

UPSC Civil Services Examination

UPSC Notes [GS-I]

Topic: Maps [Geography Notes for UPSC]

MAPS

Map is a representation or a drawing of the earth's surface or a part of it on a flat surface according to a scale.

Types of Maps

Physical or Relief Maps

- Maps showing natural features of the earth such as mountains, plateaus, plains, rivers, oceans etc. are known as physical or relief maps.

Political Maps

- Maps showing cities, towns, villages, states, and different countries of the world with their boundaries are called political maps.

Thematic Maps

- Maps that focus on specific information like road maps, rainfall maps, distribution of forests, industries etc. are called thematic maps.

Sketch

- It is a drawing mainly based on memory and spot observation and not to scale

Plan

- It is a drawing of a small area on a large scale.
- A large-scale map gives a lot of information.

Components of Maps

Distance

- Maps are drawings, which reduce the entire world or a part of it to fit on a sheet of paper. A scale is being used to do this accurately. A scale is a ratio between the actual distance on the ground and the distance shown on the map

Direction

- There are 4 cardinal points namely-North, South, East, and West.
- Other four intermediate directions are north-east (NE), southeast(SE), south-west (SW) and north-west (NW)
- It is possible to locate any place more accurately with the help of these intermediate directions.

Symbols

- Different features such as buildings, roads, bridges, trees, railway lines or a well. So, they are shown by using certain letters, shades, colours, pictures and lines on the maps. These symbols give a lot of information in a limited space.
- With the use of these symbols, maps can be drawn easily and are simple to read.

