Name: Date:

Ms. Centonze Period:

**What are maps?**

**Reading for a Purpose**

1. What is cartography?
2. How are satellite pictures and maps alike and different?
3. How can you tell direction on a map?

Vocabulary Words:

**Cartographer:** A skilled person who draws maps.

My friend’s mother is an expert cartographer.

**Direction:** The relationship of one place to another.

I found out that north was the direction I wanted to go.

**Compass Rose:** A symbol that shows the direction on a map.

The compass rose on the map showed that we should go northwest.

**Satellite:** An object sent into space to go around the earth or other body.

The picture was taken from a satellite.

Is there a difference between a satellite picture of the earth, a picture taken from above the earth, and a map? In some ways they are alike, but there are important differences between them. A compass rose to help you tell direction is found on most maps, but not on a satellite photo.

**Geography Skills and Concepts**

1. Imagine being the first person to find a new land and being asked to draw a map of what it looked like. Soon after American was first discovered that is what some people were asked to do. A person who draws a map is called a cartographer. The process of drawing a map is called *cartography*. The first maps of the New World, as America was called then, were only rough guesses of what the area really looked like. But as more and more cartographers studied America, the maps got better and better. An outline map of America today looks as if a satellite camera took a picture of it because it is so correctly drawn.
2. When a map is being made, the cartographer has many things to do. The first step is to draw an accurate outline of the area, showing it just as it would look from space. Today, this is usually done by using a satellite photo of the area being drawn. The photo is taken from many miles in space so that is shows exactly how the area looks from above. Since shapes and outlines are shown exactly as they are, these photos help the cartographer to draw accurate maps.
3. The next step in making a map is deciding what information to put on it. Maps can show many things. A map may show and label rivers, highways, towns and areas of interest. The information put on a map depends on the purpose for which the map will be used. Cartographers draw land areas or areas of water. When a land area, such as a state, is drawn, it is called a map. Drivers need maps to help them go from one place to another. When an area of water, such as an ocean, is drawn, it is called a chart. Charts are often used by sea captains to guide ships from one port to another.
4. An important feature on both a map and a chart is the way to tell direction. To tell direction we use a compass. The needle of a compass faces north. The other main directions, or points, are east, south, and west. The compass on a map or chart shows the major directions: it is called a compass rose. You will almost never see a map that doesn’t have a compass rose on it because such a map would be of little value. With a compass rose you can tell that one thing is north of another, or to the east, and so on. The first letter of the points of a compass are N, S, E, and W. If a place is halfway between two directions, say north and east, it is called northeast. Other such directions are southeast, southwest, and northwest.

Please answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. How accurate are the maps today of the United States? Why do you think that is?

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1. Describe the first step a cartographer takes when drawing a map?

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1. What are the differences between charts and maps? Explain.

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1. What is the function of a compass rose? Draw one to the side of this question.

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