

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

Map Skills Practice Worksheet

Instructions: Answer each question carefully. Use complete sentences for short answer and essay questions. For multiple choice, circle or write the letter of the best answer.

1. What is the difference between latitude and longitude? Explain in 2-3 sentences.

2. Which of the following best describes the purpose of a map scale?
- a) To show the cardinal directions
 - b) To indicate the relationship between distance on the map and actual distance on Earth
 - c) To list the symbols used on the map
 - d) To display the names of countries

3. Name the four cardinal directions and the four intermediate directions.

4. A map key (or legend) is used to:
- a) Show the title of the map
 - b) Explain the symbols and colors on the map
 - c) Measure distances on the map
 - d) Indicate the map's orientation

5. What is the imaginary line that divides the Earth into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres?

6. Which line of longitude is considered the prime meridian?

- a) 0 degrees longitude
- b) 180 degrees longitude
- c) 90 degrees east longitude
- d) 45 degrees west longitude

7. Explain why map projections are necessary and name one limitation of any map projection.

8. If a map has a scale of 1 inch = 100 miles, how many miles does 3.5 inches represent on the map?

9. Which of the following is NOT a common type of map?

- a) Physical map
- b) Political map
- c) Historical map
- d) Musical map

10. Write a short paragraph (4–5 sentences) explaining how a compass rose helps a person navigate using a map. Include the terms *cardinal directions* and *orientation*.

Answer Key

1. **Answer:** Latitude lines run east-west and measure distance north or south of the Equator. Longitude lines run north-south and measure distance east or west of the Prime Meridian. Together they form a grid system used to locate places on Earth.
2. **Answer:** b) To indicate the relationship between distance on the map and actual distance on Earth.
3. **Answer:** Cardinal directions: North, South, East, West. Intermediate directions: Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest.
4. **Answer:** b) Explain the symbols and colors on the map.
5. **Answer:** The Equator (0 degrees latitude).
6. **Answer:** a) 0 degrees longitude.
7. **Answer:** Map projections are necessary because the Earth is a sphere and maps are flat. A limitation is that all projections distort at least one of the following: shape, area, distance, or direction. For example, the Mercator projection greatly distorts the size of landmasses near the poles.
8. **Answer:** $3.5 \text{ inches} \times 100 \text{ miles/inch} = 350 \text{ miles}$.
9. **Answer:** d) Musical map.
10. **Answer:** A compass rose is a symbol on a map that shows the orientation of the map. It displays the four cardinal directions (north, south, east, west) and often the intermediate directions. By aligning the compass rose with a real compass, a person can determine which way to travel. This helps the user understand the map's layout and navigate accurately.