Lesson 1 | Activity #8

SEVEN ELEMENTS OF MAPS

What are Maps?

Maps are essential tools for navigation and understanding the world. They help us visualize spatial relationships and can vary greatly in scale, from detailed street maps of a city to expansive maps of entire continents. Maps also come in various formats, such as digital maps on devices or traditional paper maps. Beyond the basic types, there are thematic maps, which focus on specific topics like climate, population density, or economic activities. Each map is crafted with specific elements that aid in interpreting the information it presents, such as legends and scales, to ensure users can glean accurate and useful insights from the data depicted.

1) Titles Titles help the reader know about the information included in maps.	**2) Cartographer/Map Maker's Name** This gives proper credit to the designer and maker of the map. In addition, the name helps to source the map for reference or research.
3) Date Geography is the study of place, and it is important to remember that places change over time.	**4) Compass Rose** Represents direction on the map, showing the four cardinal points - North, East, South, and West
5) Key/Legend A key to describing symbols, lines, or figures on a map. It is usually placed in a box in some part of the surface that is not being used.	**6) Scale Bar** This is a ratio of distance between places using measurements such as kilometers or miles

7) Coordinate System (Latitude and Longitude)

The system of latitude and longitude is a man-made system for finding a location anywhere on the surface of the globe. Latitudes are imaginary lines drawn around the globe from side to side, horizontally. Longitudes are imaginary lines drawn up and down, vertically. Letters and numbers can also be used in a coordinate system in finding locations on a map.

Name _____ Date _____

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STUDENT HANDOUT: SEVEN ELEMENTS OF A MAP

Located And Label

Directions: Answer the following questions as you analysis the *2026 FDOT Official Florida Transportation Map*

1) Map Title:

_____

2) Date Created:

_____

3) Map Maker/ Cartographer/ Publisher Name:

_____

4) Is there a Legend/Key? If yes, where is this located on the map?

_____

5) Is there a compass rose? If yes, where is it located on the map?

_____

6) Is there a scale bar? If yes, where is it located and why do you think it is located there?

_____

7) Locate the Letters and Numbers that help the reader find their location/destination.

_____

Comparing Maps

Directions: Look at the *Map of East and West Florida, 1763*. Find ten places that are displayed on this historic map, then try to locate the same ten places on the 2026 FDOT map. Once located, record the Letter/Number coordinates for each of the ten locations.

Historic Name: Modern Name: Letter/Number Coordinates:	Historic Name: Modern Name: Letter/Number Coordinates:
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8) Did the spelling of these places change over time?

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9) Where are most of the places located? North, South, East, or West?
