

OLD SCHOOL, NEW SCHOOL!

Newsletter from Maps for the Classroom / Map of the Month

Volume 1 issue 1

We, the Newton family, have been making maps for schools nationwide for almost a quarter of a century!

Regina, Customer Service (many of you know her cheer and helpfulness), Deborah, research and graphic design, Jason, Mapmaker par Excellence!



We work in historic Providence, Rhode Island, in this renovated factory.

It was built in 1898 by The American Emery Wheel Works. They made grinding wheels used during Providence's manufacturing boom. Our office has brick walls and exposed beams.

Look close -- you'll see a large gold weathervane in the shape of a romping Pegasus!

When kids head out with their backpacks and classrooms doors open, we are busy at Maps for the Classroom! The phone rings with back-to school orders. The sound of the clanking tape machine, closing up boxes of maps going out to schools, provides a percussive background music. An exciting time as we move forward with new projects!

We are happy that our new "CARTOGRAPHY CORNER" poster brochure provoked many much appreciated orders from new customers! In this regular newsletter we hope to share the ongoing story of our family business, now approaching a quarter of a century! We love maps -- and we design them for you!

We make hands-on activity maps that turn teachers and students into cartographers. We are committed to helping teachers meet their curriculum needs. We love history and fun graphics! We hope this newsletter inspires some interesting new activities in your classroom! ENJOY -- and we'd love to hear from you!



FROM AN EARLY EXPLORER'S MAP!



FROM OUR ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS MAP!

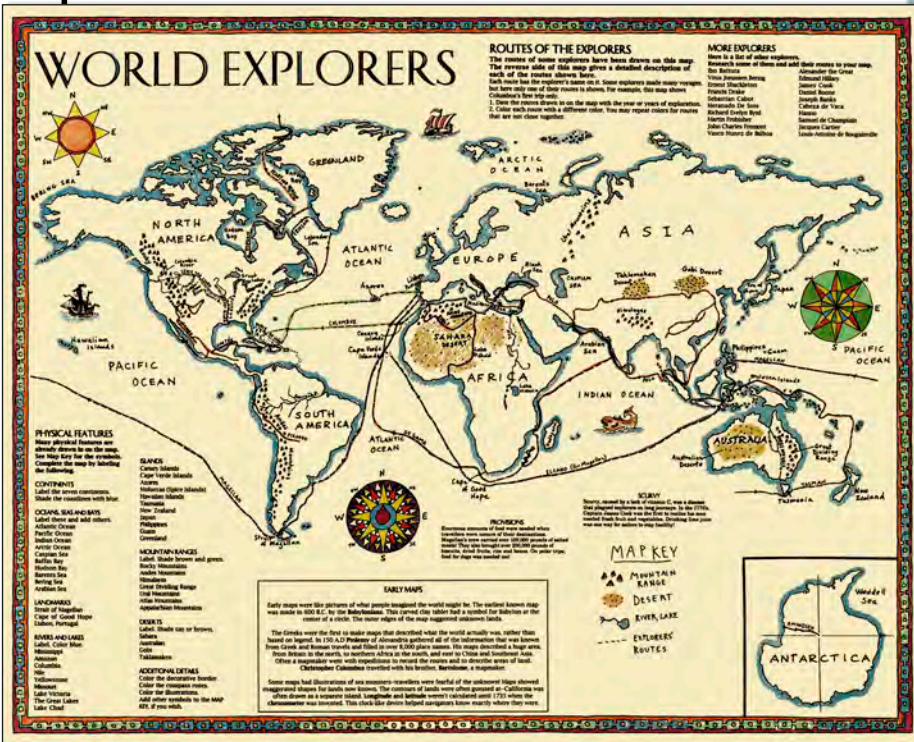


STUDENT DRAWN COMPASS ROSE!

If there is one map detail that fascinates everyone, it is the **COMPASS ROSE!** We design them for all our maps! Students have fun designing their own! Click ["How-to-draw a Compass Rose"](#) for online how-to's.

WHAT WE LEARNED!

....making our **WORLD EXPLORERS** map



When we started researching our **WORLD EXPLORERS** map, we studied many old gems from the early days of mapmaking and read many books about the explorers themselves. Early mapmakers documented the newly discovered land forms: it was fascinating to see how coastlines were drawn in curious ways, much less accurate than our maps today! Maps had many decorative images: sea monsters, mermaids, compass roses, detailed borders and often featured mythological figures.

