

Elements of Maps

TODALSIGS

Qualities of a “Good” Map

T - Title

O – Orientation

D – Date

A – Author

L – Legend

S – Scale

I – Index

G – Grid

S – Source



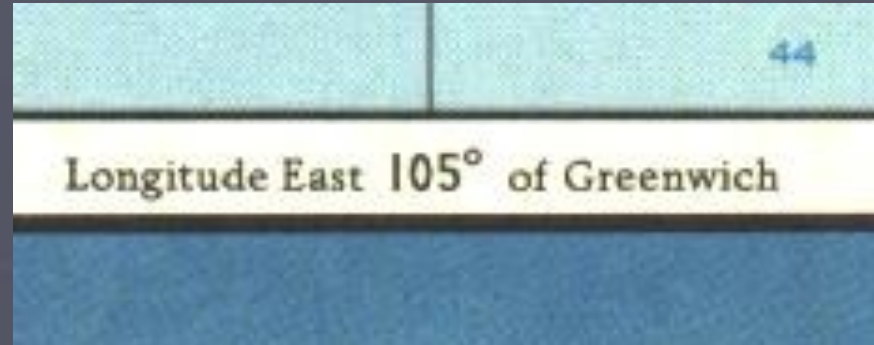
Title

- Explains what information the map is displaying
 - Helps reader understand what they are looking at



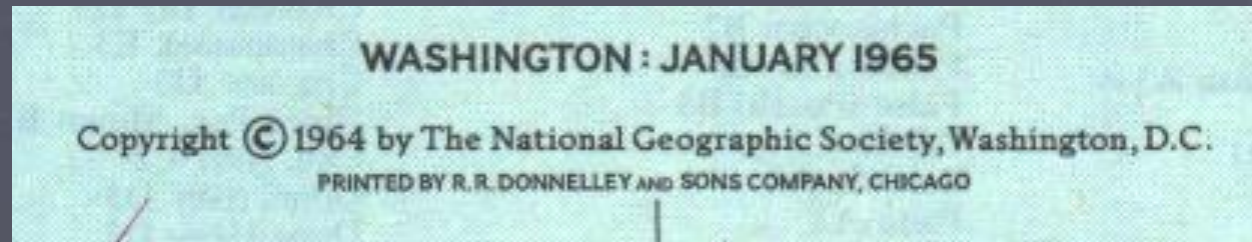
Orientation

- A way of figuring out how to orient the map
 - Typically a compass rose that shows north, south, east, west
 - Helps reader quickly understand directions



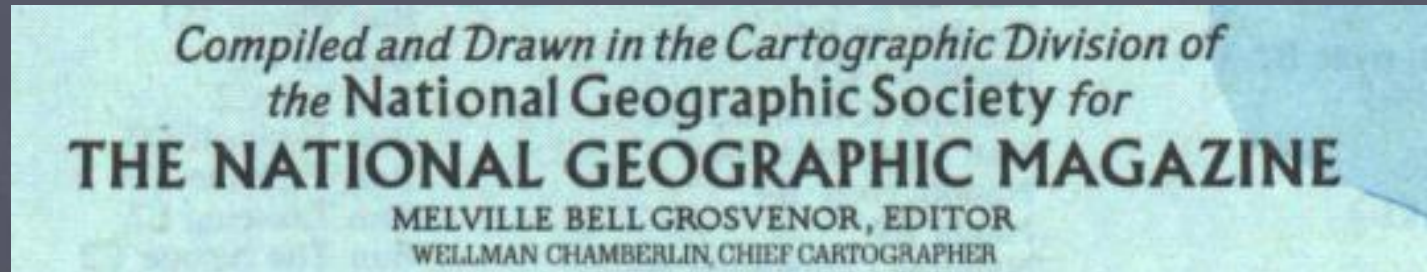
Date

- This tells you when the map was made
 - Helps the reader get a frame of reference to the information being shown
 - Ex. Maps before 1991 have the Soviet Union



Author

- The person and/or organization who made the map
 - To help prove the authenticity/accuracy of the map



