

"MAP AND COMPASS" IN EVERYDAY LIFE.



Fundamentally, we all make use of maps and compass directions in our everyday lives - consciously or unconsciously.

When you sit down to plan a trip, whether by automobile, rail, ship, or on horseback or foot -you get out a map and try to figure the shortest way, or the best way, or the route that will take you past the greatest number of interesting

places., on the trip, you consult your map repeatedly to check where you are and where you are to go.

If you are a hunter or a fisherman, you will have done much of your traveling to your favorite hunting spot or trout stream by map and compass, unless you have depended on a guide. In territory you know well from having traveled it again and again, the lay of the land and the different directions will be part of your working memory. The experience person has no fear or uncertainty about traveling through strange territory, by maps and compasses.

Forrester's, surveyors, engineers, prospectors, military personnel, are all required through training to know how to use a map and a compass. When you are a horseman and want to take a ride to the woods you will discover that when a map and compass will increase your fun and knowing where you are.

There has always been a romantic fascination to persons who could find their way through the wilderness and over hidden trails the Indians the mountain men the

guides trackers and the explorers. There was a mystical power behind the remarkable capability for path finding.

In the old days, it was based on highly developed powers of observation and of remembering, reading the signs of the mountains ridges and rivers and vegetation, wind direction and cloud movement in the position of the sun and the moon and the stars.



Today it is much simpler matter of a good map and compass. When the old-timers learned his skills the hard way over a great number of years, the outdoorsman of today can learn the secrets of finding their way in the woods in a matter of hours. When you have mastered the skills, it sticks! And you feel more comfortable in a backcountry.

Looking at a map is like flying over the country looking down and seeing all the curves of the rivers and all the hills and valleys in the area. But soon certain things begin to stand out. The straight-line you see down there for example, must be a highway. Now it crosses a wide winding band, obviously a river. You can even make out the bridges as to shore lines, the bridge railing. The rectangles down there are houses, the dark green forests. Things look different from what you are accustomed to, yet you recognize then and there reduced dimensions.

Maps are made for a number of different purposes: state highway maps for rumble from state to state, city maps for getting around in the city, like fire departments and others, nautical charts foresee travel, a few of these maps wouldn't be any good to a person in the backcountry.

The map that would work best is called a topographical map, from the Greek *topos*, place, and *graphical*, to write or draw. You need to know what topographical map serve you best, so maps cover large areas, while others cover smaller areas, depending on the scale of the map you pick.

Each topographical map is drawn to a specific scale such a scale is apportioned between distances on the map and the actual distance on the field. These scales have been developed in such a way that is easy to measure map distances with measurements which you are already familiar with, the inches and fractions of an inch of an ordinary ruler. The three scales most commonly used are the scales of 1 unit two 24,000 units, 1 unit two 62,500 units, and 1 unit two 250,000 units. On map they are indicated by a fraction.

1:24,000 maps; if you pick the inches for measuring units, 1 inch to 24,000 inches means a distance of 1 inch on your map is 24,000 inches in the field. The number of inches translated into feet become, 2000 feet, and measurement easily used in surveying they usually cover an area ranging from 49 square miles.

1:62,500 maps; this scale sometimes seems cumbersome, until you realize that 1 inch on the map to that many inches in the field be almost exactly 1 inch on a map to 1 mile

map
that
square



this scale
the scale
miles the
would be
number

in the field. Each covers an area ranges from 195 miles.

1:250,000 maps; is almost exactly of 1 inch = 24 correct figure 253,440, a which would

obviously require a lot of unnecessary work in a surveying. These maps cover an area of 6346 square miles.

There are a lot of facts and figures in the scales, but I thought they would be interesting.

