

What Are Maps?

Maps are special pictures that give information. Maps can show us where things are. They can also show us how to get somewhere. And maps can show us how far away a place is.

▼ This road map shows part of the United States.



Weather Maps

Weather maps are used to **forecast** the weather.



A map is a detailed **image** of an area. A map shows what the area looks like from above.

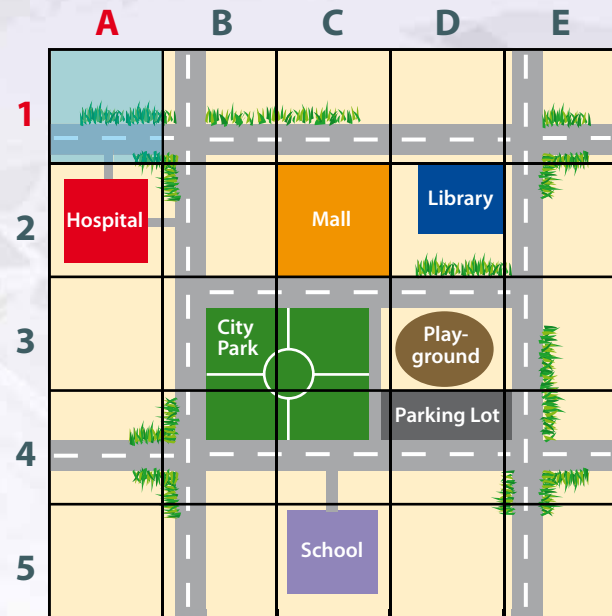
Often, a map shows a large area as a small picture. The streets in a city can be shown on a street map like this.

▼ A street map of Sydney, Australia



Grid Coordinates

A map can show us the **locations** (lo-KAY-shuhns) of things and places. A grid of lines is put over a map. The grid lines form cells. Each cell has a letter and number. These are called grid coordinates. In the map below, cell A1 is shaded blue.



Longitude and Latitude

Some maps of Earth have vertical and horizontal grid lines. The vertical lines are known as **longitude** (LAHN-juh-tood). The horizontal lines are known as **latitude** (LAT-uh-tood). The coordinates of these grid lines give the locations of different parts of the world.



LET'S EXPLORE MATH

Look at the street map above. Write the grid coordinates for these places:

- | | | |
|------------|----------------|-------------|
| a. mall | c. playground | e. hospital |
| b. library | d. parking lot | f. school |