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# ICSE GEOGRAPHY

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R K JAIN

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GEO-GLOSSARY

# ICSE GEOGRAPHY

**Class 9**

**Chapter 20: Study of Maps**

The knowledge of the whole Earth is essential as every part of it has its own characteristics. There is no other way to view the whole Earth except through a globe or a map. A **globe** is an exact approximation of the Earth.

The map on the surface of the globe shows the correct size, shape and location of the oceans and the continents.

- ❖ It also shows the correct position of places on the Earth in relation to one another.
- ❖ We get a better idea of the parallels of latitudes and the meridians of longitude on the globe.
- ❖ It is said that the earliest globe was made by Crates in Greece in the year 150 BC.
- ❖ However, the globe is not only difficult to handle but it is also impossible to show detailed information on its surface.

## MEANING AND DEFINITION OF A MAP

- ❖ Map is a very important tool for the geographers and others.
- ❖ The word **map** has been derived from the Latin word **mappo**, meaning a napkin or a cover cloth.
- ❖ A map may be regarded as the skin of the Earth, which was flattened to give a plane surface.

A **map** may be defined as the representation of the Earth as a whole or a part of it on a plane surface with conventional signs drawn to a scale.



Map of Iraq on a clay tablet

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF MAPS

Maps are not an invention of the modern age. They were in existence even in the ancient times. The earliest maps were highly pictorial representing the ideas by a rough sketch or picture without any scale or accuracy regarding the relative size or position. The history of maps dates back to 4500 years.

The following achievements provided wealth of information to the geographers for improving the quality and the accuracy of maps:

The recognition of the Earth as a spheroid

- b. The Poles, Equator and Tropics
- c. The development of the system of grid
- d. The formulation of map projections
- e. The calculation of the size of the Earth
- f. The division of the Earth into climatic zones

## TYPES OF MAPS

Maps are useful in the analysis and interpretation of various features on the surface of the Earth. Different maps are used by different people according to their requirements. Maps can be classified in many ways, but two of them are most useful. One of them is the **scale** of the map and the other relates to the **function** of the map.

**According to scale, there are two types of maps:**

1. The **large-scale maps** show a very small area with much details. The lay-out maps of the villages and the guide maps of the cities are the large-scale maps.
2. The **small-scale maps** show a very large area with less details. The maps in the atlas or the wall maps used in the classroom are mostly small-scale maps.

In another classification according to scale, there are three types of maps:

### Cadastral Maps

- ❖ The term cadastral has been derived from the French word **cadastre**, meaning a register of the territorial property. In practice, it includes maps drawn on a large-scale to show accurately the extent and measurement of every field and plot of land.
- ❖ The village maps in our country, kept by the **patwaris**, may be cited as an example. The cadastral maps are useful for preparation of land use maps of a village or a town.

**Topographical Maps** These maps are large-scale maps and are based on the actual survey of the land. It shows the general surface features in detail comprising both the natural landscape and the cultural landscape.

These maps are large enough to show the relief, drainage, swamps and forests, villages and towns, means of transport and communication, land use, etc. in detail.

### Atlas and Wall Maps

The atlas maps are small-scale maps. They show a fairly large area at a glance and present a bird's eye view of a region but they do not show the details given on a topo sheet. These maps give a general picture about the physical, climatic and the economic conditions of different regions.

The **wall maps** show the main features of a small or a large area in a bold manner. These maps are generally drawn on large size papers, so that a group of students in a classroom can use such maps.



The maps can also be classified on the basis of their functions. Some of them are as under:

### Relief Maps

The relief maps show surface features like mountains, hills, plateaus, plains, peaks, valleys, ridges, etc.

### Political or Administrative Maps

A political map shows the boundaries between different countries, or boundaries between the different political units within a country. These maps can also be used as base maps for the purpose of showing various cultural, historical and economic activities.



Relief or physical map



Political or administrative map



## Climatic Maps

The climatic maps provide detailed information about the conditions of temperature, atmospheric pressure, rainfall, winds and other weather phenomena.

## Population Maps

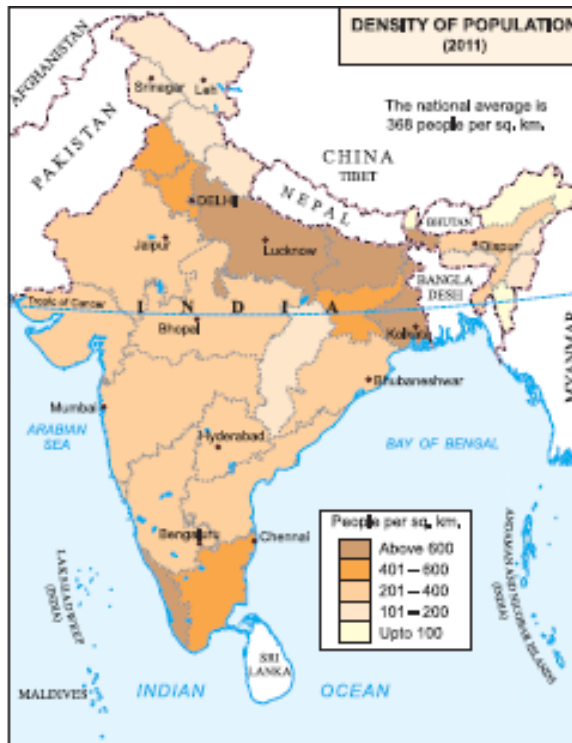
The population maps show the distribution and the density of population in different parts. These maps help us to understand the relationship between the rural-urban distribution, sex ratio, growth of population, etc.

## Distribution Maps

The distribution maps mostly present one characteristic feature of a certain area such as the distribution of crops, minerals, soil, etc. The distributional themes can be natural like temperature, rainfall, flora, fauna, or cultural, economic like agriculture, industries, etc.



Climatic map



Political map



Distribution map

## Other Categories

1. The strategic points, routes of movements, battle plans, etc. are shown on the **military maps**.
2. Past events are shown on the **historical maps**.
3. The distribution of tribes and races, their language, religion, festivals, culture, etc. are shown on the **social maps**.
4. Maps showing the nature and the character of land use may be termed as **land utilization maps**.



Historical map



Land utilization map

5. The rocks that form the crust of the Earth and their mode of occurrence and disposition are shown on the **geological maps**.
6. A map showing heavenly features is called an **astronomical map**.
7. All those maps in which the lines of equal value are shown are called the **isopleth maps**.

## IMPORTANCE AND USES OF MAPS

- ❖ All sciences are connected, directly or indirectly, with the Earth science.
- ❖ Maps provide records of various facts regarding the Earth.
- ❖ It is with the help of maps and diagrams that many complicated landforms can be easily explained.
- ❖ For academic purposes, maps are very essential and useful.
- ❖ The maps are useful to travellers and tourists as they can guide them to locate and reach their destination.
- ❖ In military operations, the topographical sheets render timely help.
- ❖ The government needs maps for all administrative purposes.
- ❖ Maps are also useful for planning the development of a country.
- ❖ A glance on a pictorial map can easily drive home even complex facts in their proper relationship.
- ❖ A map is a guide to individual in general and the government in particular.
- ❖ We need proper training and practice to understand the contents of a map.

**THANK  
YOU**