

Grade 4

# U.S. Regions

SAMPLE





NYSTROM

TEACHER'S GUIDE

ENC@MPASS

# U.S. Regions

A HANDS-ON ELEMENTARY  
MAPPING PROGRAM

FIRST EDITION





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## ACTIVITY 6

# Map Scale



Atlas pages 14–15

### Objectives

- Define scale.
- Compare scales on maps.
- Measure distance by using a scale.

### Materials

- ☐ Activity Globes
- ☐ Political Desk Maps
- ☐ map markers
- ☐ rulers

### Getting Started

Introduce the lesson by writing **Distance** on the board. Explain to the class the following:

- Maps and globes show distance. What is distance? (the space between two places or things)
- Because maps and globes are smaller than the places they show, distances on them are also smaller than they are in the real world.
- Today you will learn to use the scale on maps and globes to find real distances.

Below *Distance*, write **Scale**.

### Teaching

#### 1 Define scale.

- Divide students into six groups. Distribute Activity Globes, Political Desk Maps, and map markers to each group.
- Have students turn to pages 14–15 of the atlas. Read the title question to the class. Call on a student to read the introduction aloud. Have other students read the captions and the question boxes. Then review the maps, illustrations, and photos. Ask:
  - What is a map scale? (the distance on the Earth shown by a measurement on a map)
  - What are two ways that maps or globes explain scale? (as a sentence or as a divided bar or line)
- Draw a map scale on the board next to the word *Scale*.

#### 2 Compare scales on maps.

- Have students look at their World Political Desk Maps. Say:
  - In the map legend, find the scale. Point to the bar on the scale. What does it say below the bar? (1 inch stands for 1,380 miles)



- This describes how distance on the map compares to distance in the real world. The scale of a map depends on the size of the area it shows.
- Turn to the United States Political Desk Map. In the legend, underline the sentence that describes the map scale.
- How many miles does one inch stand for?  
(177 miles)
- Which map shows a larger area? (the world map)

### 3 Measure distance by using a scale.

a. Help students measure distance based on the verbal map scale. Have students turn back to their World Political Desk Maps. Say:

- In Africa, draw a line from Kinshasa, Congo, to Nairobi, Kenya. This line is about 1 inch long. Below your line, write **1,380 miles**.
- Use a ruler to draw a 1-inch line in the following places:
  1. In South America, from Quito, Ecuador, to the east
  2. In Asia, from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to the west
- Below each line, write **1,380 miles**.
- Turn to the United States side of the map and find Florida. Draw a line from Orlando to Fort Lauderdale. This line is about 1 inch long. Label this line **177 miles**.
- Draw a line between the cities in each pair.
  1. In Texas, from Austin to Corpus Christi
  2. From Springfield, Illinois, to Indianapolis, Indiana
  3. From San Francisco, California, to Carson City, Nevada
- About how far apart are these cities? (177 miles)

b. Show students how to measure distance using the bar scale. Say:

- On the United States Desk Map, in the legend, find the bar scale. Next to it, write **Bar Scale**.



- In the northeastern United States, draw a line from Trenton, New Jersey, to Providence, Rhode Island.
  - Line up the edge of a sheet of paper with this line. With a pen or pencil, mark the endpoints of the line on your paper. Label the endpoints **Trenton** and **Providence**.
  - Line up the edge of the paper below the bar scale. Place Trenton at 0 on the bar scale.
  - The second mark shows the distance between the two cities. About how far apart are Trenton and Providence? (200 miles)
  - On your map, label the line with this distance.
- c. In the same way, have students measure the distance between the following cities:
1. Olympia, Washington, and Portland, Oregon (about 110 miles)
  2. Detroit, Michigan, and Cleveland, Ohio (about 90 miles)
- d. Have students look at their Activity Globes. Say:
- To measure longer distances, you can add to the bar scale.
  - Look at your Activity Globes. Line up the edge of a sheet of paper with the edge of the bar scale on the globe. Mark **0**, **500**, and **1,000** miles on your paper and label each point.
  - Line up your 1,000-mile mark with 0 on the bar scale. Add tick marks at 500 and 1,000 miles, but label them **1,500** and **2,000**.
  - Repeat these steps to extend your bar scale to 5,000 miles.
  - Use the scale you drew to measure the distance between these pairs of cities. Label each line with its distance in miles.
    1. Bogota, Colombia, to Miami, Florida
    2. Moscow, Russia, to Paris, France
    3. Kinshasa, Congo, to Algiers, Algeria
    4. Perth, Australia, to Sydney, Australia



- e. Explain that because a globe is a sphere like Earth, it is the best tool for finding the shortest global route. Say:
- On the World Political Desk Map, draw a line from Anchorage, Alaska, in the United States east to St. Petersburg, Russia.
  - On the globe, draw exactly the same route.
  - Now, on the Activity Globe, draw a line between Anchorage and St. Petersburg, going north over the North Pole.
  - Which route is shorter—east or north? (north)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Map Scale**

Use your Activity Globe to complete the chart.

