# Let's Learn All About Maps!



Inside you will find fun activities to help you learn about maps and how they are used in everyday life.

Keep an eye out for me, Sandy, for fun facts and helpful hints along the way!



**Oregon Ecogregions** 



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#### What Are Maps Used For?

A map is a representation of an area. Maps can show you how to get somewhere, display where things are located, and show the distance between things.

Who uses maps? Everyone! Maps are guides that help people with many different activities. There are even specific maps for different activities, such as hiking, biking, sailing, camping, caving, public transit, and scavenger hunts. Hikers sometimes use *topographic* maps to show how steep mountains are; construction workers use maps called *blueprints* as a guide for constructing new buildings; and meteorologists use *satellite* and *radar* maps to predict the weather. These are just a few examples of the many different kinds of maps!

Hi! I'm Sandy the Chinook Salmon. I'm the official Oregon state fish, and I'll be your friendly guide through the activities in this book! I



#### What is a Map?



#### Picture



A picture shows places as they appear in real life. This picture shows a view of Crater Lake that you would see if you went there yourself and looked at the lake from ground level.



A "cartographer" is a person who makes maps.



#### **Aerial Photo**

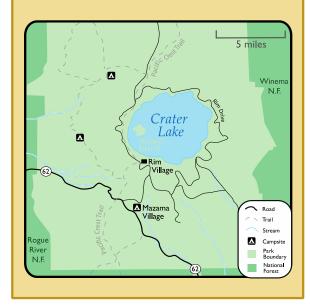
An aerial photo is a picture taken from an airplane or satellite. This photo shows Crater Lake from above.





#### Map

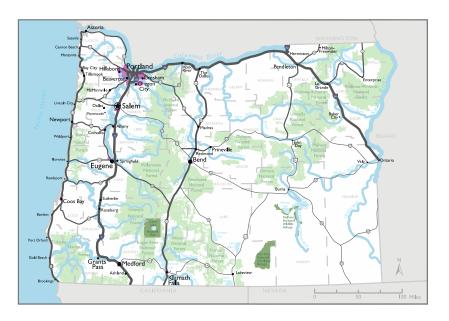
A map is like a photograph taken from directly overhead - a bird's eye view. The map maker uses colors, lines, symbols, and labels to represent the features that we would see in the photograph.



#### Types of Maps

#### General Reference

General Reference Maps use symbols to show the exact location of things on the earth. For example, where the black line is drawn for the roads is where you can actually find the road in real life. The map of Oregon, below, is an example of a general reference map.



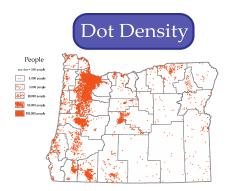
#### Thematic

Thematic Maps use symbols to show a pattern or "theme." Usually, the symbols used on these maps are not in an exact location because the maps provide only general information about the theme or pattern. The map of Oregon's ecoregions, below, is an example of a thematic map.

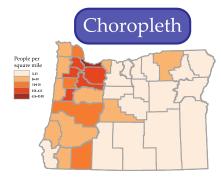


#### Types of Thematic Maps

All five thematic maps show where people live in Oregon, but each map uses a different way to show that distribution.



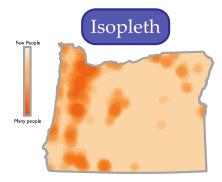
- One dot equals a certain number of people
- If dots are close together, lots of people live in one area
- If dots are spread out, not very many people live in one area



- Each county is shaded a color to show density or number of people per square mile
- The symbol covers an entire county, but it does not mean that people live everywhere inside the county



- One circle represents how many people live in that county
- The size of the circle is proportional to the number of people that live in a county - the more people that live in a county, the larger the circle



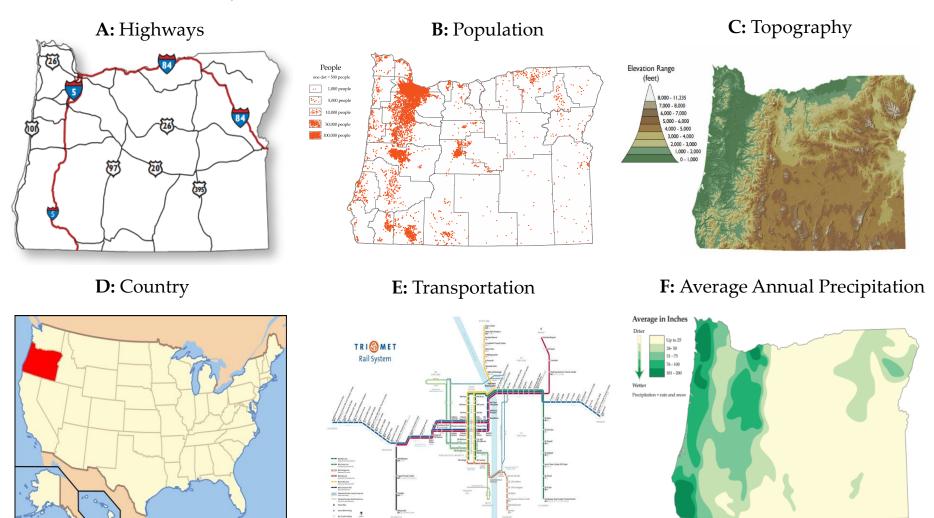
- This map shows a continuous distribution of population
- Because we do not know how many people live in every single place in Oregon, we take an average of two cities in an area to estimate the number of people in that area



- This map draws boundaries around different groups of people (for example, urban residents and rural residents)
- The map does not show how many people are in each group, just where each group is located

## Examples of Map Types

Below are some examples of different maps of Oregon and Portland. Some of the maps are *general reference* and some are *thematic*; can you tell which is which?



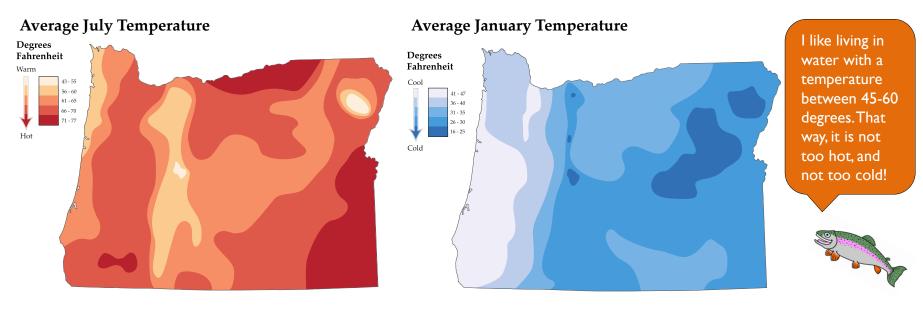
## Map Types Activity

Different maps show different information depending on the map's purpose. Use the maps on the previous page to answer the questions below.

Which map would be the most helpful while driving across Oregon? Why?
Which map would be the most helpful for comparing Oregon's size with the size of other states? Why?
Which map would be most helpful for getting around Portland without a car? Why?
Which map might a farmer use to decide what types of crops to plant? Why?
Which map would be the most helpful for finding the locations of Oregon's mountains and valleys? Why?
Which map shows where people live? Which part of Oregon has the most people living in it? Which area has the least?  Why do you think this is?
Which of the maps are general reference maps, and which are thematic maps? How can you tell?

