

Map Components

DIRECTIONS: On the document provided, use the guided notes below to identify and define the major components of a map. Follow the prompts and complete the activities included to demonstrate your understanding.

HONORS Students Only: In your ISN, identify, define, and create an example of each of the major map components.

Maps help geographers communicate information and understand the relationship of people to the places where they live. Maps can be used to answer geographic questions, make connections, infer relationships, and analyze change. All maps have certain features that will help you understand the information it is presenting.



Title

The title of the map describes the information it presents. For example, the title of the map above is **Present-Day Eastern Europe**. It shows the continent of Europe with many of its political features. These features include national borders, country names, capital cities, and other major cities.

Legend

The legend lists the symbols used on the map, including any special colors or shading, and identifies what each symbol represents. For example, according to the legend on the map above:



This represents the capital cities of Eastern European nations



This represents other major cities found in Eastern Europe

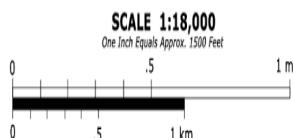
In your ISN, create a legend for the map on your document. Draw a green line to represent the Equator, a blue line for the Prime Meridian, and orange for lines of latitude. On the map, trace each of these lines in marker and label them.

Compass Rose

The compass rose shows where the four cardinal directions- **NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, and WEST**- are found on the map. If a map has no compass rose, then you should assume that **NORTH** is at the top of the map.



Scale



Cartographers (mapmakers) reduce the size of a map to fit it onto a page. A scale is used to show how much a map has been reduced, and it is used to show the actual distance between places on the map. Map scales are often shown as a line marked *Scale of Miles*. On the map above, one inch represents 200 miles.