

my piece of the neighborhood

drawing a map

of my study site

your goal is to:
draw a map of your study site
show buildings, trees, streets, sidewalks, plant areas


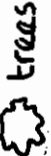
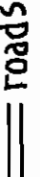

HOW TO READ A MAP

To find a particular town or city a person consults an atlas, which has an index listing all the places contained on its maps. Most maps, however, provide much more information than the location of nations or cities. For certain types of information, of course, a person must consult a specialized map.

It is important to know the map scale, the relation in size to the portion of the globe the map represents. The United States, with the exception of Alaska and Hawaii, may be shown on a large page if the map is drawn to a scale of 1 to 12,000,000. This scale is a small one and indicates that 1 inch on the map represents 12,000,000 inches of the earth's surface or that 1 foot on the map equals 12,000,000 feet on the earth's surface. This map would show the states and their relation to each other, the major rivers and their courses, the large mountain systems, the distribution of the larger lakes, the state capitals, and the larger cities of the United States. It might also show the major railways and roads. If the relation of the United States to the rest of the world is to be shown, the map is drawn to an even smaller scale—1 to 100,000,000, for example. But if a person is interested in a particular state (its counties, cities, towns, hills, and streams), he will consult a map with a larger scale, such as 1 to 2,500,000. This would show the state of Nebraska, for example, on a page 9 by 12 inches. The scale of a map, with a device for measuring in miles or in kilometers, is usually given on the margin of the map.

Finally, maps give a great deal of information by means of symbols. Altitude may be indicated on relief maps by contour lines. These contour lines are drawn through points that are the same elevation above sea level. If the contour interval is 50 feet, then the map has lines through points that are multiples of 50 feet above sea level. The closer the contour lines are together, the steeper the angle of inclination of the ground. Colors may be used to make relief maps more striking to the eye. A typical series of colors used may be as follows: Sea—blue; land at sea level to 1,000 feet—green; 1,000 to 2,000 feet—yellow; 2,000 to 5,000 feet—tan; 5,000 to 9,000 feet—dark brown; and 9,000 feet upward—white. Seas and lakes are colored various shades of blue, depending on their depth. Color may also be used to show political divisions. Rivers on maps may be ribbons of blue, roads may be red, and railroads may be black. State and national capitals are often indicated by a star, and the relative size of a city or town is frequently shown by the size of the type used in its name on the map. The explanation of the devices that the mapmaker uses is usually given at the bottom of the map.

Key

-  buildings
-  trees
-  roads
-  other "stuff"

Physical Setting skill 7-NYS
Core Curriculum - Unit 2-weather
Unit 9- Interdependence - skill 7-
Physical Setting

show North on your map

October