#### Comparing Maps of Oregon

Below are two *thematic* maps of Oregon showing the average temperatures for July and January. There is a *map key* to the left of each map explaining what the different color variations on the maps mean in terms of temperature. Use the maps to answer the questions below.

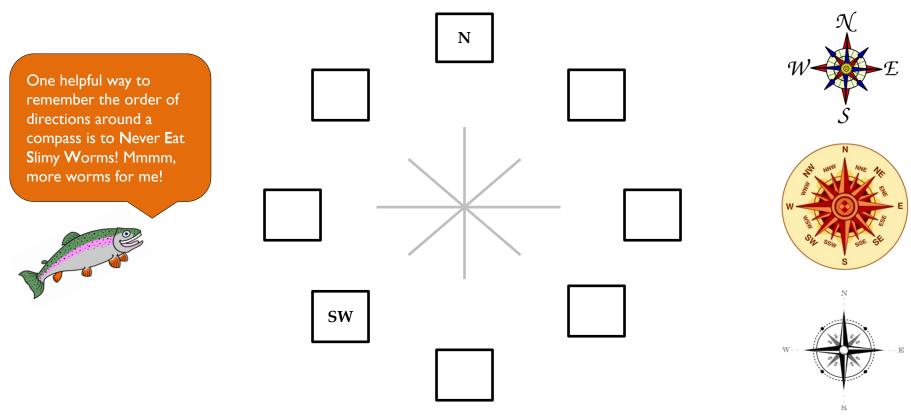


- 1. On the July temperature map, circle and label the best places in Oregon to go to escape the heat, and identify the hottest parts of the state. On the January temperature map, circle and label the coldest and warmest areas in Oregon.
- 2. Why is there a cold spot in Northeast Oregon in July? (Hint: think of the role <u>topography</u> plays in temperature)\_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Why do you think the Oregon coast is cooler than the Willamette Valley in the winter and warmer than the Willamette Valley in the summer? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Orientation Activity

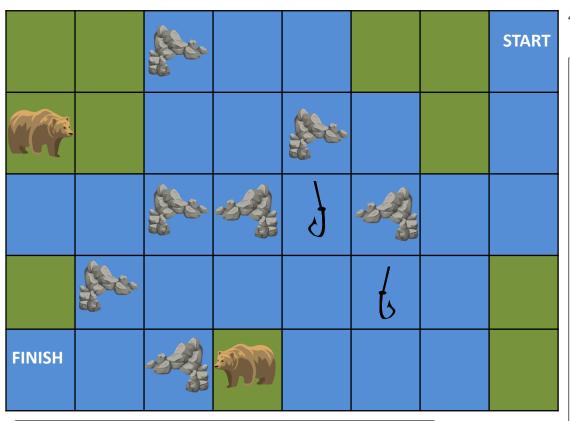
Which way is which on a map? Most maps have a *compass rose*, which tells the reader which direction is which. You can usually find the compass rose on the top, bottom, or corner of the map. It's also often near the legend. There are four main directions on a compass: North, East, South, and West. North is usually at the top of the compass. Below are some examples of what a compass rose looks like. In addition to being helpful they are also often beautiful and ornate.

Below, draw your own compass rose using the lines as your guide, and fill in the missing direction letters.



#### Orientation and Directions Activity

Now that you know how to orient yourself using a compass, help Sandy get to the end of the spawning stream! Below, write directions to the finish line, specifying N, E, S, W and NE, SE, SW, NW, and how many squares to go. Sandy has to stay in the water (Sandy can not go through rocks or on land), and it is your job to make sure Sandy does not end up in the same square as any predators (being diagonal to one is okay) like the fishhooks and bears in this stream.



Adult Chinook salmon like me can spend between one and eight years in the ocean before returning to the stream where we were born (called a "natal stream") to spawn!



Use the compass for reference when writing out directions

	Directions for Sandy:
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	
13.	
14.	
15.	

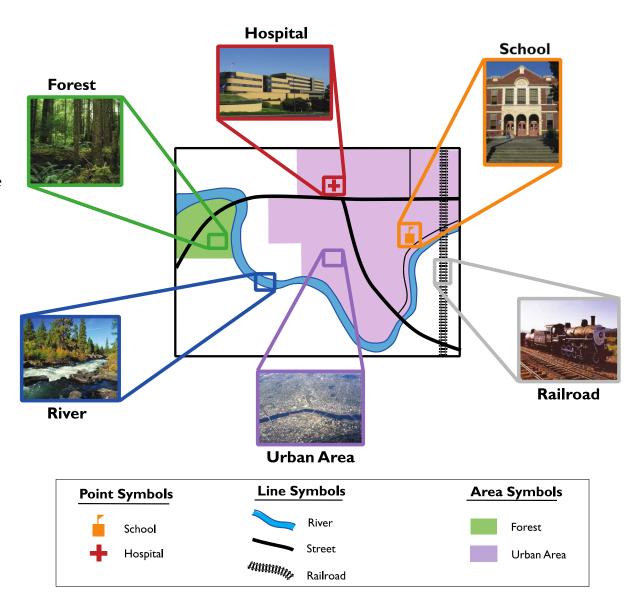
## Map Legends and Keys: How Cartographers Use Symbols

Cartographers use different symbols on maps to represent real features from the world. Three common types of symbols are point symbols, line symbols and area symbols.

Cartographers use point symbols to show exactly where one thing (a school or a hospital) is located on the map. The symbol is usually a dot or a picture.

When a feature is long and in the shape of a line, cartographers use line symbols to represent these things. On the map, a blue line is used for a river and a black line is used for a road.

When something on a map is not a specific point, but rather a whole area, a cartographer uses an area symbol. These symbols shade an area to represent places such as forests, urban areas, and oceans.



#### Map Legends and Map Key Activity

**How do you show what things are on a map?** *Map legends* (also called *map keys*) are guides that show what the different symbols and features on maps represent. The legend, or key, can usually be found in a small box on one edge of the map.

