



# Mapmakers! Mapmakers...



## Characters:

Chairman

Cartographer # 1

Cartographer # 2

Cartographer # 3

Cartographer # 4

Cartographer # 5

**Chairman** - Ladies and Gentlemen, I'd like to welcome you to this meeting of the Society of Cartographers. Our plan for today's meeting is to share what we have been doing in our field and the new technologies we are using. As we all know, humans have been trying to map the earth since ancient times. Today we continue to do as the ancient Greeks and others, but our work has become far more accurate. I would like to begin our meeting by asking each of you to tell the group about the work you have been doing.

**Cartographer # 1** - I'll start. I work for new companies that make products for sale around the country. My job is to make maps that give information about raw materials. I use computers to draw the maps, as well as to help figure out the best places to build new plants. Companies want their factories to be near the resources they use and to their transportation sources. Transportation is important for both bringing in the raw materials and shipping products to stores.

**Cartographer # 2** - My job is a bit like yours, except I work for the U.S. government. I use information the government collects to draw maps, and then use those maps to figure out where new roads, water plants, schools, hospitals, and other projects should be built. Computers help me draw maps and make decisions. I don't know how cartographers did their work before computers!

**Cartographer # 3** - You're right, drawing accurate maps by hand was hard. Computers are a wonderful tool. Another technology that has made our jobs easier is satellites. Satellites are very important to my work. I study and map weather patterns. Satellites out in space make it easy to see and map clouds, storms, and wind movement. Our maps are more accurate and useful to those who predict the weather.

**Cartographer # 4** - Satellite information is very important for my job. I track earthquakes and map where they happen. I also work for the government, the U.S. Geological Survey. My job is to track earthquakes as they happen and update our website maps. Did you know that earthquakes occur somewhere in the world almost every day? Many are in California and other west coast states. But most do not cause any major damage.

**Cartographer # 5** - I work with car companies, transportation companies, police, and others on tracking systems. Mapping is used to give drivers directions and can track cars or missing shipments. Information from satellites is used by computers to make maps and pinpoint locations. Cartographers today do much more than make maps and atlases. Mapping is useful to many fields. Cartographers know how to make the best use of computers and satellites.

**Chairman** - Thank you all for telling us about your jobs. Let us now focus our talk on globes, which we all use as well.

**Cartographer # 1** - Since I work only with companies in the United States, globes are not as helpful to me. They show such little detail.

**Cartographer # 2** - The same is true for me. I happen to love globes and collect them. I own raised relief globes, old political globes that I use to see how countries have changed, and even globes of the moon and planets. I think my favorite ones are of space. I have one that shows just stars and one that shows a small earth in the center of a clear plastic globe with stars and planets. I know this has nothing to do with our meeting, but ...

**Chairman** - No, no, I'm guessing that we all share your interest. Although our jobs are to draw maps, like all geographers, we understand that globes are useful as well.

**Cartographer # 3** - Globes are quite helpful for studying weather patterns. They help us see the "big picture" of weather all around the world.

**Cartographer # 4** - The same is true for tracking quakes. The USGS looks at data from all over the world. It is useful to know what is going on everywhere to help us understand the earth. One day we may be able to predict earthquakes and other disasters.

**Cartographer # 5** - While I don't use globes for my job, transportation companies and others I work for might. Globes are useful for planning routes. Great circle routes are the shortest distance between two points on the earth and are often used by airplanes and ships.

**Chairman** - Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm afraid we are going to have to end our talk on that note. I know we are all very busy people, and I have another meeting soon. I would like to thank you again for taking the time to touch base together and look forward to seeing you all again.

**Cartographers** - *(Chairman and cartographers shaking hands with one another)* Goodbye. Take care.