

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Map Skills: Creating Your Own Maps

Part 1 Sorting the Information: Read all of the facts about an imaginary island below. Decide whether the fact would belong on a PHYSICAL, POLITICAL, or some kind of THEMATIC map. Write the answer in the blank beside the fact.

1. _____ The island is shaped like a big circle, and is about 200 miles across.
2. _____ The people in the country of "East Islandia" mainly grow and sell apples.
3. _____ A mountain range through the middle divides it into two halves. Right in the center of the mountain range is a big volcano, called "Mount Wanahakalugi".
4. _____ The whole southern part of the island is one country called "Dirtvania". The mountains are the border between it and the other countries on the island.
5. _____ There are a lot of oil wells in the desert, and there are iron mines in the mountains.
6. _____ The northern half of the island is split into two countries, divided by the river. The country on the west is called "West Islandia", and the one on the east is called "East Islandia".
7. _____ The country of "West Islandia" has a lot of rabbits, which the people there raise and sell.
8. _____ A big river runs through the north part of the island, dividing the northern half into two chunks of about equal size. The southern half of the island is mostly a desert.
9. _____ There are three main cities on the island – "Riverton" in the northwest, close to where the river meets the ocean; "Big Sandy" in the south, on the southern tip of the island; and finally, "Eastville" on the east coast, where the mountains end. Each one is the capital of whatever country it is part of.
10. _____ A big highway runs from "Big Sandy" all the way to "Mount Wanahakalugi".

Part 2 Questions: Use the information above to answer some simple questions

11. How many countries are there on this island?
12. Which two cities are farthest apart from each other?
13. There is only one big highway on the island... which direction does it run?
14. If you were going to make a thematic map about this island, what kind information would the map show?

Part 3 Making Maps: After you have sorted the information above into PHYSICAL, POLITICAL, and

THEMATIC categories, you will use it to create three small maps (one of each kind) on a separate sheet of paper. Color the maps as appropriate (blue for water, brown for deserts, et cetera). Be sure to include

a title, legend/key, scale, and compass rose for each of the three maps.