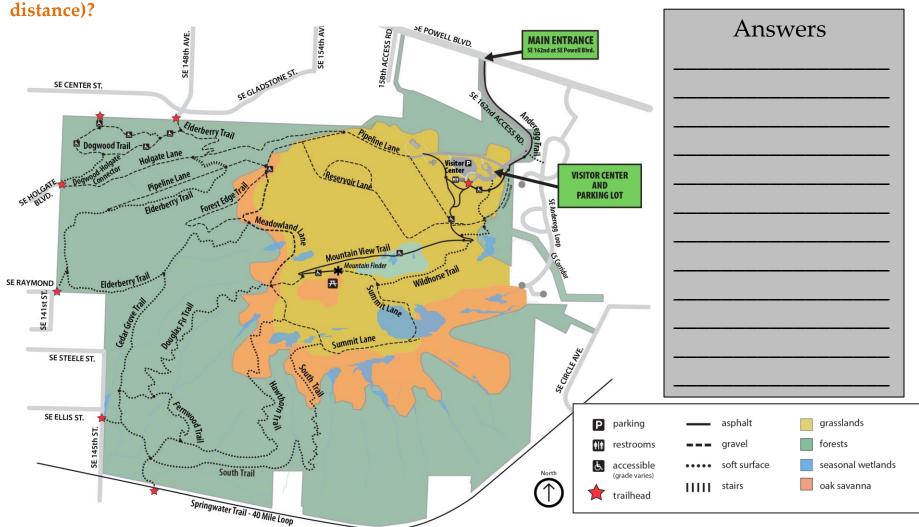
On a map key or legend	<u>r</u>	
A school might look like this: A hospital might look like this: A river might look like this: A street or highway might look like to Train tracks might look like this:	this:	My symbol would probably look something like this! I'm pretty cute, huh?
1. What could represent?		
2. What could represent? _		
3. What could represent _		

Now it's your turn! Create three map symbols below. Make sure to write down what each symbol represents.

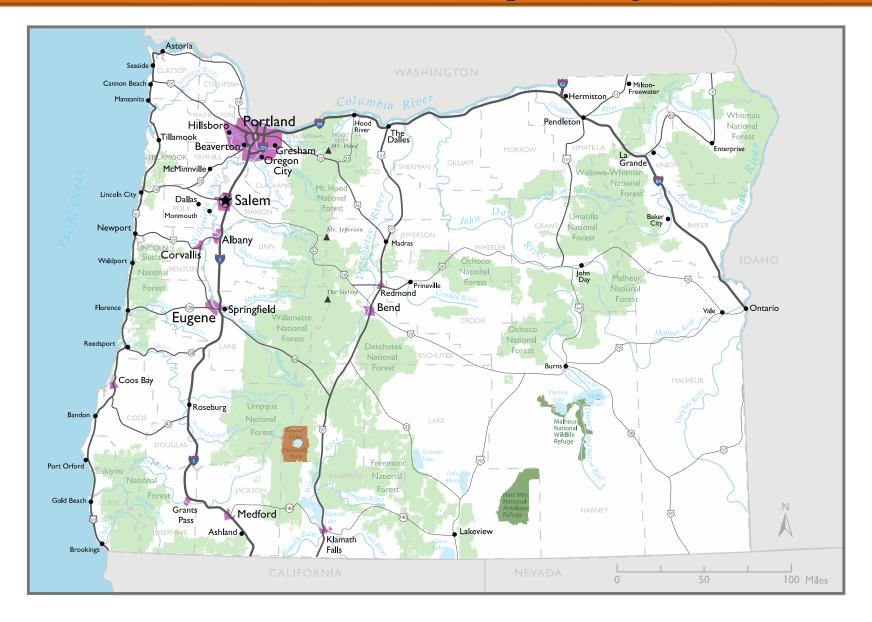
Symbol for:	Symbol for:	Symbol for:

#### Map Legends and Keys Activity

Why are map legends important? Below is a map of Powell Butte Nature Park and its trails in Portland, Oregon. What role does the map legend play in helping visitors plan a hike? What features can the legend help you find? Is there anything you would add to the legend that you often find in maps (such as



## General Reference Map of Oregon



## Reading a Map of Oregon

Oregon is a big place! The state is is 96,981 square miles (or 251,161 square kilometers) in size, and as of 2016 Oregon was home to nearly 4 million people. Portland alone has a population of approximately 610,000 people, and the city is still growing. Portland is the biggest city in Oregon, followed by Eugene and Salem (the state capital). The map above shows Oregon's cities, major roads, state forests, and the sole national park. Can you find your home on the map? What places in Oregon have you visited?

Create a map legend for the map of Oregon on Page 13. Draw four symbols and write their meanings below:

Use the information on this p	age and the map	of Oregon on	Page 13 to	answer
the questions below:				

- 1. Can you find Portland on the map? Where is it (North, East, Southwest, etc.)?
- 2. What town is the farthest south in Oregon? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. What four states border Oregon? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. How are forests represented on this map?\_\_\_\_\_
- 5. What is the name of Oregon's only National Park? (Hint: it's depicted in brown on the map)
- 6. There are thee major roads that run all the way through Oregon, from Washington to California. What are they? Have you been on any of them before?

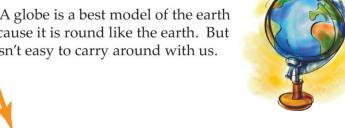
I live in the Columbia River, which borders Washington and Oregon Can you find my home on the map? Can you find your city or town on the map?



## Making a Globe Become a Map

#### How do you make something round become flat?

1. A globe is a best model of the earth because it is round like the earth. But it isn't easy to carry around with us.



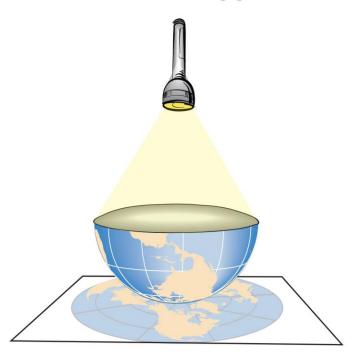
2. Cartographers have to find a way make the round earth flat so we can carry it around.



3. Once we flatten the round globe out, it stretches and changes shapes and sizes of the continents as it does when you flatten cookie dough.

#### What is a Map Projection?

A map projection is how cartographers flatten the earth onto paper

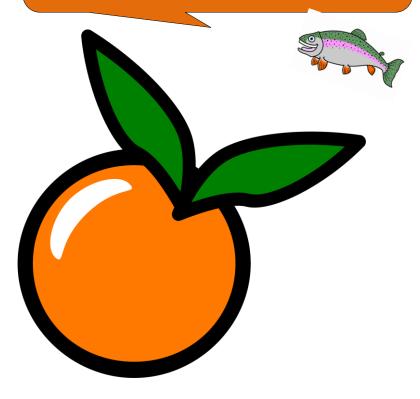


A map projection can be made by shining a flashlight into the middle of the globe and putting a piece of paper on the globe. Then, the flashlight shines onto the paper and you can trace the continents.

#### Map Projection Activity

Now that you understand how maps take a three dimensional object and make it two dimensional, let's practice taking a "three-dimensional" image and making it flat. Imagine that the orange below represents the Earth (they are both round). If you peel the orange, what will the peel look like when you flatten it out? Draw it below.

Woah! That's a big orange! Remember, when you make any three dimensional object two dimensional there will always be some error. With modern map-making technology the error is much less than it used to be.



#### Map Distortions

When we flatten a round earth onto a piece of paper, there will be problems with any projection we choose. Just as flattening a ball of cookie dough stretches and pulls the dough into a new surface, the map projection stretches and pulls the parts of the earth into a new surface so it all can lie flat on the paper.

Since we know that all map projections have errors (distortions), we have to know what types of errors a map has so that we can pick the best projection to show the information we want to map. Maps will have distortions of one or more of these properties: **Distance**, **Direction**, **Area**, **Shape**, or **Scale**.

