STEP-BY-STEP MAPPING CD

from Maps for the Classroom, by Map of the Month

By following this **STEP-BY-STEP MAPPING CD** presentation, you can see the different layers that make up a map. All of the necessary details of the map are shown on the CD, eliminating the need for using other resources for further research.

ACTIVITIES: For the most part, the individual stages of **STEP-BY-STEP MAPPING** follow the suggested **ACTIVITIES** printed on each map. In some cases, extra details have been added.

LABELING STYLE: Follow the labeling style presented for a clear and accurate approach to completing the map. Or, choose your own colors or style-- embellishing and labeling in your own way helps personalize your map. Some maps, such as the **TREASURE MAP** or **BASIC SKILLS MAP** encourage individuality.

BASIC STAGES: Activities are divided into several stages for each map-- most often 4 or 5, but some maps require more. Since each map is different, this order and approach may vary slightly. But generally, regardless of the number of stages, most of the features below are addressed:

> **LABELING** Generally speaking, the early stages of each map encourage the labeling of the names of places: countries or cities, continents or regions. If these features are already labeled on the map, then the instructions may specify underlining them, to draw attention to them.
>
> **BODIES OF WATER** Often in the next stage(s), bodies of water, such as oceans, lakes, and rivers, are labeled and colored.
>
> **GEOGRAPHIC DETAILS**: Mountain ranges, deserts, valleys and other geographic details are drawn in, using the symbols shown in the Map Key. Fill them in with the appropriate color.
>
> **ADDITIONAL FEATURES**: To add more detail, color other features, such as borders, illustrations and the Earthworm mascot. Sometimes, especially on state or city maps, transportation details, such highways, railroad routes, or airports can be drawn in.
>
> **EXTRA STAGES**: Some maps are more complicated and have an extra stages. Others relate to history or regions. Or you can draw in extra details of your own, or make new illustrations to further decorate and embellish.

The **BLANK** map is shown at the beginning of the stages. When the maps are complete, returning to this blank map is a good way to review some of the work you have done alone or as a group. Or you may use the blank map for a different purpose or different topic. Or add different information than what is suggested in the **ACTIVITIES** section of the map.

STEP-BY-STEP MAPPING copyright 2007, Map of the Month:
All images and maps are copyright protected and non-reproducible.
East Side Station, P. O. Box 2484 Providence, RI 02906-0484
www.mapsfortheclassroom.org or Call toll free 888 876 6277

MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA

Places and Geographic Features

Welcome to **Mexico** and **Central America**! This area of land is part of the North American **continent**. Mexico is a large country to the south of the **United States**. Central America is a **region** which lies to the south of Mexico and is made up of seven smaller countries. Central America, a narrow strip of land called an **isthmus**, links the North and South American continents. This land bridge also separates the **Atlantic Ocean** to the east from the **Pacific Ocean** to the west.

Between 1904 and 1914, the **Panama Canal** was built. This man-made water way links the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. Previous to the building of this 51 mile long **canal**, ships were forced to travel around the southernmost tip of South America.

There are a wide variety of land types in this region. In Mexico, there are many mountains, a large **desert** in the north, and more **temperate** regions along the **Gulf of Mexico** and on the **Yucatan Peninsula**. In both northern and southern Central America, there are large mountainous areas, including active **volcanoes**. On the Caribbean side of Mexico and Central America, there are dense tropical **rainforests**. Along the Pacific coast are some low-lying **semi-tropical** areas.

Some words on this page are **highlighted**. Can you define these terms?



Earthworm's Cartographic Activities

Your job as cartographer is to fill in some details not shown on this map. Refer to an atlas or encyclopedia. Refer to the **Map Key** for symbols and suggested colors. Be neat when labeling and drawing in details. Colored pencils work best. Shade very lightly so you don't obscure other features.

Countries: Fill in the remaining letters for each country name.

Capitals: Locate the capital symbol for each country and fill in the remaining letters for each capital city.

Cities: Locate and label two other cities in each country.

Oceans: With blue, shade along coastline areas. Label the following bodies of water: Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of California, Gulf of Honduras, Mosquito Gulf and Gulf of Panama.

