

**Map Standards - How to Make an "A" on Any Map**  
These standards must be applied to your maps all year.

**I. Use Neat Lettering**

- A. Use pencil first - then go over your lettering with a black ballpoint or gel type pen (no felt tip pen).
- B. Always print neatly.
- C. Label straight across - except for rivers, mountain ranges, and straits. These labels follow the direction the feature runs on the map.
- D. The only abbreviations that may be used are:
  - R = River
  - Mts. = Mountains
- E. Do not use arrows to point to features or countries. Write smaller and as close to the feature as possible.
- F. Check your spelling.

**II. Color Correctly**

- A. Use map pencils only. No felt markers or crayons.
- B. Color in **one direction** only throughout the entire map. Color light enough to label clearly.
- C. Use contrasting colors next to each other.
- D. Color all bodies of water blue including rivers.
- E. Blue should **never** be used for any land.

**III. Use map symbols correctly**

- A. Draw the legend wherever there is enough room. All legends must have a box drawn around them and have "Legend" written above it. Example:

Legend

•	City
⊕	Capital
☼	Desert
⌚	Mountains

- B. Use a black dot for cities unless the map is a detail map of a city.
- C. Use a star with a circle around it for capital cities.
- D. ⌚ = mountain ranges.
- E. Demonstrate **TODALS** (see p. 11) at all times. Usually "S" is not required.