

COMMON CORE  
Lessons & Activities

# MAP SKILLS

Reading for Information

Higher-Order Thinking

Writing Prompts

Primary Source Analysis

Vocabulary

Graphic Organizers

Map Activities

& More!

**REPRODUCIBLE**

*One teacher is allowed to make copies for use in her/his classroom!*



## About this Book

This Common Core Lessons and Activities Book allows you to immediately meet new Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, as well as Literacy and Writing in History/Social Studies. It is designed to supplement your Social Studies resources, adding new Common Core rigor, analysis, writing, inference, text-dependent questions, and more into your daily instruction.

## How to Use this Book:

- Work through the lessons and activities as a class to teach your students higher-order thinking, analysis, and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills necessary to meet new Common Core expectations.
- Allow students to work through the lessons independently to build and practice these new skills.
- Include technology, collaboration, presentation, and discussion in the activities as you desire—you can decide how in-depth to go.
- Watch your class develop new abilities to meet the rigor of Common Core State Standards, right before your eyes!

## Tips:

- Use some of the pages—or use them all—based on your grade, your students, your curriculum, and your needs.
- Use the pages at their current size, or if you prefer them to be 8-1/2" x 11", enlarge them 125% on your copy machine.
- Download graphic organizers labeled “GO” in the Table of Contents by going to: [www.gallopade.com/client/go](http://www.gallopade.com/client/go)
- Use the correlations grid to easily see which Common Core standards are covered in each lesson.

# Common Core Lessons & Activities: Map Skills

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**G**: Includes Graphic Organizer

**GO**: Graphic Organizer is also available 8½" x 11" online  
download at [www.gallopade.com/client/go](http://www.gallopade.com/client/go)

(numbers above correspond to the graphic organizer numbers online)

# Using a Simple Grid

Read the text, look at the map, and answer the questions.

Every place on the Earth has a location! To easily find and describe locations on the Earth’s surface, cartographers draw imaginary lines that intersect on the map to create a grid. Grids help show location. The simplest grid is an alphanumeric grid.

## How to read an alphanumeric grid

An alphanumeric grid uses letters and numbers. “Alpha” refers to letters of the alphabet (A, B, C, ...), and “numeric” refers to numbers (1, 2, 3, ...). Each square of the grid is named by its corresponding letter and number. You can read the grid by locating the letter of the square and then the number.

This combination of letters and numbers is one way to describe location on a map. Objects in the top left square of the grid are said to be at location A1.

**PART A:** Use the text to answer these questions.

1. What is the purpose of drawing a grid on a map?
2. Describe what an “alphanumeric” grid is.
3. Explain why the text describes the grid lines on a map as “imaginary.”
4. Use what you learned from the text to fill in the names of each square in the alphanumeric grid below. A few squares have been completed as examples.

	1	2	3	4	5
A	A1				
B				B4	
C					
D		D2			

# Relative & Absolute Location

Read the text and answer the questions.

Every place on the Earth has a location! Maps can be used to describe location in two ways—relative location and absolute location.

## Relative Location

Relative location describes a point on the Earth by comparing it with another location. For example, Cleveland, Ohio, is located east of Toledo, Ohio. Canada is located north of the United States. Those are both relative locations.

Relative location is very useful for explaining and describing location, but it is not an exact way to describe location. To describe exact location, it is best to use absolute location.

## Latitude and Longitude: A Grid for Absolute Location

Latitude describes a position on Earth's surface in relation to the equator. Imaginary circles called parallels of latitude run around the Earth parallel to the equator. Longitude describes a point's position on Earth's surface in relation to the prime meridian. Meridians of longitude are imaginary half circles that run between the geographic North and South poles.

The lines of latitude and longitude form a grid around the Earth. The intersection of these lines creates a coordinate grid that can be used to describe the absolute location of any place on Earth. Cartographers use this grid to locate the exact position of places on the Earth's surface.

**PART A:** Use the text to determine whether each statement is **true (T)** or **false (F)**. Rewrite each false statement to be true.

1. \_\_\_\_ Some places on Earth do not have a location.
2. \_\_\_\_ Absolute locations describe an exact location.
3. \_\_\_\_ Relative location is not helpful for describing location.
4. \_\_\_\_ Intersecting latitude and longitude lines on a map form a grid.
5. \_\_\_\_ Relative location is more accurate than absolute location.
6. \_\_\_\_ Lines of latitude are based on the equator.