1. Measure the distance between the cities in each pair. Write it in the "Distance" column.

2. Number the distances from longest to shortest. Use 1 for the longest distance and 4 for the shortest.

From	To	Distance (miles)	Rank
Brasilia, Brazil In South America	Lima, Peru In South America		
Rome, Italy In Europe	Cairo, Egypt In Africa		
Moscow, Russia In Europe	Washington, D.C., United States In North America		
Lagos, Nigeria In Africa	Tehran, Iran In Asia		

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Activity Sheet 6

## Summarizing and Assessing

### 1. Distribute Activity Sheet 6, *Map Scale*.

- Tell students that they will use what they learned about map scales to complete the chart.
- Have students choose two new cities on the World Political Desk map—each on a different continent. Have them measure the distance between the cities.

## Extending

**MATH** Show students a number of maps drawn at different scales. Lead a discussion to guide students to recognize why maps have different scales. Help them understand that a map drawn at a scale such as 1 inch = 225 miles can show a wide area, while one drawn at a scale such as 1 inch = 1 mile can show greater detail.

# Map Scale

Use your Activity Globe to complete the chart.

1. Measure the distance between the cities in each pair. Write it in the “Distance” column.
2. Number the distances from longest to shortest. Use 1 for the longest distance and 4 for the shortest.

From	To	Distance (miles)	Rank
Brasilia, Brazil in South America	Lima, Peru in South America		
Rome, Italy in Europe	Cairo, Egypt in Africa		
Moscow, Russia in Europe	Washington, D.C., United States in North America		
Lagos, Nigeria in Africa	Tehran, Iran in Asia		



NYSTROM



ATLAS  
of

# OUR COUNTRY'S GEOGRAPHY





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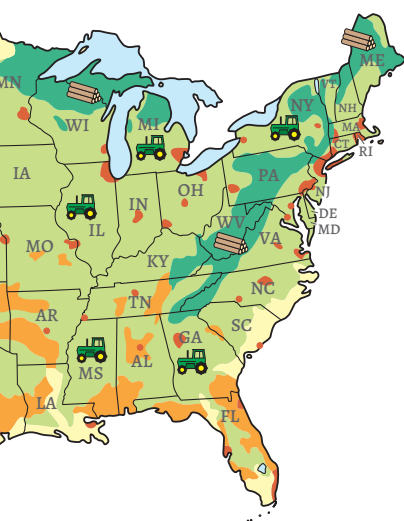
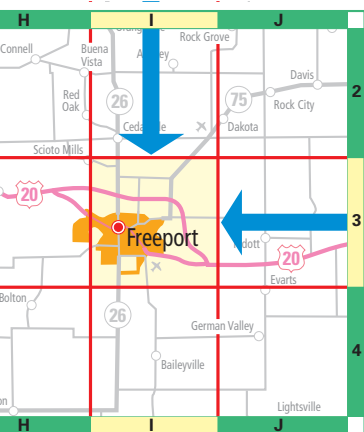
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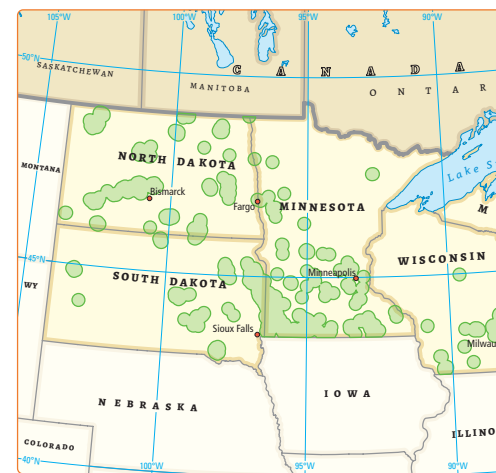
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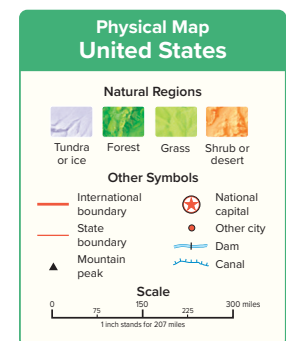
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# How do you use a map scale?

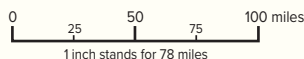
Most maps are drawn to an exact scale. The scale is the distance on Earth shown by a measurement on the map.

