Activity Sheet #3–What You Can Learn From a Map

There are different maps for different purposes. In this lesson, you'll learn more about the special uses of three maps—a **road map**, a **shaded relief map**, and a **topographic map**. Remember, the legend is the key to unlocking the secrets of a map.

Road Maps

Road maps show people how they can travel from one place to another. They also show some physical features, such as mountains and rivers, and politicial features, such as cities and towns.

Find and draw the map symbol for an interstate highway.

Find and draw the map symbol for a State highway.

Locate an interstate highway _____

Locate a State highway. _____

Find a road that goes into the mountains. Trace it on your road map with your pencil.

Why do you think there are so few roads northeast of the city?_____

_____

Use the colored road map on the poster to answer these questions:

What colors are highways?_____

The areas around a city are shown in color on the map. What color is used for Salt Lake City?

_____

What color is used for bodies of water? _____

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Shaded relief maps

Shaded relief maps are designed to highlight the physical features of a place. The shading shows how a particular area looks with sunlight shining on it from a particular direction.

On your **shaded relief map**, draw a line down the ridge (backbone) of the Wasatch Mountains.

Locate a canyon on the map. What is its name? _____

What do you see at the bottom of a canyon? _____

Where does the water in those rivers and creeks come from? _____

Find and draw the symbol for airport.

Which direction is the airport from the State capitol? _____

The legend shows city size. Using the legend, the population of Salt Lake City is between _____

_____ and _____

The population of Ogden is between _____ and _____

Find a town with a population of 500 to 1,000. What is the name of the town? _____

_____

Use the **shaded relief map** on the poster to answer these questions:

What are the major colors on the map? _____

_____

What does each color represent? _____

_____

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Topographic maps

The **topographic map** uses contour lines to show elevation (height above sea level). Contour lines join points of equal elevation above a specified reference, such as sea level.

Think of a contour line as an imaginary line on the ground that takes any path necessary to maintain constant elevation. Run your pen or pencil along the entire 5,000-foot contour line on your **topographic map**. Then run your pen or pencil along another contour line. This will help you feel the shape of the land.

When the contour lines are close together, the ground is steep. Put an X on your map on a steep area.

Which is steeper, the area to the north or south of the police firing range? _____

Find and draw a symbol for a school.

Draw a circle around a school on the map.

How high is Ensign peak? _____

What is the elevation of the jeep trail northwest of the State capitol? _____

Draw the symbol for railroad.

Using the **topographic map** on the poster, answer these questions:

What is the color used for rivers or creeks? _____

What colors are highways? _____

_____

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