

How to Make an “A” on Your Maps

1. Always read and follow map directions:

a. For **POLITICAL MAPS**, color countries/states/territories/provinces that border/touch each other in **DIFFERENT COLORS!** → NO light green next to lime green, etc.

b. For **PHYSICAL MAPS** color:

Water – Blue

Deserts – Yellow w/ Brown dots

Land – Green

Plateaus – orange

Mountains – Purple

*****ONLY WATER SHOULD BLUE***** - oceans, rivers, lakes, seas, bays, etc.

2. Label ACCURATELY

a. Always PRINT neatly

b. Use a **BLACK, FINE POINT PEN** for labeling
(a thin tip, black Sharpie works well too!)

c. Check your SPELLING!!!

d. CAPITALIZE all Proper Nouns

e. **POLITICAL MAPS** - Letter straight across (horizontal) for the names of countries, territories, states, cities, etc.

f. **PHYSICAL MAPS** - Label the direction in which they go for:
rivers, mountain ranges, valleys, etc.

3. Always include a:

a. **TITLE**

b. **COMPASS ROSE**

c. **KEY** - make a LEGEND BOX that includes all symbols & other necessary information to interpret the map
→ all symbols should be **INSIDE** the Legend Box!!!

i. Use a Star (or circled star) for capital cities

ii. Use a Dot for cities

iii. Use the symbols in the box for: Rivers, Plateau, Desert, Mountain/Mountain Peak, Mountain Ranges

Only for →
Political Maps!!!

Legend

• city ★ national capital

★ state/provincial capital

~ river

▮ plateau

^ mountain

⋈ mountain range

••• desert

U basin

▩ plain

▮ canyon

4. Helpful Hints:

a. **LABEL FIRST - THEN COLOR!**

b. COLOR ONLY IN MAP PENCIL!!! (NO CRAYON, NO MARKERS!!!)

c. COLOR IN **ONE DIRECTION ONLY. DO NOT SCRIBBLE!!!**

d. Place several sheets of paper under your map while working.