

# What Makes a Good Map?



Cartography is a technical art that follows a set of rules to ensure complete, accurate and visually appealing work.

## 1. Mapping Essentials: "L.O.S.T."

Feature	Cartographic Expectations
Legend	<input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed within a border <input type="checkbox"/> Underlined title. Note units of measurement and dates in brackets when appropriate <input type="checkbox"/> Defines all symbols used on the map
Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/> Directional arrow should orient north
Scale	<input type="checkbox"/> Linear, statement or representative fraction
Title	<input type="checkbox"/> Clearly visible at the top of the map, inside the map border <input type="checkbox"/> States exactly what the map illustrates (what, where and/or when)

## 2. Labeling

- Print in pencil first, then neatly copy in blue or black ink (erase pencil lines)
- Label all features parallel to the bottom edge of the map. Exceptions include water bodies, rivers, island and mountain ranges which may be labeled according to their shape.
- All printing should be inside the map border.
- Indicate the exact location of a city with a dot and label it to the right. Example:
  - Kitchener
- Note the source and date of publication of any data displayed (bottom left or legend).
- Include your name (bottom right).

## 3. Colouring

- Colour is only used to add information pertinent to the map. Do not colour regions/features the map does not represent.
- Shade lightly and consistently.
- Standard colours are to be used: blue for water, green for foliage, red for urban, etc.
- When shading large water bodies, 'feathering' around the edge is acceptable.