- ▶ On some maps, the scale is explained in words.
- ▶ One inch might stand for 1,000 feet on one map and 1,000 miles on another.
- ▶ If the scale is shown as a divided bar or line, you can use it to measure distances on the map.

**A** This map shows Washington, D.C.—our nation’s **capital**—and nearby states, cities, and bodies of water. The steps below show how to use the scale to measure the distances between places.



Near Washington, D.C.



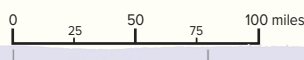
How far is  
Washington, D.C., from  
Dover, Delaware?



**B** First, mark the distance between two cities on a piece of paper.



Near Washington, D.C.



**C** Next, line up your marks with the scale. About how far is it?



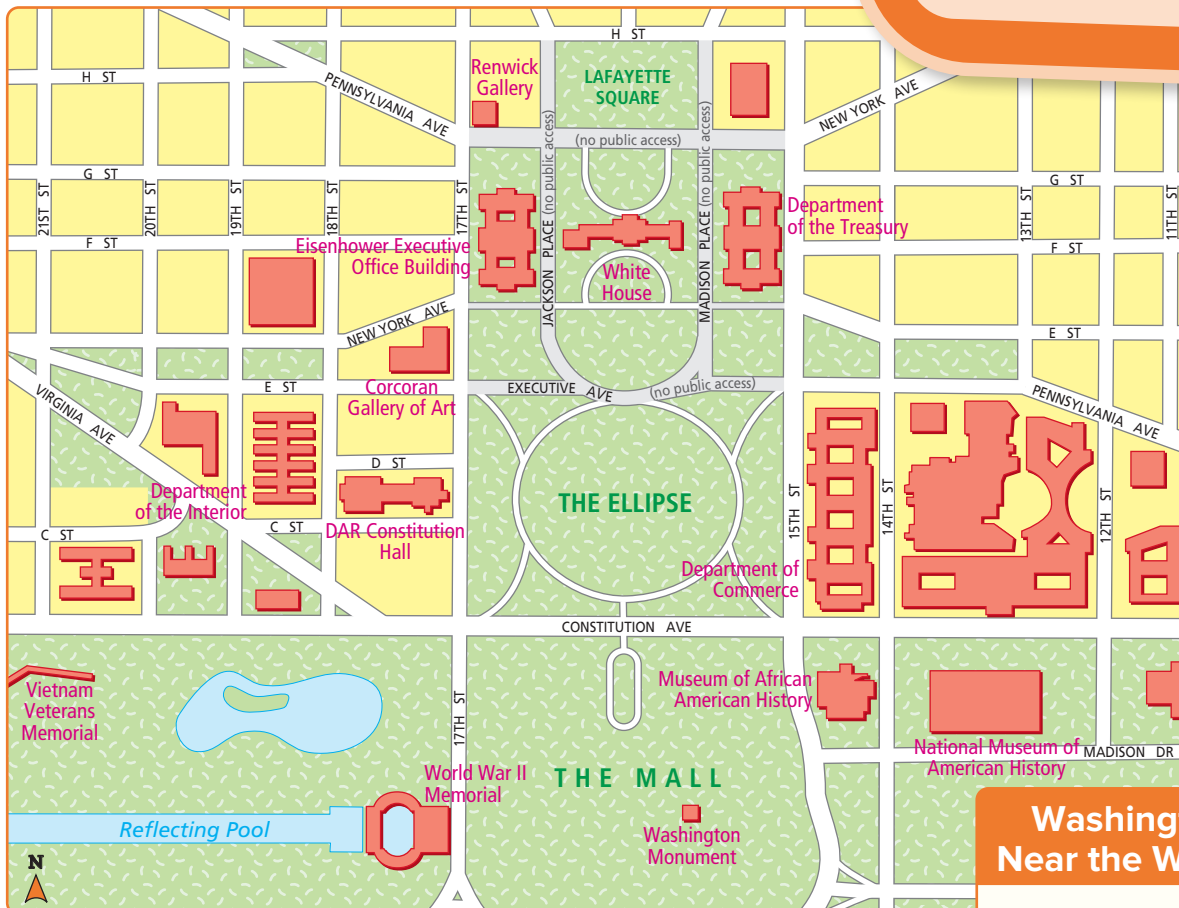
- D** The Washington Monument is one of America's most famous landmarks. Find it on the map of Washington, D.C.



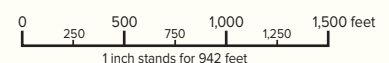
- E** The White House is also located in Washington, D.C. Find the White House on the map below.



How far is the White House from the Washington Monument?



Washington, D.C.,  
Near the White House



- F** The scale of a visitor's map allows it to name streets and even show the "footprints" of buildings.