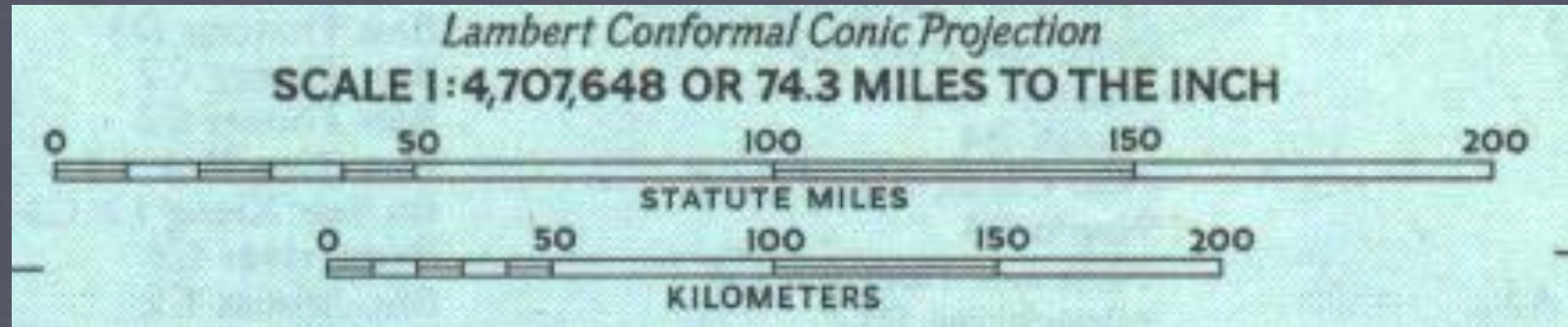
Legend

- This tells you what the symbols used on the map mean
 - Sometimes called a Key



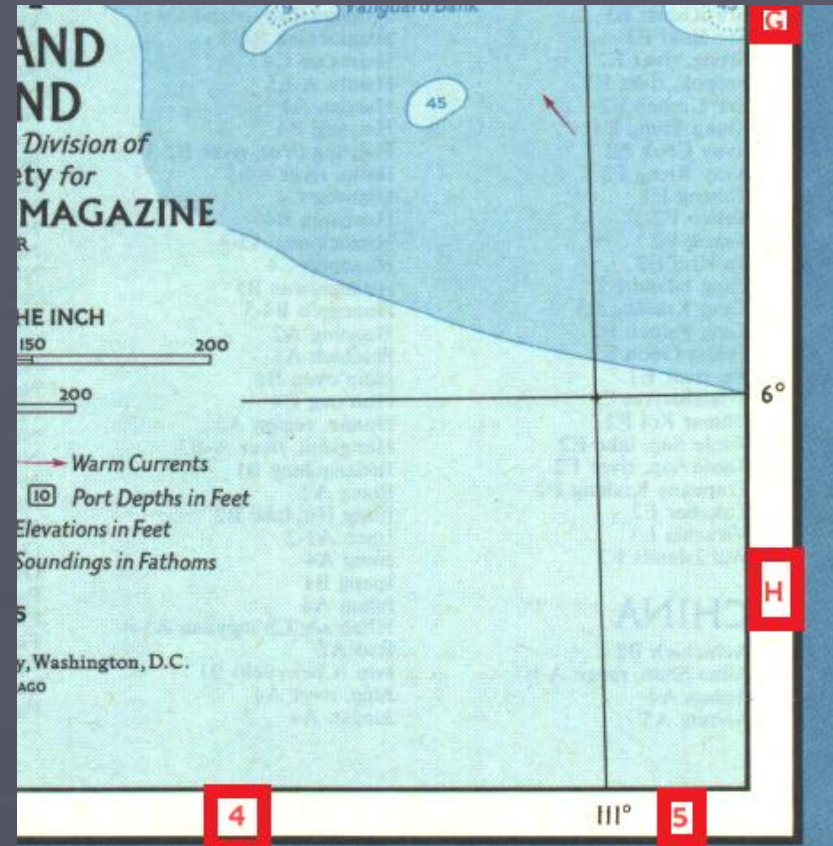
Scale

- This tells you the distance a unit of measure represents in the area shown on the map.
 - Large scale shows a small amount of detail, a small scale shows a large amount of detail



Index

- A collection of major sites and their location on the map
 - Can help the reader quickly find locations
 - Ex. Saigon (F3)



Grid

- This is the series of lines on a map that match the index. Sometimes these are line of latitude and longitude.



Source

- Explains where the author got the information to make the map
 - Helps establish credibility of map



Adapted from Muir's Historical Atlas: Medieval and Modern, (London: 1911)