

# Maps

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Maps help us find our way around. They let us see the world as if we were birds in the sky.

How did maps begin? Long ago, people used maps to show where water could be found or where crops would grow well.

When they traveled from place to place, they used maps that showed paths and rivers. Some maps may have shown where to cross over mountains.

People made maps in many ways. Early maps were made on blocks of clay, on the bark of trees, and on animal skins. They were painted on cloth, and cut into stone, wood, or bone. All of them showed just the area where people lived.

People in Greece became very good at making maps. They made maps that showed the best ways to travel by land and sea. Many of their maps used a map scale to show the distance from city to city.

As time passed, maps got better and better. The newer maps had more facts on them. Today, maps show all the oceans and continents. It is easy to see how countries and states connect. Some maps show the way from city to city. Other maps show streets and places in the cities. Maps play an important part in our lives.

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