

Map Symbols



A map is a visual tool that lets you view all or part of the Earth. Because a map allows you to “see” a place, it is like a photograph taken from above. But instead of showing you how things look, a map uses different types of symbols to help you understand what you are seeing. For example, in a photo you might see a line of black asphalt with yellow lines painted down the center. On a map, that pavement could be replaced by a red line that lets you know this is a state highway. The red line is a symbol.

Let's explore how different types of symbols are used in the atlas.

What symbol represents each of these features?	Describe or draw a picture of the map symbol	Is this a <u>point</u> , <u>line</u> , or <u>area</u> symbol?
Pg. 21: Location of a California Mission		
Pg. 48: Location of a community college		
Pg. 9: The San Andreas Fault Zone		
Pg. 13: The Sonoran Desert		
Pg. 34: An aqueduct		
Pg. 34: A dam		
Pg. 36: Agricultural land		
Pg. 25: Location of Monte Cristo Gold Mine		
Pg. 25: The Mother Lode		
Pg. 27: A state boundary		
Why does it make sense for maps to use the color blue to represent areas where there is water?		
Design symbols to represent a playground, a school, and an ice cream shop on a neighborhood map.		