#### **Mercator Projection**



Greenland is the same size as Africa on this map. The Mercator Projection distorts **area**.

#### **Gall-Peters Projection**



South America looks like it has been stretched. The Gall-Peters Projection distorts **shape**.

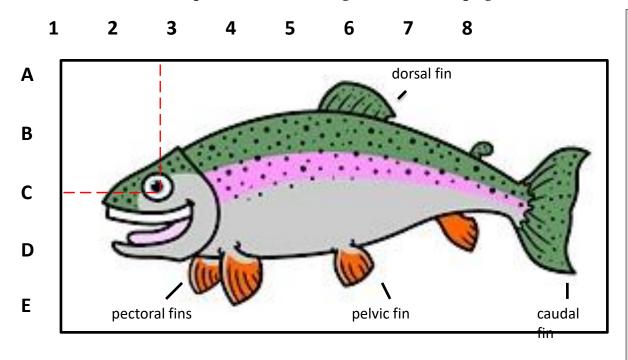
#### Winkel Tripel Projection: A Compromise



Some projections, known as compromise projections, have distortions but map makers try to make them as small as possible so that the map projection looks like what we are used to seeing on the globe. The Winkel Tripel Projection, for example, has distortions of area, direction, and distance, but they are small distortions.

## Map Grid Systems Activity

A lot of maps use a grid system to help the reader find specific locations more quickly. Below is an example of a grid system, which we will use to identify various parts of Sandy the Salmon. Follow the steps below, and then answer the questions on the right side of the page.



#### Where is Sandy's eye located?

- 1. First, find the letter C on the side of the map
- 2. Next, find the number 2 on the top of the map
- 3. Draw a line across from C to Sandy's eye
- 4. Draw a line down from 2 to Sandy's eye
- 5. The two lines meet at C2 Sandy's eye is located at "C2"!

Now that you know how a grid system works, draw the connecting lines and give the location of these other parts of Sandy:

1. Caudal fin \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Dorsal fin \_\_\_\_\_\_

3. The pectoral fins are located at: \_\_\_\_\_\_

4. What do you find at D5? \_\_\_\_\_

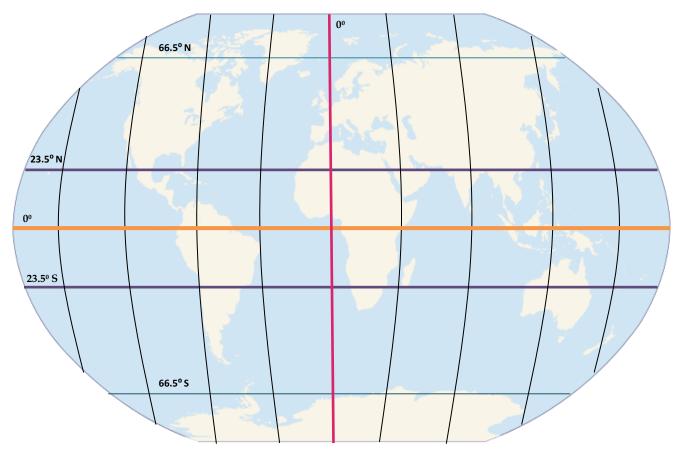
5. Draw something for Sandy to eat at B1. What did you draw?\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_

#### Map Grids and Key Lines

The Earth is almost a perfect sphere. The **Equator** (**orange line**) is located at 0° latitude, splitting the Northern and Southern hemispheres (hemisphere means "half a sphere"). The **Prime Meridian** (**pink line**), located at 0° longitude, splits the Eastern and Western hemispheres. The **Tropic of Cancer** is located at 23.5° North, and the **Tropic of Capricorn** is located at 23.5° South (**purple lines**). The **Arctic Circle** is located at 66.5° North, and the **Antarctic Circle** is located at 66.5° South (**teal lines**).

Now that you know about key lines, label the Equator, Prime Meridian, Arctic Circle, Antarctic Circle, and Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer on the map below.



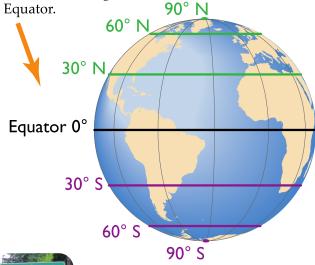
Fun fact! The Earth is over 70% water, and only 2.5% is fresh water. This is good for fish like me, since many salmon are anadromous, which means we spend part of our lives in fresh water, and part of our lives in salt water.



#### Latitude and Longitude Lines

#### Latitude

Lines of latitude go across the earth from East to West, but they measure the globe from North to South starting at the Equator.

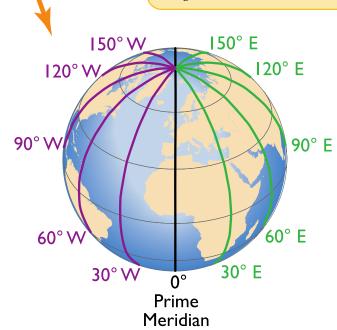


45TH PARALLEL HALF WAY BETWEEN THE EQUATOR AND NORTH POLE

In this picture, the sign marks the 45th parallel, but there is no line on the ground because the these lines are imaginary. We draw imaginary lines on the earth to help us find and explain exact locations of places on earth.

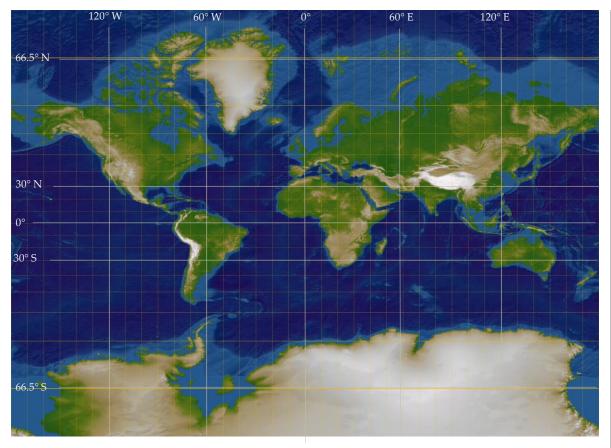
#### Longitude

Lines of longitude run across the globe from North to South, but measure East and West starting at the Prime Meridian. To find a place exactly, we need crossing lines that create an intersection or grid system. One grid system used by cartographers is the Latitude and Longitude Grid. Each location on the globe touches a line of latitude and a line of longitude. The crossing of the latitude and longitude lines is called a **coordinate**. Latitude and longitude are measured in degrees represented by the symbol "o". The coordinates for Salem, Oregon are Latitude 45° North and Longitude 123° West.



#### Map Grids and Key Lines Activity

Now that you understand how the Earth's grid system works, it's time to practice. Below is an image of a *Mercator Projection*, one of the most popular map styles. **Use the map below and the information on Pages** 19 and 20 to answer the questions below.