Lakes: Label and shade Lake Nicaragua with blue. Add Lake Managua.

Rivers: Locate and shade the Rio Grandé. Add others.

Panama Canal: Locate, draw and label this man-made waterway.

Mountains: Locate and draw in Sierra Madre Occidental, Sierra Madre Oriental, Sierra Madre Del Sur, and Central American Highlands.

Desert: Using the symbol in the Map Key, shade the desert regions of northern Mexico.

Rainforest: Using the symbol in the Map Key, draw the rainforests of this region.

Latitude line: With a sharp pencil, draw in the Tropic of Cancer.

Compass Rose: This feature indicates direction. Label the cardinal directions: North, South, East and West. Label the intermediate directions: NW, NE, SW, and SE.

Decoration: Color the title of the map, the Compass Rose, and our mascot **Earthworm**.

MAP KEY

- Capital (black)
- City (red or black)
- Mountains (brown or green)
- Desert (light brown)
- Rainforest (green)
- River (blue)

Boundary Lines: Why are they drawn differently?
A solid line shows a coast or shoreline. Political boundaries between states and countries are usually shown with broken lines.

Map of the Month

© copyright 1995, Map of the Month
East Side Station, P. O. Box 2484
Providence, RI 02906-0484
Visit us at www.mapofthemonth.com

MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA

Places and Geographic Features

Welcome to **Mexico** and **Central America**! This area of land is part of the North American **continent**. Mexico is a large country to the south of the **United States**. Central America is a **region** which lies to the south of Mexico and is made up of seven smaller countries. Central America, a narrow strip of land called an **isthmus**, links the North and South American continents. This land bridge also separates the **Atlantic Ocean** to the east from the **Pacific Ocean** to the west.

Between 1904 and 1914, the **Panama Canal** was built. This man-made water way links the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. Previous to the building of this 51 mile long **canal**, ships were forced to travel around the southernmost tip of South America.

There are a wide variety of land types in this region. In Mexico, there are many mountains, a large **desert** in the north, and more **temperate** regions along the **Gulf of Mexico** and on the **Yucatan Peninsula**. In both northern and southern Central America, there are large mountainous areas, including active **volcanoes**. On the Caribbean side of Mexico and Central America, there are dense tropical **rainforests**. Along the Pacific coast are some low-lying **semi-tropical** areas.

Some words on this page are **highlighted**. Can you define these terms?



Earthworm's Cartographic Activities

Your job as cartographer is to fill in some details not shown on this map. Refer to an atlas or encyclopedia. Refer to the **Map Key** for symbols and suggested colors. Be neat when labeling and drawing in details. Colored pencils work best. Shade very lightly so you don't obscure other features.

Countries: Fill in the remaining letters for each country name.

Capitals: Locate the capital symbol for each country and fill in the remaining letters for each capital city.

Cities: Locate and label two other cities in each country.

Oceans: With blue, shade along coastline areas. Label the following bodies of water: Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of California, Gulf of Honduras, Mosquito Gulf and Gulf of Panama.

Lakes: Label and shade Lake Nicaragua with blue. Add Lake Managua.

Rivers: Locate and shade the Rio Grandé. Add others.

Panama Canal: Locate, draw and label this man-made waterway.

Mountains: Locate and draw in Sierra Madre Occidental, Sierra Madre Oriental, Sierra Madre Del Sur, and Central American Highlands.

Desert: Using the symbol in the Map Key, shade the desert regions of northern Mexico.

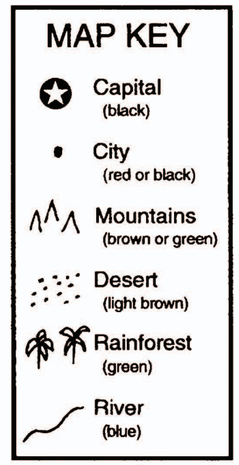
Rainforest: Using the symbol in the Map Key, draw the rainforests of this region.

Latitude line: With a sharp pencil, draw in the Tropic of Cancer.

Compass Rose: This feature indicates direction. Label the cardinal directions: North, South, East and West. Label the intermediate directions: NW, NE, SW, and SE.

Decoration: Color the title of the map, the Compass Rose, and our mascot **Earthworm**.





