**Characteristics of a Map Notes**

1. **Title**

Gives our first clue about the content like the area shown and the main topic

Sometimes the title lists a date, which tells what the map shows at a certain time

1. **Compass Rose**

Compass Rose-a diagram that shows us directions.

Why is it called a compass rose? On early maps, the diagram was often drawn like a flower. There are two kinds of compass roses:

**Cardinal directions**: A simple compass rose

that has north, south, east, and west. These

four directions are called **cardinal directions**.



**Intermediate directions**: This rose has lines between the cardinal points. These show

northeast, southeast, southwest, and northwest. These directions are called **intermediate**

**directions**.

1. **Legend**

**Legend**-Symbols are used to show information on a map. They use color and pictures to show the locations of particular things, like airports and state capitals. There is a box where the symbols are listed with what they mean, called a map legend or map key.





1. **Grid**

Grid-a system of imaginary lines to divide up space on their maps.

Geographers make map grids useful by giving each line a label. On some maps horizontal lines have letters, and vertical lines have numbers. Once the grid is labeled, the location of any place on the map can be indicated by a letter and number:

One very useful grid is the system of latitude and longitude. This global grid allows you to locate any place on Earth with a simple number code.