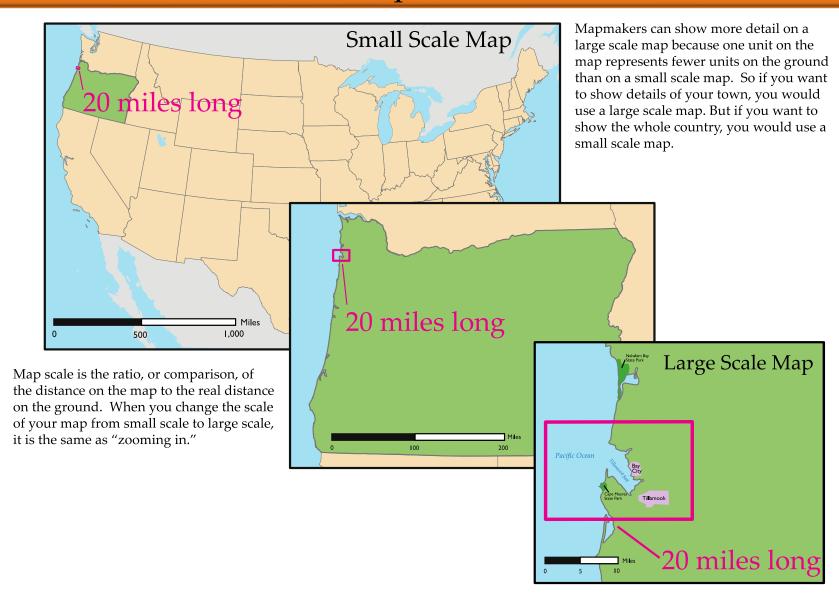


Portland, Oregon is located at 45° N and 122° W. Eugene, Oregon's second largest city, can be found at 44° N and 123° W. Salem, which is the state capital and the third largest city, is also located at 44° N and 123° W.

- 1. On the map, draw and label the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. Make sure to include the degrees of latitude.
- 2. If you were standing at 30° South latitude and 60° West longitude, what continent would you be on?
- 3. What country would you be in if you were at 60° North latitude and 120° West longitude? \_\_\_\_\_
- 1. At what latitude and longitude can you find the southern tip of Africa?

1. Why is it important to indicate north, east, south, and west when you refer to degrees latitude and longitude?

#### Map Scale



#### Map Scale Activity

When map scale is changed to show a large area without much detail (think of it as "zooming out") it is a *small scale* map. When the scale is changed to show a small area with lots of detail (think of it as "zooming in"), it is a *large scale* map. Use the spaces below to draw a small and large scale map of your school yard.

Small scale	Large scale
Siliuli scure	Eurge seure

#### Using Scale Bars

## Ways to Represent Scale

#### Graphic Scale



You can use the scale bar to measure distances on the map.

#### Verbal Scale

1 centimeter equals 1,000 meters

You can use a ruler to measure distances on the map and then multiply the distance by 1,000 to find out the distance on the ground.

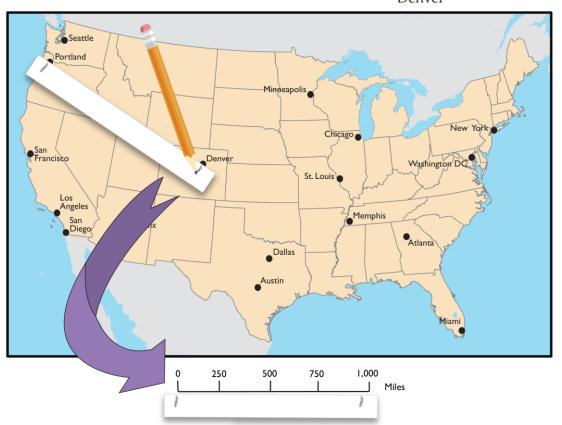
# Representative Fraction

1:100,000

This ratio tells you that one unit (inch, centimeter, meter, etc.) on the map is equal to 100,000 of the same units on the ground. So if you found a distance of 5 centimeters on the map, you would know that it is equal to 500,000 centimeters on the ground.

# Using the map scale to measure from Portland, OR to Denver, CO:

- 1. Put a piece of paper on the map to connect Portland and Denver
- 2. Draw marks on the paper where the dots are
- 3. Place the paper under the map scale and determine how many miles it is from Portland to Denver



#### Map of the United States



Verbal Scale: One inch on the map is equivalent to 320 miles on the ground

#### Scale Activity

**How do I show map scale?** The map of the United States on the page above uses two means of showing scale: a *Graphic Scale* and a *Verbal Scale*. Use the map of the United States and the instructions below to determine distances using the map scales.

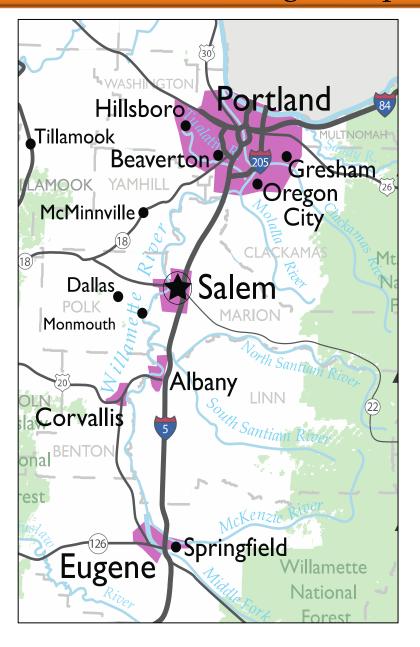
Find the following sets of state capitals on the map:

1. Austin, Texas	and	Salem, Oregon
2. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania	and	Madison, Wisconsin
3. Santa Fe, New Mexico	and	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
4. Sacramento, California	and	Richmond, Virginia
5. Helena, Montana	and	Phoenix, Arizona

Next, use a ruler and a pencil to trace the distance between each set of points, and write down the number of inches between each set of cities below. Then, using the Graphic Scale or Verbal Scale, calculate how many miles are between each set of cities and write the answer below

	Inches Between Cities	Miles Between Cities
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
<b>5.</b>		

## Reading a Map of the Willamette Valley



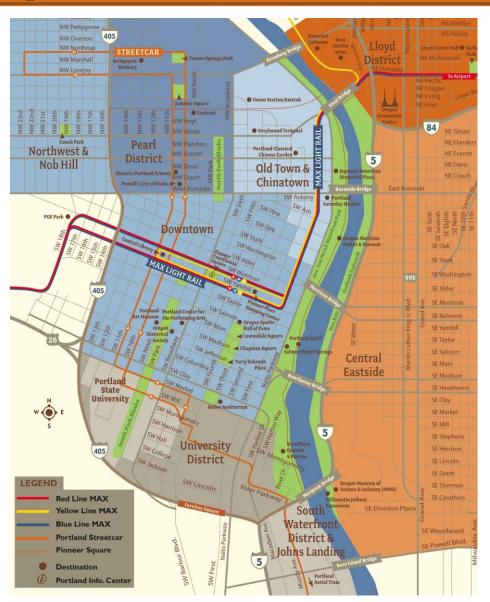
Now that you know how to use different forms of map scale, let's apply that knowledge to reading a map of Oregon's Willamette Valley. The Willamette Valley is an important physical and cultural region of the State of Oregon and, as you already learned, most of Oregon's population lives there. Use the map to the left to answer the questions below.