**PART B:** Read the text, look at the map, and answer the questions.

**Latitude and longitude as coordinates**

Absolute locations are usually measured in degrees (°) latitude and longitude. Latitude is measured North from the equator by degrees North (°N) and south from the equator by degrees South (°S). Similarly, longitude is measured from the prime meridian by degrees East (°E) and degrees West (°W).

Any point on the Earth's surface can be measured using a combination of latitude and longitude. Latitude and longitude are written as coordinates (°Latitude, °Longitude). For example, in the map below, Miami is approximately 25°N latitude and 80°W longitude—(25°N, 80°W).



7. What are the benefits of using a grid to describe location?
8. A. Which part of the coordinate (45°S, 54°E) indicates latitude?  
B. Which part of the coordinate (45°S, 54°E) indicates longitude?
9. Use the map to identify what is located at each of the following latitude and longitude coordinates.
  - A. (43°N, 71°W) \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. (39°N, 104°W) \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. (29°N, 95°W) \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. (46°N, 97°W) \_\_\_\_\_
10. Make inferences based on what you have learned to answer the questions.
  - A. Is the United States in the Northern or Southern Hemisphere?
  - B. Is the United States in the Eastern or Western Hemisphere?
  - C. How do you know?

## CLASSIFYING INFORMATION

# Location, Location, Location

Read the text and answer Parts A and B.

The Earth's surface is very wide. However, any location on the Earth can be mapped using different scales. Some maps show large areas of the Earth, and some maps show small areas.

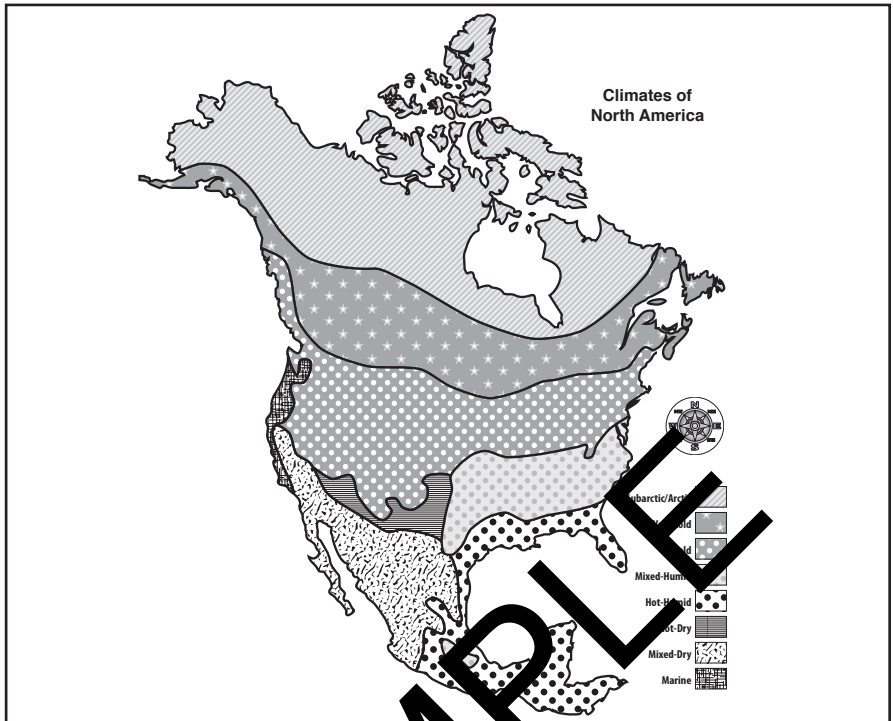
A large-scale map shows a vast area of land, but shows less detail about the land. A large-scale map might feature a state, country or even the whole globe. A large-scale map might display large cities, but not small ones. It might also show large landforms like oceans and mountain ranges, but not the individual names of mountains or the names of smaller seas and other geographic areas.

A medium-scale map might include the names of states and smaller geographic regions. It might also include major mountains, lakes, and rivers in an area, or the names of smaller cities and towns.

Small-scale maps show a very small area of land, but show greater detail about the land. A city map is an example of a small-scale map. The city map is too small to show large features like a state map. However, small-scale maps have more detail, showing roads, hills, rivers, buildings, bridges, and other objects.

**PART A:** Use the text to determine whether each of the statements is true (T) or false (F). Rewrite each false statement to be true.

1. \_\_\_\_ The scale of a map can be changed to show more or less land area.
2. \_\_\_\_ Small-scale maps contain the most detailed and accurate descriptions of an area of land.
3. \_\_\_\_ Scale is a measurement of distance on a map. The larger the scale the greater the distance the map covers.
4. \_\_\_\_ A map of Europe would most likely be drawn on a medium-scale map.
5. \_\_\_\_ A community map would be drawn on a large-scale map.
6. \_\_\_\_ A small-scale map typically includes only smaller landforms.

