

Introducing the Nature of Maps

Introduction

Aim: to check whether the following definition of a map is correct or not.

Map Definition: A map is a *scaled down* representation of an area as it appears from above.

(Scaled down means reduced in size.)

Representation means to use one thing to show something else for example a line to represent a wall as in a drawing.)

Content: the concept of a map **Skills:** digital mapping skills. **Resources:** Scoilnet Maps

Activity

Open **Scoilnet Maps**

Open the **Osi Map Viewer**

Activate the *Osi Aerial Photography* in the **Map Switcher**

Activate **Layers** and select *Schools 2014-2015 layer* on the Layer's list. On the *Schools* drop-down menu make sure your type (Primary, Special etc,) of school is activated and other types of schools are deactivated.

Type your school address into **Search for a location in Ireland** and click enter.

Find your school which will be represented by a green dot if it's a Post Primary school. You might have to scroll to find it. Click on the dot and it will tell you the number of pupils the school had in 2014-2015

Drag your school to the centre of the screen and zoom in till you can see all of the school and its grounds. This may mean zooming in to a scale of 1:5,000 or 2,500.

Examine the aerial photograph which gives a view from above. The photograph was taken from a plane or satellite. Examine the photograph carefully. Pay attention to the shape and colour of the following:

The school buildings, sports hall, pavilion etc

The school grounds, playground, football fields, basketball tennis courts etc.

The school car parks

Different types of vegetation in the school grounds.

Fill in the missing words in this paragraph. Use information from the photograph and

The photograph shows our school as seen from _____.

The school looks _____ as I have not seen it from this angle before. There are _____ buildings. Most of the buildings have a _____ shape with _____ coloured roofs. The photograph was taken when the school was _____. I know this as the car park is _____. The colours are as you would _____ them to be. Some details are hidden by the _____ thrown by the buildings or blocked from view by the _____ and

Activate **Swipe and Spotlight**. Select *OSi Aerial Photography* as the top layer and *OSi Mapping* as the bottom layer. Choose *Vertical Swipe* from **Type** and *Large* from **Size**.

Swipe very slowly from left to right and watch as the area shown in the photograph changes into a map. Then swipe left and see the map change again into the photograph. Do this a number of times. Examine the school, its grounds etc and note how they are shown on both the map and photograph. Then fill in the missing words in the paragraph below.

The map gives the _____ view of the school and its grounds as the photograph. That is, a view from _____. The map represents or _____ what's there. It shows the shapes of buildings and other features with drawn _____ and shades of _____. The map also uses _____ to show the uses of buildings and _____ to identify houses. Everything on the map is _____ in size and so is _____ than it is in real life. The scale of a map is the amount everything has been _____. That's how the large area of your school and grounds can be represented on your computer screen

My Conclusion

My aim was to see if the following definition of a map is correct:

A map is a scaled down representation of an area as it appears from above.

I conclude the definition is _____ . I have _____ reasons for this. My reasons are based on my observations. My reasons are set out below.

Reflection

Use these questions to help you reflect.

What did you learn from this activity the activity?

How could the activity be improved

Extension Activity

Find your home on **Scoilnet Maps**. Examine it on the *OSi Mapping* and *OSi Aerial Photography* using the Swipe and Spotlight tool. Is the map of your area up to date? Give evidence from the map to support your answer.