1.	In real life, the straight line distance between downtown Portland and Salem is about 44 miles. If the distance from downtown Portland to Salem is about 2.75 inches on this map what is the verbal scale for this map?
	One inch is equivalent to miles
2.	The driving distance between Salem and Corvallis is different from the straight line distance. Why? Do you think the same is true for Portland and Salem? Why or why not? What influences this?

## Reading a Map of Portland

To the right is a map of downtown Portland, Oregon. Use the map and map legend at the bottom to answer the questions below.

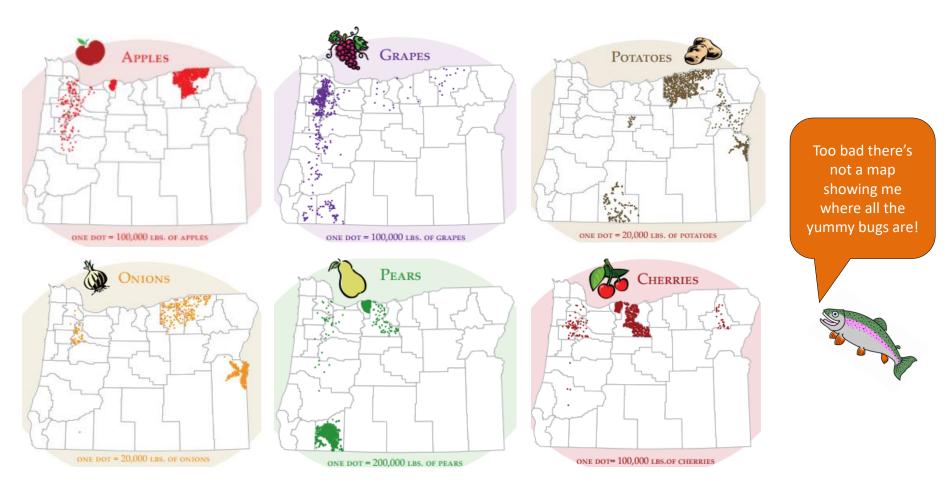
Find the Oregon Convention Center on the map. What are some of the different routes you could take to get to the Oregon Convention Center from Portland State University? What forms of transit can you use?
If you were in the University District and wanted to get to Tanner Springs Park without walking or driving, what type of transit could you take?
What are some of the ways this map distinguishes different features (roads, highways, transit, points of interest, etc.)?
Streets in this map of Portland are labeled "SE", "SW", "NW", and "NE". Can you figure out the dividing lines between each of the sections (or "quadrants") of the city?



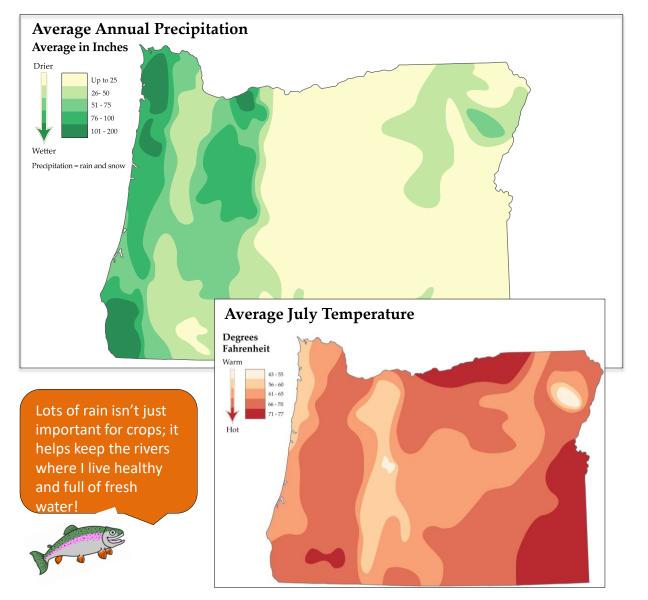
#### Maps and Agriculture Activity

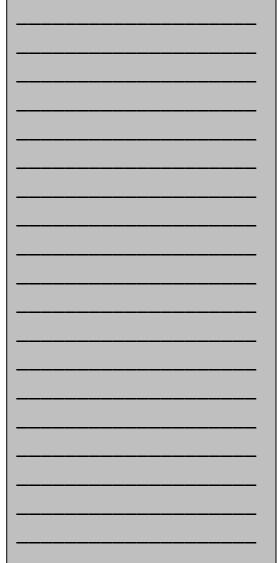
The location of various crops in Oregon is shown below. On the next page there are two maps of Oregon; one that displays average annual precipitation, and one that displays average July temperature.

Answer the following questions on the next page: What does the location where each crop is grown tell you about its climate preferences? Is the crop in an area with lots of rain, or is it relatively dry? Is the crop spread throughout Oregon, or is it condensed in one spot? Which crop has the largest North/South range?



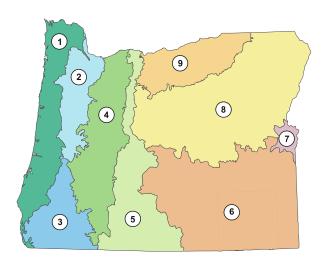
## Maps and Agriculture Activity





#### Oregon's Ecoregions

Ecoregions are areas of land with distinct climates, weather patterns, plants, and animals. Oregon is divided into nine ecoregions, ranging from the hot, arid Basin and Range full of juniper and sagebrush to the moist, cool, conifer-filled Cascade Mountains.



What ecoregion do you live in? You can usually find me in the Willamette Valley. I also like hanging out in the Columbia River and along the Coast Range!





Coast Range





Willamette Valley



Klamath Mountains



Cascade Mountains





Eastern Cascades and Foothills



Basin and Range



Snake River Plain



Blue Mountains

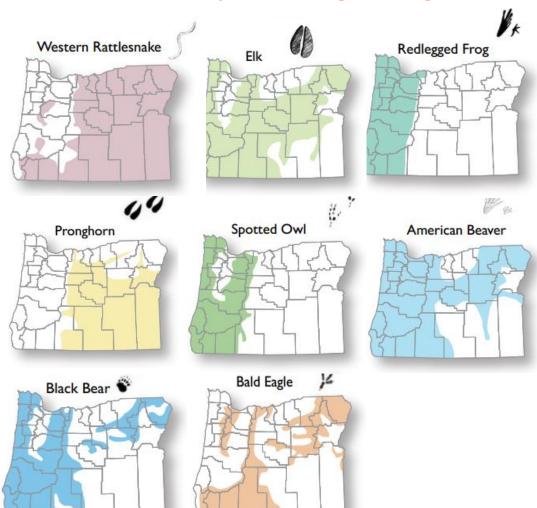


Columbia Plateau

## **Ecoregions and Animals Activity**

Below are a series of maps showing the geographic area (or *range*) where different animals in Oregon can be found. Use these maps and the ecoregions map on the page above to answer the following questions

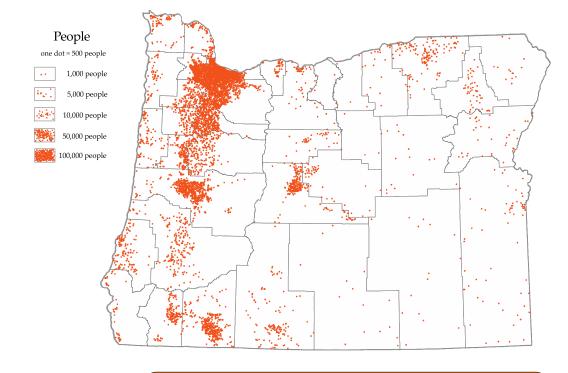
about animals commonly found throughout Oregon.



