

Name: _____

Comparing and Contrasting Different Map Types

There are many different types of maps which serve many different types of purposes. To use a map effectively, one must know about the different types of maps and how to use the different types of maps that exist.

Political maps show government features. Political maps show the locations of boundaries and locations of countries, states, cities, towns and counties. These boundaries and locations are generally determined by people rather than nature. When making a political map, different colors are used to indicate the different countries, states, or cities.

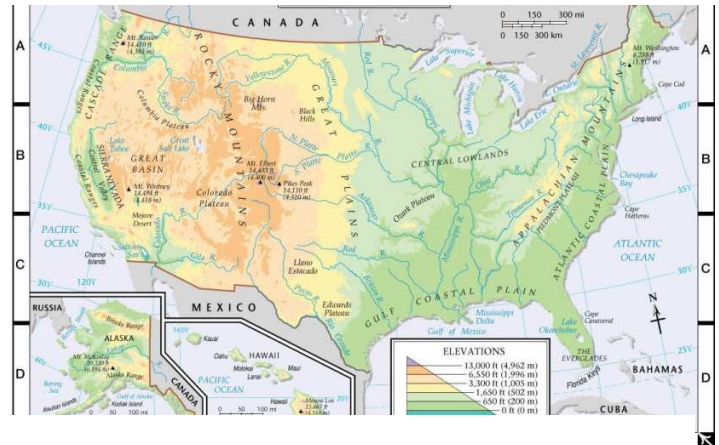
Physical Maps show the natural features and landforms of a place. A physical map shows the location of landforms and features like rivers, lakes, oceans, mountains, valleys, deserts and different land elevations. When making a physical map, different colors are used to indicate the different landforms and elevations.

Both of the following maps **SEEM** to show the same thing—that is, the United States. However, look closer! Which of the following maps is a political map and which is a physical map? Write the map type next to A or B.

A.



B.



At your table is a set of four different types of maps: a globe, a road map, an aeronautical map, and a topo (short for topographical) map. Look at each of these types of maps and complete the chart on the back of this sheet. Use timed-round-robin to come up with answers at your table. Then answer the following questions:

Which map would you use if you want to find the best route to travel halfway around the world?

Which map would you use if you want to hike the trails near Sixth Grade Camp?

Which map would you use if you want to drive to the State Fair in Sedalia, MO?

Which map would you use if you want to fly an airplane to Lee's Summit, MO?

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Globes

Road Maps

1.

1.

2.

2.

3.

3.

4.

4.

5.

5.

Similarities

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Topo Maps

Aeronautical Maps

1.

1.

2.

2.

3.

3.

4.

4.

5.

5.