When we read about the many obstacles that explorers faced, we wanted our map to show more than just the routes they took to new lands. We wanted to represent the physical geography of the world at the time too. Rivers, mountain ranges and deserts all affected the way men traveled. The stories of the explorers were so unique and interesting we decided to document them on the reverse side of this large blank map -- see completed at left.

Try to pick up some old map prints, a good atlas of early maps, or access archives of maps online. Your students will enjoy comparing their own maps to those of the early cartographers!

READING LIST!

WORLD EXPLORERS AND DISCOVERERS Edited by Richard Bohlander. Comprehensive, fascinating -- a great addition to your library! Become more knowledgeable about this topic!

CARTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS WITH JASON

"One of the most enjoyable parts of my job as a cartographer is going into classrooms and presenting mapmaking workshops.

Students might find the thought of making a map intimidating, but they soon learn that they are using their usual classroom skills:

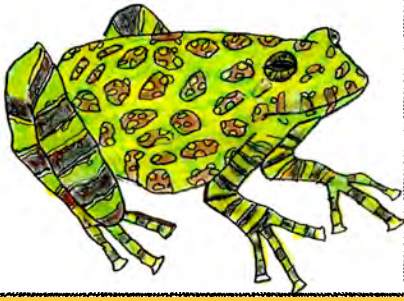
- * neatness
 - * following directions
 - * taking their time
 - * lettering
- ...and who doesn't like to color?"



Here I am in a classroom! Above is an example of a student's work!



You can easily recreate one of my most popular workshops in your classroom: A **MAP OF YOUR TOWN!** On the board, draw a simple shape to represent town boundaries. Students can copy your simple "sketch map" on to a large piece of paper. Draw in main roads, bodies of water, well-known landmarks! Make a title, a Compass Rose and Map Key. **VOILA! Suddenly you have a classroom of cartographers!**



ABOUT ME!

Learn MORE about this creature and many others! Click on our new "ISLANDS" feature FREE and downloadable at: www.cartocraze.com

Part of our "ALL AROUND WITH PROFESSOR EARTHWORM" map!

Common name Ishikawa's frog

Latin name Odorrana ishikawae

LIVES On two different Japanese islands

EXTINCT?

Very endangered, due to polluted water!

Favorite Of school children!

Found in Streams that run through forests in Japan

Eats Millipedes and other bugs!

Dreams about Catching tiny crabs in fresh clean water!

Sounds like when disturbed!



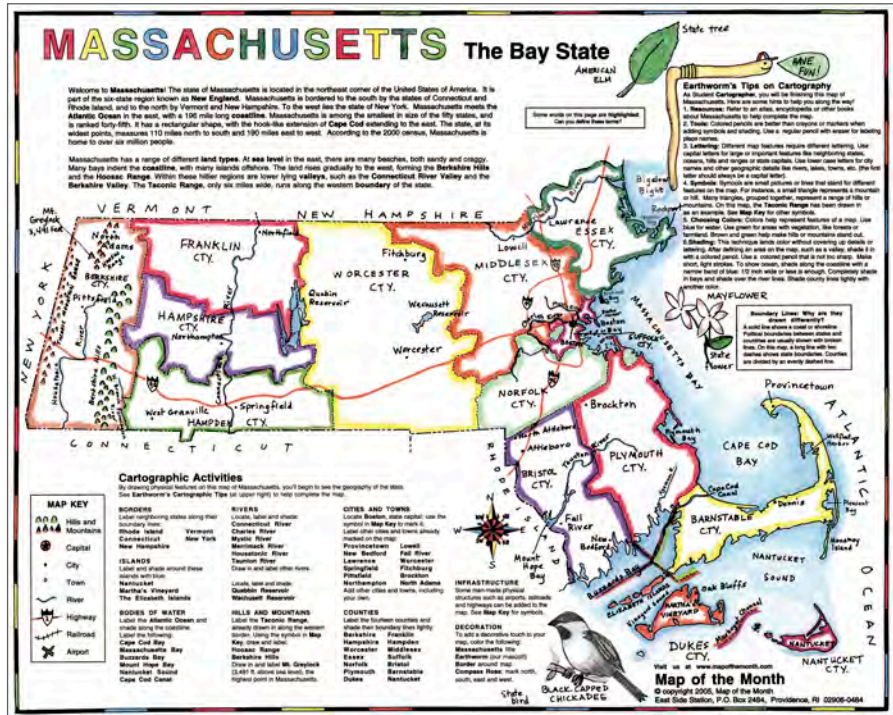
QR Code for our site!

