.** What do we call a map that shows how many people live in each area?
(A) a physical map
(B) a population map
(C) a road map
(D) a star map
- 10.** On a map, what does a small airplane symbol usually show?
(A) a school
(B) a campsite
(C) a hospital
(D) an airport
- 11.** What do we call the letters and numbers that help you find a place on a map grid?
(A) a compass rose
(B) a scale
(C) a grid reference
(D) a legend
- 12.** Which direction is halfway between northeast and east?
(A) east-northeast
(B) southeast
(C) west
(D) north
- 13.** What do we call a small map inside a larger map that shows where the area is?
(A) a compass rose
(B) a grid
(C) a legend
(D) an inset map
- 14.** What is another name for the key of a map?
(A) the grid
(B) the scale
(C) the legend
(D) the border

- 15.** What tool do hikers use with a map to know which way they are facing?
- (A) a compass
 - (B) a ruler
 - (C) a thermometer
 - (D) a calculator
- 16.** Where on Earth do all the lines of longitude meet?
- (A) at the Prime Meridian
 - (B) at the North and South Poles
 - (C) in the Pacific Ocean
 - (D) at the equator
- 17.** What does the letter H on a weather map stand for?
- (A) hot weather
 - (B) high pressure
 - (C) hurricane
 - (D) heavy rain
- 18.** What do we call the height of the land above sea level?
- (A) scale
 - (B) longitude
 - (C) latitude
 - (D) elevation
- 19.** What kind of map shows how the land is used, such as farms, forests, and cities?
- (A) a weather map
 - (B) a star map
 - (C) a land-use map
 - (D) a road map
- 20.** Which continent is drawn at the bottom of most world maps?
- (A) Antarctica
 - (B) Europe
 - (C) Africa
 - (D) Asia

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Answer: (D) the Prime Meridian

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Answer: (B) a population map

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