

Giant Traveling Maps

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a Giant Traveling Map?

The Giant Traveling Maps are oversized maps printed on vinyl. They are designed for students to explore geography while physically standing on the map.

2. What is the purpose of the Montana Giant Traveling Map?

The purpose of the map is to promote an interactive hands-and-feet-on learning experience for 3rd and 4th graders. Geographic illiteracy is a big problem in the United States, and National Geographic hopes that the giant map activities will inspire students to learn more about geography by showing them that geography is fun!

3. What materials are included with the map?

National Geographic has created a lesson handbook that travels with the giant map. The lesson handbook includes six lessons that introduce students to basic map skills like using a scale, legend, and coordinate grid. These lessons are generic and can be used on any state map. In addition, state specific lessons about Montana are included, as well as the majority of materials that are required for each lesson (cones, lanyards, plastic chain, twine, post-its, and bingo chips). Some lessons require minimal preparation, such as preparing index cards with different locations and coordinates.

4. Can the map be used only for 3rd and 4th graders?

The lesson handbook was written based on national geography standards for 3rd and 4th graders. In addition, the map was designed specifically for this age group based on cognitive abilities of 3rd and 4th graders. [See the report](#). The map may be overwhelming for younger students, and too basic for older students. However, there is no rule saying that teachers cannot use the map for other grade levels. They will just have to prepare their own lessons to do so.

5. How big is the map? How heavy is the map?

The Montana Giant Traveling Map is 16' x 20'. The map weighs approximately 25 lbs.

6. Where should we use the map?

Because of its size, the map will require a large open space. You may open the map in your classroom if there is adequate space. If not, a gymnasium, auditorium, or cafeteria may be the best option. Maps are NOT allowed to be used outdoors.

7. If I cannot find space in my building, may I open the map outdoors?

No. The maps may not be used outdoors under any circumstances.

8. How can I bring the map to my school?

To bring the Montana Giant Traveling Map to your school, please fill out the [Borrower's Request Form](#). The request will be processed by the Montana Geographic Alliance and you will receive a Borrowers Agreement to sign and return to the Alliance.

9. What are the costs associated with borrowing the Montana Giant Traveling Map?

For the 2016-2017 school year, there will be no cost for teachers to bring the map to their school! All costs will be covered by the Montana Geographic Alliance.

10. How is the Montana Giant Traveling Map shipped?

The map will be shipped via FedEx ground shipping. Shipping will take 2-3 days. The map will be delivered directly to the main office of your school. When you are done borrowing the map, we will arrange for FedEx to come pick up the map at your school. Shipping insurance will cover any damages that occur to the map while it is in the possession of FedEx.

11. Who is fiscally responsible for any damages to the map while it is being borrowed by a school?

Borrowers are responsible for covering the costs of any damages to the map while it is in their possession. The map will be insured for shipping only.

12. May we use the map for a special event?

Of course! The map was designed for 3rd and 4th graders, but people of all ages are impressed by its size and design. It is a great tool to engage community members at your event.

13. How much time should be set aside for the map lessons?

Lessons range from 15-45 minutes. To complete all the lessons in the handbook, it will require three to four 1-hour sessions. We suggest that the *minimum* time to use the map is one 1-hour session.

14. What are the rules for using the map with students?

To protect the condition of the map, no shoes are allowed on the map. Students must wear socks for hygienic reasons and to protect the ink from damaging skin oils. No writing utensils are allowed on the map. Some lessons require that you record data. If this is the case, students must complete that task off of the map. Again, the map is not allowed to be used outdoors.

15. Who produces the maps?

The maps were created by the National Geographic Cartographic Division of the National Geographic Society. They are cartographically accurate. In addition, the design was based on the cognitive abilities of 3rd and 4th graders. [See the report.](#)