WE WANT TO SEND YOU FREE MAP SAMPLES!

Visit our websites!
Click for
FREE SAMPLES:

www.mapsforthe classroom.com
www.cartocraze.com

How much do you and your students know about... YOUR STATE?



16"

20"

When you and your students fill in this large 16" by 20" map (YES! All our black and white activity maps are large desktop size!) you'll come away with a greater knowledge of your state and its features. How many mountain ranges are in MA? What are your major rivers? Boston Harbor is part of which bay? Which MA counties are surrounded by water?

If you use our "STEP-BY-STEP MAPPING" files on your whiteboard or projector, your students can follow along with the map in stages as they complete the activities and color -- it is a great visual KEY for your map! Don't forget that this map can support social studies, literacy and math too -- use the finished map in conjunction with reading and other projects!

Who uses our maps in MA?

From Abington to Worcester, **128 schools** in MA have ordered our maps so far for the this current school year! **EVERY** elementary school in the **LEXINGTON** district is using several of our maps, across all grade levels! Many other districts in MA have been using our maps in multiple schools -- Chelmsford, Framingham, Hingham, Marblehead, Marlboro, Marshfield, Scituate, Wayland, Westwood -- the list goes on!

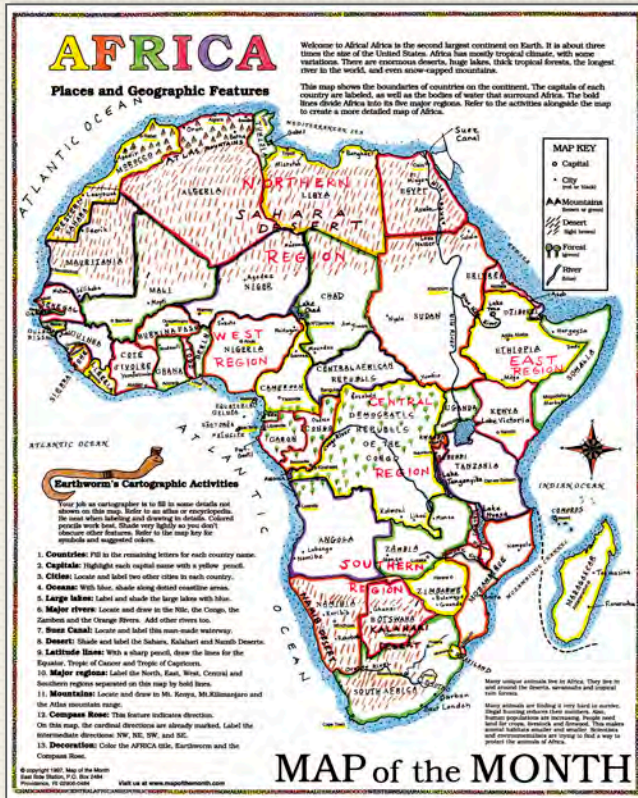
Join the ranks! These teachers know our maps support your Massachusetts curriculum!

TOP TEN CARTOGRAPHY SKILLS that HELP in the CLASSROOM

When students work with mapping and cartography techniques, they reinforce skills that support other subjects!

All kinds of maps can work in conjunction with social studies and history classes. Also with math, reading and literacy, as well as art projects.

Working with cartographic skills gives a student a sense of "place," and lends an awareness that the world is large, diverse and very interesting!



1. WORLD KNOWLEDGE
2. NEATNESS
3. CREATIVITY
4. FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS
5. LETTERING
6. PATIENCE
7. RESEARCH
8. DRAWING
9. ATTENTION TO DETAIL
10. PRESENTATION

Do you know which country in AFRICA changed recently? New boundary not visible on this map...

MAP KEY SYMBOLS for STUDENT MAPS

Symbols are small pictures that stand for different features on a map. A symbol is often drawn to look like what it represents. A triangular shape is often used to denote a mountain. A desert can be shown by a group of dots -- a little bit like sand! A forest: little shapes that look like trees. A railroad can be shown as a line with bars drawn across it, like a train track.

All symbols for a map are grouped together in a MAP KEY.

For student maps, the symbols can be displayed in a freeform manner, without a box around them, as at right.

When you are coloring symbols, match colors to what you are depicting. For instance, mountains can be drawn brown and green. If a school is shown it could be red (like a brick building). Trees and wetlands are green, and so on.

If you are designing symbols for a map, think about shapes that remind you in some way of what you are showing. For instance, you might use an envelope shape, as in the key show here, to represent a Post Office building.