Boundary Lines: Why are they drawn differently?
A solid line shows a coast or shoreline. Political boundaries between states and countries are usually shown with broken lines.

Map of the Month

© copyright 1995, Map of the Month
East Side Station, P. O. Box 2484
Providence, RI 02906-0484
Visit us at www.mapofthemonth.com

MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA

Places and Geographic Features

Welcome to **Mexico** and **Central America**! This area of land is part of the North American **continent**. Mexico is a large country to the south of the **United States**. Central America is a **region** which lies to the south of Mexico and is made up of seven smaller countries. Central America, a narrow strip of land called an **isthmus**, links the North and South American continents. This land bridge also separates the **Atlantic Ocean** to the east from the **Pacific Ocean** to the west.

Between 1904 and 1914, the **Panama Canal** was built. This man-made water way links the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. Previous to the building of this 51 mile long **canal**, ships were forced to travel around the southernmost tip of South America.

There are a wide variety of land types in this region. In Mexico, there are many mountains, a large **desert** in the north, and more **temperate** regions along the **Gulf of Mexico** and on the **Yucatan Peninsula**. In both northern and southern Central America, there are large mountainous areas, including active **volcanoes**. On the Caribbean side of Mexico and Central America, there are dense tropical **rainforests**. Along the Pacific coast are some low-lying **semi-tropical** areas.

Some words on this page are **highlighted**. Can you define these terms?



Earthworm's Cartographic Activities

Your job as cartographer is to fil in some details not shown on this map. Fefer to an atlas or encyclopedia. Refer to the **Map Key** for symbols and suggested colors. Be neat when labeling and drawing in details. Colored pencils work best. Shade very lightly so you don't obscure other features.

Countries: Fill in the remaining letters for each country name.

Capitals: Locate the capital symbol for each country and fill in the remaining letters for each capital city.

Cities: Locate and label two other cities in each country.

Oceans: With blue, shade along coastline areas. Label the following bodies of water: Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of California, Gulf of Honduras, Mosquito Gulf and Gulf of Panama.

Lakes: Label and shade Lake Nicaragua with blue. Add Lake Managua.

Rivers: Locate and shade the Rio Grandé. Add others.

Panama Canal: Locate, draw and label this man-made waterway.

Mountains: Locate and draw in Sierra Madre Occidental, Sierra Madre Oriental, Sierra Madre Del Sur, and Central American Highlands.

Desert: Using the symbol in the Map Key, shade the desert regions of northern Mexico.

Rainforest: Using the symbol in the Map Key, draw the rainforests of this region.

Latitude line: With a sharp pencil, draw in the Tropic of Cancer.

Compass Rose: This feature indicates direction. Label the cardinal directions: North, South, East and West. Label the intermediate directions: NW, NE, SW, and SE.

Decoration: Color the title of the map, the Compass Rose, and our mascot **Earthworm**.

Boundary Lines: Why are they drawn differently?
A solid line shows a coast or shoreline. Political boundaries between states and countries are usually shown with broken lines.

Map of the Month

© copyright 1995, Map of the Month
East Side Station, P. O. Box 2484
Providence, RI 02906-0484
Visit us at www.mapofthemonth.com

MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA

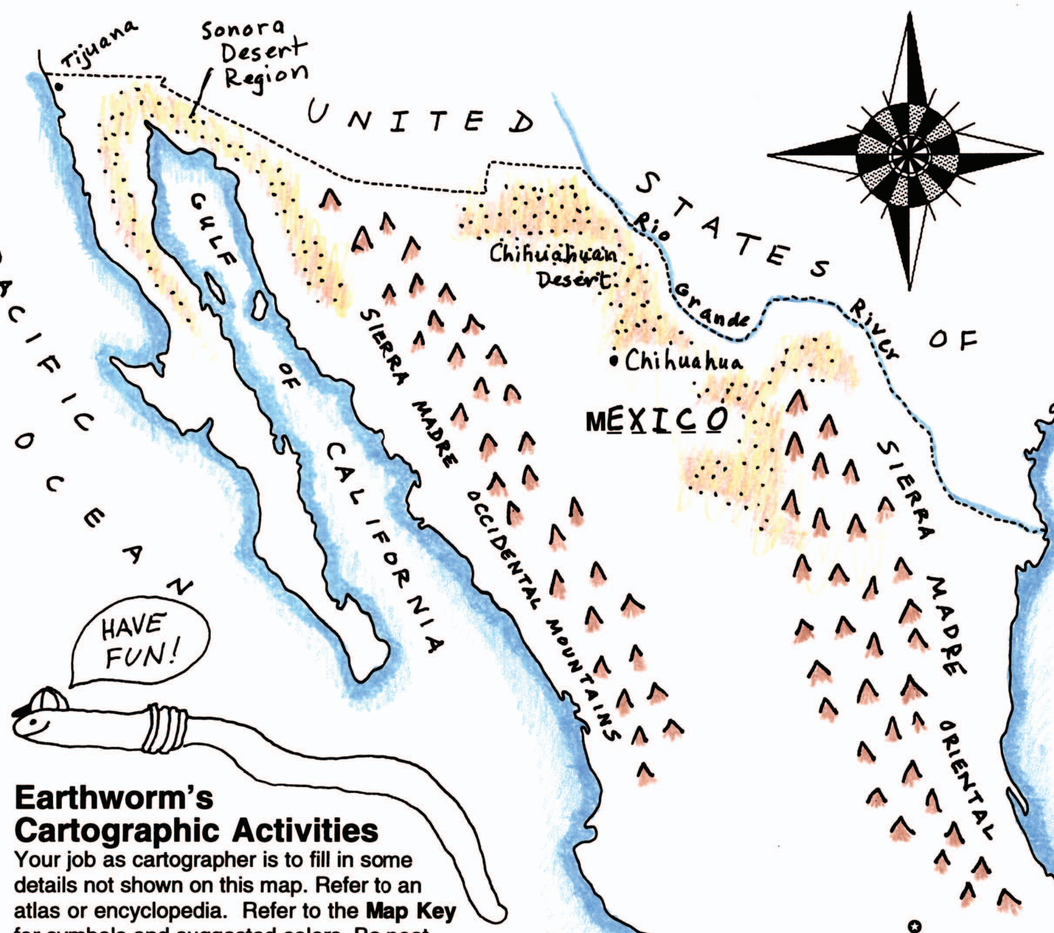
Places and Geographic Features

Welcome to **Mexico** and **Central America**! This area of land is part of the North American **continent**. Mexico is a large country to the south of the **United States**. Central America is a **region** which lies to the south of Mexico and is made up of seven smaller countries. Central America, a narrow strip of land called an **isthmus**, links the North and South American continents. This land bridge also separates the **Atlantic Ocean** to the east from the **Pacific Ocean** to the west.

Between 1904 and 1914, the **Panama Canal** was built. This man-made water way links the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. Previous to the building of this 51 mile long **canal**, ships were forced to travel around the southernmost tip of South America.

There are a wide variety of land types in this region. In Mexico, there are many mountains, a large **desert** in the north, and more **temperate** regions along the **Gulf of Mexico** and on the **Yucatan Peninsula**. In both northern and southern Central America, there are large mountainous areas, including active **volcanoes**. On the Caribbean side of Mexico and Central America, there are dense tropical **rainforests**. Along the Pacific coast are some low-lying **semi-tropical** areas.

Some words on this page are **highlighted**. Can you define these terms?



Earthworm's Cartographic Activities

Your job as cartographer is to fill in some details not shown on this map. Refer to an atlas or encyclopedia. Refer to the **Map Key** for symbols and suggested colors. Be neat when labeling and drawing in details. Colored pencils work best. Shade very lightly so you don't obscure other features.

Countries: Fill in the remaining letters for each country name.

Capitals: Locate the capital symbol for each country and fill in the remaining letters for each capital city.

Cities: Locate and label two other cities in each country.

Oceans: With blue, shade along coastline areas. Label the following bodies of water: Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of California, Gulf of Honduras, Mosquito Gulf and Gulf of Panama.

Lakes: Label and shade Lake Nicaragua with blue. Add Lake Managua.

Rivers: Locate and shade the Rio Grandé. Add others.

