



Using maps

When we study geography, we have to study a lot of information about the world. For that, it is necessary to refer to maps prepared under different themes. In an Atlas, maps are included under different themes.

The main objective of this chapter is to provide basic knowledge about using a map book accurately and productively.

At present, the maps have become a compulsory tool in day to day activities. Sri Lanka Atlas Book printed by the Survey Department of Sri Lanka is one example for a map book in current usage.

The skills of identifying basic features like,

- Different types of maps
- Direction.
- Scale.
- Key
- Map Index

and the skill of using a map book correctly can be received by referring to an atlas.

Activity

1. Name other map books in use.

Different Types of Maps

Different types of maps are included in an atlas. Following maps in “Sri Lanka Sithiyam Sangrahaya” (Sri Lanka atlas book), can be shown as examples

- Relief and drainage map on page 11
- Topographic map on page 13.

Activity

1. Prepare a table including different types of maps with page number which can be found in a map book you use.

Direction.

Showing the direction on any map is compulsory. But figure of direction is not shown on some maps in map books. On such occasions, the direction where the heading of the map is shown is considered as North and other directions are determined accordingly. A map can be oriented accurately when the directions of the map are set correctly to the corresponding directions of the mapped area. Accordingly, from the place where you stay, the directions of the places marked on the map can be identified correctly.

Scale.

It is impossible to draw all the things found on the land at the same size on the map. In map books scale of each map is given. According to the scale, the size of the map too is changed. The differences among the scales could be understood further when the scale of wall map in the school and the scales found in map books are compared. According to the need, the map drawn may be large or small.

The topographic map of Sri Lanka drawn by the Survey Department of Sri Lanka is drawn to the scale of 1: 50 000 representing 50 000 cm on land by 1 cm on map.

Activity

1. Write scales found in different pages in the Atlas book you use.

Key

The key too is compulsory to read maps. Every piece of information represented on the map is shown in the key by conventional signs. Identify how the key is helpful to read a map by observing the following map.



Map 5.1

Activities.

The following questions are given based on Map 5.1. Answer them

1. Draw the signs and write the relevant information connected to them in your exercise book after observing the Map 5.1 and the key.
2. What is the scale of this map?
3. If you are in Kandy in which directions do you find Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Colombo?
4. Write the names of three Airports, Harbours and Wild life parks by observing the map using the key.

Index

An index compiled according to the alphabetical order is set in map books. It is helpful to find the location of a certain place. The relevant index to the road map of Sri Lanka shown on page no 104-109 in the book “Jathika Sithiyam Sangraya” (National Map Collection) is given on pages 110-114 in the same book. There is a grid on these maps and they are named by letters horizontally and by numbers vertically. Accordingly, the location of a place can be found by observing the gride of the map with reference to the letters and numbers in the index.

Activities.

1. Find and write the location of three places in Sri Lanka using the index of the map book you use.
2. With reference to the index, write the numbers and squares relevant to the city your school is located.

Copying maps.

Copying maps can be done in different ways. Methods of copying have developed with technology.

- Copying by using tissue paper.
- Photo copying.
- Printing.

It is expected to give the skill of copying a map of Sri Lanka to a paper from a model map of Sri Lanka.

You need

- Map book
- Tissue Papers/Other transparent papers
- Pencils
- Paper pins or Paper clips.



Figure 5.1 - How a map is copied.

Step One.

- Choose a model map of Sri Lanka either from Sri Lanka National Maps Collection or another map book.
- Set the tissue paper on the map and draw the coast line.
- Set the tissue paper on the paper you need to copy the map, and draw on that line again.
- Now remove on the tissue paper and draw the coast line of Sri Lanka on traced line on paper.

Cleanliness and neatness are compulsory in copying maps.

- Copying the border of a country can be done correctly through this.

Glossary

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| • Using maps | - සිතියම් පරිහරණය | -- தேசப்படங்களின் பயன்பாடுகள் |
| • Survey Department | - මිනින්දෝරු දෙපාර්තமේන්තුව | - நில அளவையியல் திணைக்களம் |
| • Key | - සුවකය | - குறியீட்டு விளக்கம் |
| • Direction | - දිශාව | - திசை |
| • Index | - සුවිය | - பொதுக் குறியீடு |
| • Scale | - පරිමාණය | - அளவுத் திட்டம் |
| • Wall Map | - බිත්ති සිතියම් | - சுவர்த் தேசப்படங்கள் |
| • Conventional signs | - සම්මත සංකේත | - நியமக் குறியீடு |
| • Copying Maps | - සිතියම් පිටලස් කිරීම | - தசப்படங்களைப் பிரதிபண்ணுதல் |