

DISCOVER... Types of maps

In general, geographers work with two types of maps: topographic and thematic.

Topographic maps

Topographic maps show physical (natural) details, such as rivers, and human (artificial) features, such as roads.

In Spain, the standard scale of the national topographic map is 1:50 000.

Thematic maps

Thematic maps show a particular aspect of an area. The most common are:

- **Climate maps.** These show rainfall, temperatures, types of climates, etc.
- **Economic maps.** These have information on farming, fishing, industry, tourism, mining, livestock, etc.
- **Population maps.** These indicate aspects of population density, migration, birth and death rates, urban centres, etc.
- **Political maps.** These include political and administrative boundaries, capital cities and other towns.
- **Road maps.** These show the routes of roads and railways as well as the location of airports, ports, etc.
- **Relief maps.** These indicate landforms such as mountain ranges, valleys and plains. They also show lakes, rivers and coastal features.



Topographic maps of Spain.

Political map of the world.



POPULATION OF SPANISH PROVINCIAL CAPITALS

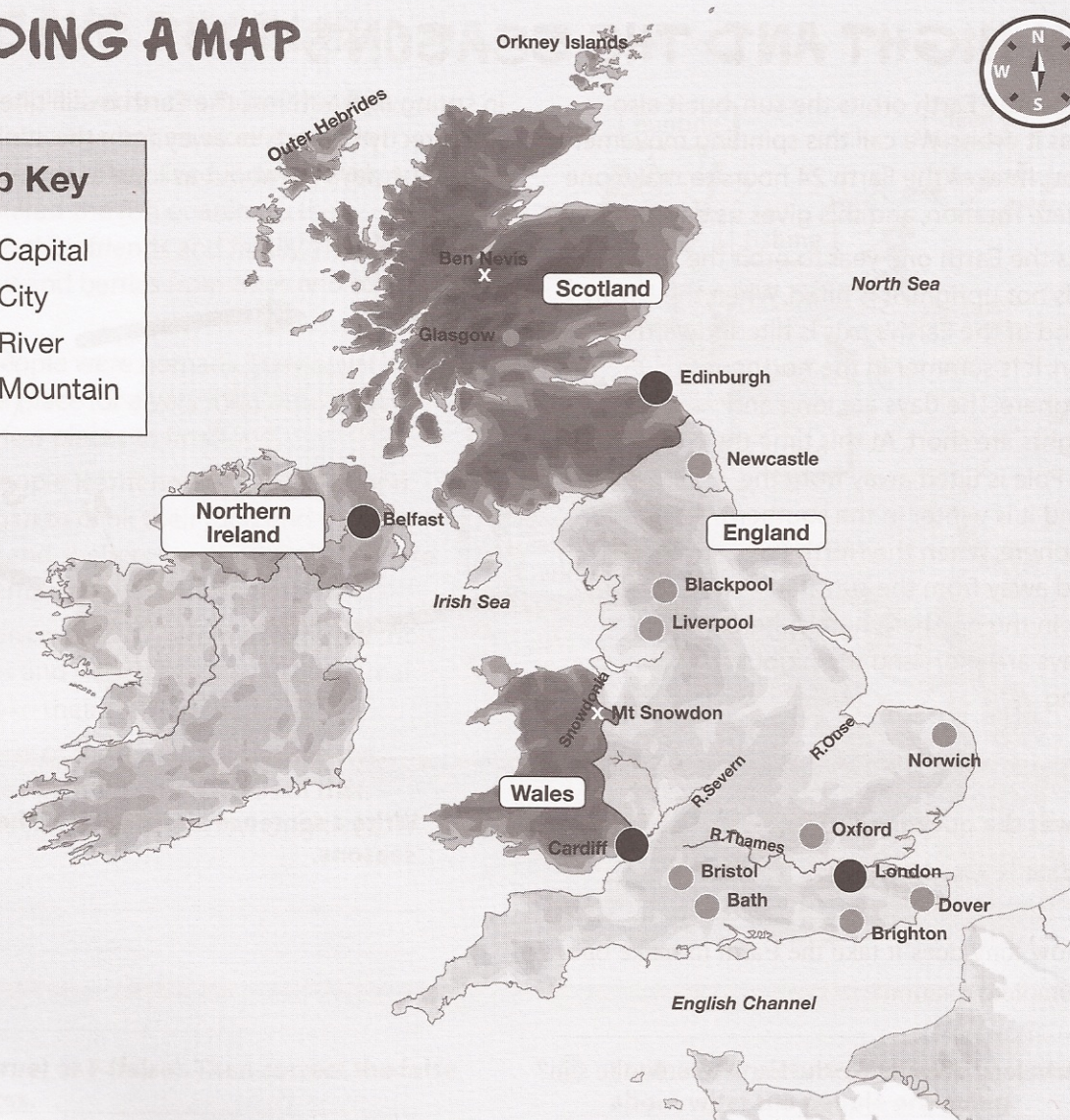


Investigate a thematic map.

- 1 Look at the map. What area is represented? What information does it give?
- 2 What conventional signs are used to show this information?
- 3 What information does the key provide?

READING A MAP

Map Key	
●	Capital
●	City
~	River
x	Mountain



1 Look at the map of the United Kingdom and answer the questions, using the key to help you.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Which countries make up the United Kingdom?
..... | 5. Name a river in London.
..... |
| 2. Which country is north of England?
..... | 6. Which islands are north of Scotland?
..... |
| 3. In which country is Mount Snowdon?
..... | 7. Which sea separates England from Ireland?
..... |
| 4. What is the capital city of Northern Ireland?
..... | 8. Name a city in Scotland.
..... |

2 Circle the correct answer.

- Wales is **north** / **south** / **east** / **west** of England.
- The English Channel is **north** / **south** / **east** / **west** of England.