Panama Canal: Locate, draw and label this man-made waterway.

Mountains: Locate and draw in Sierra Madre Occidental, Sierra Madre Oriental, Sierra Madre Del Sur, and Central American Highlands.

Desert: Using the symbol in the Map Key, shade the desert regions of northern Mexico.

Rainforest: Using the symbol in the Map Key, draw the rainforests of this region.

Latitude line: With a sharp pencil, draw in the Tropic of Cancer.

Compass Rose: This feature indicates direction. Label the cardinal directions: North, South, East and West. Label the intermediate directions: NW, NE, SW, and SE.

Decoration: Color the title of the map, the Compass Rose, and our mascot **Earthworm**.

MAP KEY

- Capital (black)
- City (red or black)
- Mountains (brown or green)
- Desert (light brown)
- Rainforest (green)
- River (blue)

Boundary Lines: Why are they drawn differently?
A solid line shows a coast or shoreline. Political boundaries between states and countries are usually shown with broken lines.

Map of the Month

© copyright 1995, Map of the Month
East Side Station, P. O. Box 2484
Providence, RI 02906-0484
Visit us at www.mapofthemonth.com

MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA

Places and Geographic Features

Welcome to **Mexico** and **Central America**! This area of land is part of the North American **continent**. Mexico is a large country to the south of the **United States**. Central America is a **region** which lies to the south of Mexico and is made up of seven smaller countries. Central America, a narrow strip of land called an **isthmus**, links the North and South American continents. This land bridge also separates the **Atlantic Ocean** to the east from the **Pacific Ocean** to the west.

Between 1904 and 1914, the **Panama Canal** was built. This man-made water way links the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. Previous to the building of this 51 mile long **canal**, ships were forced to travel around the southernmost tip of South America.

There are a wide variety of land types in this region. In Mexico, there are many mountains, a large **desert** in the north, and more **temperate** regions along the **Gulf of Mexico** and on the **Yucatan Peninsula**. In both northern and southern Central America, there are large mountainous areas, including active **volcanoes**. On the Caribbean side of Mexico and Central America, there are dense tropical **rainforests**. Along the Pacific coast are some low-lying **semi-tropical** areas.

Some words on this page are **highlighted**. Can you define these terms?



MAP KEY

- Capital (black)
- City (red or black)
- Mountains (brown or green)
- Desert (light brown)
- Rainforest (green)
- River (blue)

Boundary Lines:
Why are they drawn differently?
A solid line shows a coast or shoreline. Political boundaries between states and countries are usually shown with broken lines.

Earthworm's Cartographic Activities

Your job as cartographer is to fill in some details not shown on this map. Refer to an atlas or encyclopedia. Refer to the **Map Key** for symbols and suggested colors. Be neat when labeling and drawing in details. Colored pencils work best. Shade very lightly so you don't obscure other features.

Countries: Fill in the remaining letters for each country name.

Capitals: Locate the capital symbol for each country and fill in the remaining letters for each capital city.

Cities: Locate and label two other cities in each country.

Oceans: With blue, shade along coastline areas. Label the following bodies of water: Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of California, Gulf of Honduras, Mosquito Gulf and Gulf of Panama.

Lakes: Label and shade Lake Nicaragua with blue. Add Lake Managua.

Rivers: Locate and shade the Rio Grandé. Add others.

Panama Canal: Locate, draw and label this man-made waterway.

Mountains: Locate and draw in Sierra Madre Occidental, Sierra Madre Oriental, Sierra Madre Del Sur, and Central American Highlands.

Desert: Using the symbol in the Map Key, shade the desert regions of northern Mexico.

Rainforest: Using the symbol in the Map Key, draw the rainforests of this region.

Latitude line: With a sharp pencil, draw in the Tropic of Cancer.

Compass Rose: This feature indicates direction. Label the cardinal directions: North, South, East and West. Label the intermediate directions: NW, NE, SW, and SE.

Decoration: Color the title of the map, the Compass Rose, and our mascot **Earthworm**.

Map of the Month

© copyright 1995, Map of the Month
East Side Station, P. O. Box 2484
Providence, RI 02906-0484
Visit us at www.mapofthemonth.com