In which ecoregions do each of these animals live?					
Rattlesnake:					
Elk:					
Frog:					
Pronghorn:					
Owl:					
Beaver:					
Bear:					
Bald Eagle:					
What range of temperature and precipitation do you think each animal prefers? ( <i>Hint</i> : look at the map on Page 30 showing the annual average precipitation in Oregon.)					
Rattlesnake:					
Elk:					
Frog:					
Pronghorn:O w 1 :					
Beaver:Bear:					
Bald Eagle:					
Which animal has the largest range in Oregon? Which animal had the smallest range?					
Largest:					

#### Oregon Population Activity

Below is a population map of Oregon. Population maps are useful for exploring human settlement patterns. The dot map below shows areas of "high population density", where many people live, and areas of "low population density", where few people live. Use this map and the map of Oregon on Page 13 to answer the questions to the right of this page.





As of 2016, the State of Oregon had a human population of nearly 4 million. By comparison, the State of Washington has over 7 million residents, and California has nearly 39 million residents. That's a lot of people!

1.	Where do most people live in Oregon? What large cities are located in those areas?
2.	There is a "high density" population cluster in the middle of the state. What is located there?
3.	What parts of Oregon have few people ("low population density")? Why might this be?
4.	What part of the state has the <i>highest</i> population density? Why might this be?
5.	Does the county where you live have low or high population density? Why do you think this is?

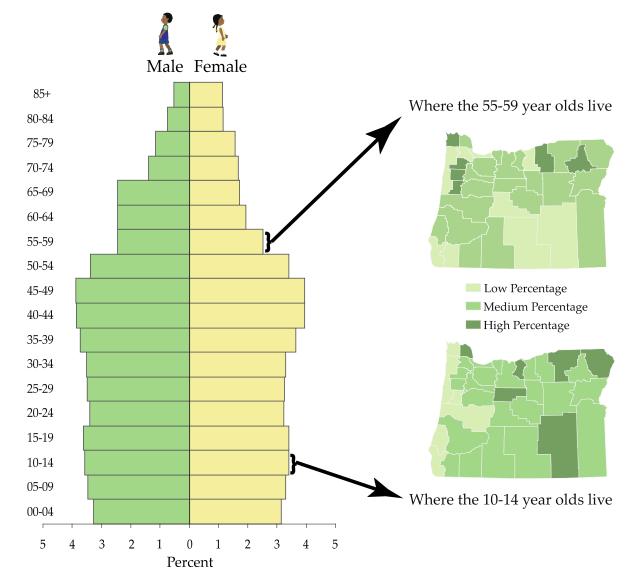
## The Age of Oregon's Population

#### What is a Population Pyramid?

A population pyramid divides a population by gender (male or female) and by age (from youngest at the base to oldest at the peaks). Each bar of the pyramid represents a percentage of the population.

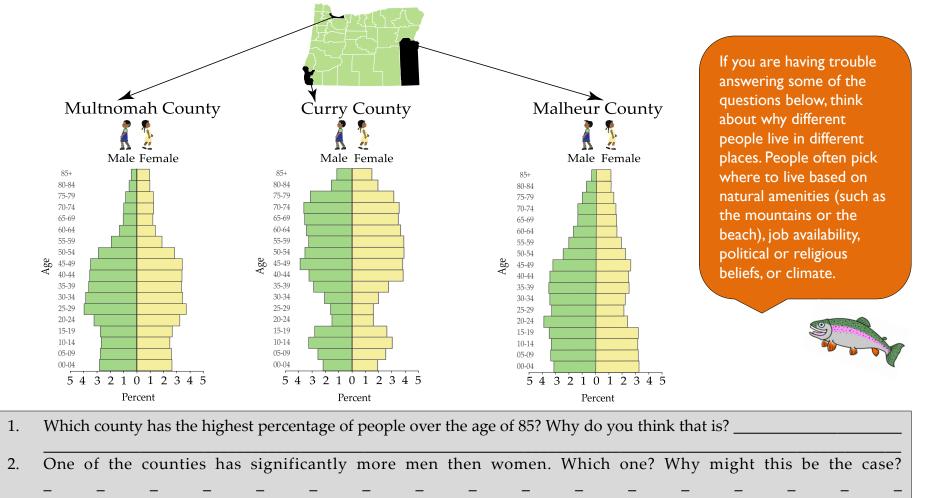
This pyramid shows Oregon's 2002 population, and each bar represents five years of the population.

Another way to show a state's population is with a choropleth map. The two maps at the right show where the 10-14 year olds and the 55-59 year olds live in Oregon.



## Oregon Population Pyramids Activity

Below are the population pyramids for three counties in Oregon: Multnomah, Curry, and Malheur. Use the information in the *population pyramids* below to answer the questions at the bottom of the page.

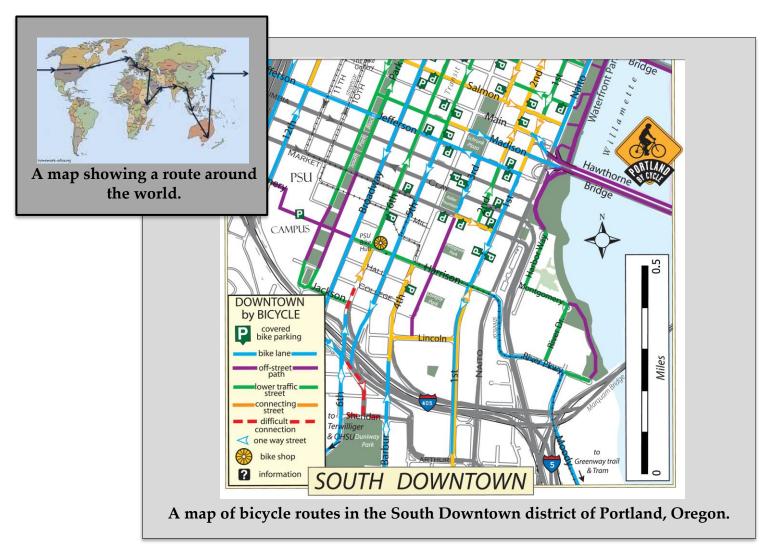


Which county has the most 20-30 year old residents? Which has the least? Why might this be the case?

3.

#### Additional Activities: Using Maps to Solve Problems

Whether looking for a route across the ocean or trying to find your way to the skate park or mall, maps can be useful tools for navigating and learning about the world.