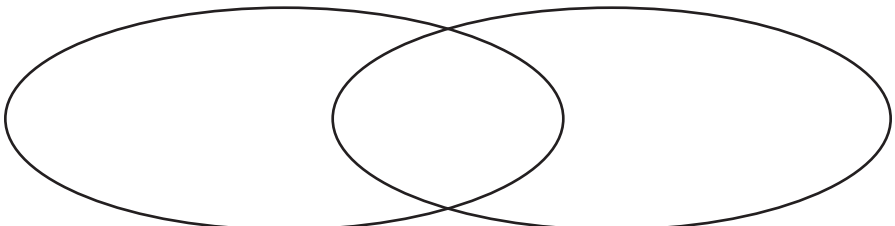


7. Why do you need a map key to understand the climate map?
8.
  - A. In which part of Canada do you think most people live? Why?
  - B. How many different climates exist in the United States?
  - C. Name two climate areas that most likely indicate a desert region.
9. What is the climate of the region you live in? Use the political map to estimate the location of your state on the climate map.
10. Describe how temperatures change from the northern regions to the southern regions of North America.

**Compare and Contrast** the two maps in terms of map features, information presented, intended purpose, and level of detail.

**Political**

**Climate**





# Correlations to Common Core State Standards

For your convenience, correlations are listed page-by-page, and for the entire book!

This book is correlated to the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts grades 3-8, and to Common Core State Standards for Literacy in History, Science, & Technological Subjects grades 6-8.

Correlations are highlighted in gray.

PAGE #	READING										WRITING										LANGUAGE						SPEAKING & LISTENING										
	<i>Includes:</i> RI: Reading Informational Text RH: Reading History/Social Studies										<i>Includes:</i> W: Writing WHST: Writing History/Social Studies, Science, & Technical Subjects										<i>Includes:</i> L: Language LF: Language Foundations Skills						<i>Includes:</i> SL: Speaking & Listening										
2	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	RH											WHST												LF													
3	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	RH											WHST												LF													
4-5	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	RH											WHST												LF													
6-7	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	RH											WHST												LF													
8-9	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	RH											WHST												LF													
10	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	RH											WHST												LF													
11	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	RH											WHST												LF													
12-13	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	RH											WHST												LF													
14-15	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	RH											WHST												LF													
16-17	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	RH											WHST												LF													
18-19	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	RH											WHST												LF													
20-21	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	RH											WHST												LF													
22	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	RH											WHST												LF													
23	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	RH											WHST												LF													
COMPLETE BOOK	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6	
	RH											WHST												LF													

For the complete Common Core standard identifier, combine your grade + "." + letter code above + "." + number code above.

*In addition to the correlations indicated here, the activities may be adapted or expanded to align to additional standards and to meet the diverse needs of your unique students!*

# Common Core Lessons & Activities Books

## Social Studies Titles:

- Declaration of Independence
- U.S. Constitution
- Bill of Rights
- Road to the Civil War
- The Civil War: Key Battles & Events
- Jamestown
- Key Events of World War II
- Civil Rights Movement
- Branches of Government
- Basic Economic Concepts
- Women's Suffrage and the 19th Amendment
- The American Revolution
- Explorers
- The Olympics
- Underground Railroad
- Forms of Government: Democracy, Monarchy, & Oligarchy & More
- Ancient Greece
- Ancient Egypt
- Native Americans
- Indian Removal & the Trail of Tears
- Investors & Inventions
- Map Skills
- Westward Expansion
- Communities

## Science Titles:

- Habitats
- States of Matter
- Cell Structure
- Weather
- Water Cycle
- Energy
- Solar System
- Sound
- Mammals
- Light
- Rocks and Minerals
- Oceans
- Heredity & Genetics
- Magnetism
- Natural Resources
- Ecosystems
- Force & Motion
- History of the Earth
- Life Cycles
- Wave Properties
- Landforms
- Classification of Organisms
- Electricity
- The Scientific Method

# COMMON CORE Lessons & Activities

Are you expected to change how you teach because of new CCSS for English Language Arts & new CCSS for Literacy and Writing in History/Social Studies and Science?

Are you expected to continue to meet existing science and social studies standards, AND integrate new, more rigorous expectations for reading, writing, analysis, inference, and more into your daily instruction?

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Uncommon  
Value!

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-Amy Johnson, Common Core Specialist

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Literacy and Writing in History/Social Studies and Science!**