

Using Globes and Maps

Chapter 1: Locating Places on the Earth · Topic 2

Key Concept

A globe is a three-dimensional model of the Earth, showing accurate shapes, sizes, and distances, but it's not practical for carrying around or showing small areas in detail.

A map is a flat representation of the Earth or a part of it, which is portable and can show great detail, but it may distort some shapes or distances since a round Earth cannot be perfectly flattened.

Maps use symbols, scale, and a key (legend) to represent real features, and are often more useful for practical, everyday purposes like navigation.

Understanding both globes and maps, along with their strengths and limitations, helps us choose the right tool for the right purpose in studying geography.

Quick Revision Notes

- A globe is a 3D model of the Earth.
- Globes show accurate shapes, sizes and distances.
- Maps are flat representations of Earth or an area.
- Maps are portable and can show great detail.
- Maps may distort some shapes or distances.
- Maps use symbols, scale and a key.
- Maps are useful for everyday navigation.
- Globes and maps each have strengths and limitations.

Practice Questions

- 1 Compare a globe and a map for a specific use.
- 2 Find a symbol and key on a map you have.
- 3 Discuss why a map of your city would be more useful than a globe.
- 4 Explain one limitation of maps.
- 5 Practice reading a map's scale.
- 6 Draw a simple map of your school or home.