#### Planning Construction Using a Map

What else can you use maps for? In addition to navigation, maps are useful tools for planning construction projects. Below is a plot of land that measures seven by six squares (each square represents 15 square feet). Your town owns the land and wants to build a new public library that will take up 25 squares of land. There are some other building requirements, too, which are listed below. Use different colors to create a building and building features using the guidelines below, but be careful not to build on rocks or boulders.

## Additional Building Requirements

Within the 25 squares the town also wants:

- 1. Two squares for public parking
- 1. One square for employee parking
- 1. Six squares for outdoor space (park, picnic area, garden, etc.; the squares don't have to be attached to one another)

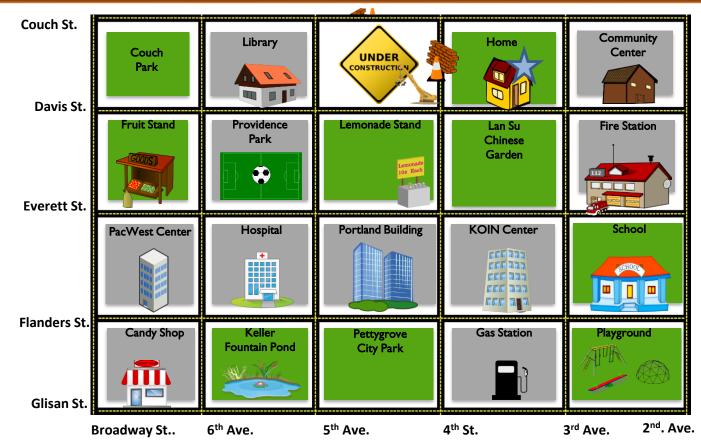
When you're designing the landscaping, you should add an outside space for me and my fish friends to live!

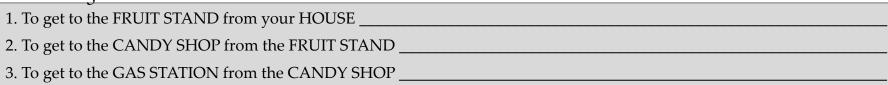


## Planning Errands Using a Map

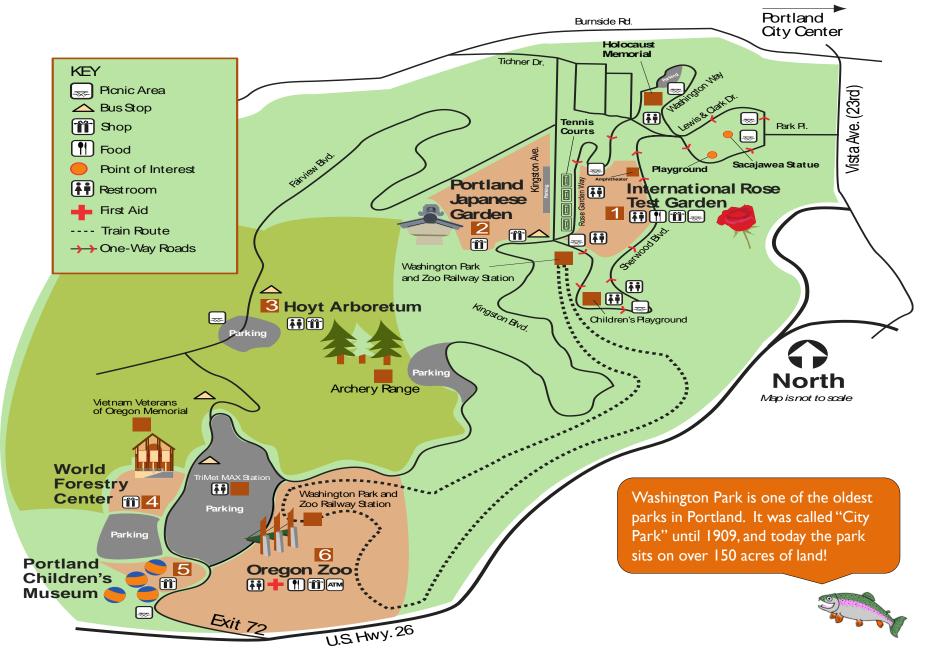
Maps can also be helpful for planning the most efficient route to do a task. You live in a house on Davis St., between 4<sup>th</sup> St. and 3<sup>rd</sup> St. (look for the blue star), and you need to find the shortest route to run your errands. First, find all of the different places you need to go, and draw your route on the map to the right. Then, write directions to your different destinations below.

Example: To get to the pond from your house, walk South on 4<sup>th</sup> St. to the gas station, then turn West onto Glisan Street.





- 4. To get to the SCHOOL from the GAS STATION \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. To get to the LEMONADE STAND from the SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_



#### Planning a Trip Using a Map

Maps are also a great way to plan an exciting trip. Imagine you're planning a trip to Washington Park in Portland, Oregon. There are a lot of fun things to do in the park, such as visiting the Oregon Zoo and the World Forestry Center. Take a minute to look over the map on the next page and see what's there.

Write directions to four different places in the park, starting from the Oregon Zoo. Make sure to use street names, and specify what mode of transportation (walking, railway, bus, or car) you'll be taking from one place to the next.

Use the space below to write out directions for your visit to Washington Park:					

#### **Image Sources**

The images in this workbook come from the sources listed below. Any images not listed come from the Center for Geography Education in Oregon's *Student Atlas of Oregon (second edition)\**.

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	Compass Rose 2 (from top)	Wikimedia Commons		Yellow House	Open Clipart
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Page 28	Map of Downtown Portland	University of Texas, Austin –	Page 40	Map of Washington Park	Portland Department
		Perry-Castañeda Library			of Parks and Recreation
Page 36	Around the World Map	Portland Bureau of Transportation			
	South Downtown Map	Portland Bureau of Transportation			

 $<sup>*</sup>A free\ copy\ of\ the\ Atlas\ can\ be\ obtained\ from\ http://studentatlasoforegon.pdx.edu/.$ 

# Produced by the Center for Geography Education in Oregon (C-GEO)

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C-GEO is dedicated to the improvement of geographic education and awareness in the State of Oregon. C-GEO's mission includes: increasing public awareness of the importance of geographic education, increasing emphasis on geography in grades pre-K through 12, and improving geographic teaching methods and materials.

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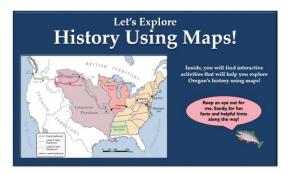
The Center for Geography Education in Oregon Portland State University PO Box 751 – GEOG Portland, Oregon, 97207

Website: http://www.pdx.edu/geography-education/

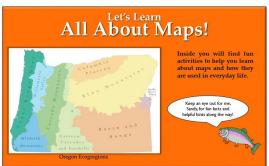
Telephone Number: 503-725-5864

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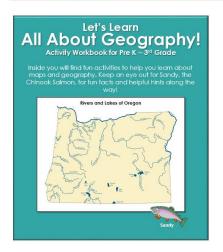
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