CAREER IDEAS Challenge

Cartographer

The earliest maps date back to the 5th century BCE. These map show the night skies rather than the Earth. It was the ancient Greeks who created the first maps on paper. Later, modern tools like the compass, telescope, and printing press made maps more accurate and accessible. Today's maps are a result of technologies that early mapmakers would have never imagined possible. Smart phones now make it possible for anyone to find their way to any place on Earth. To say that maps have come a long way is an understatement!

(Feel free to use the back of this sheet for longer answers)

©Shutterstock Images /one photo

What Do Cartographers Do?

Cartographers are mapmakers. They collect, measure, and interpret geographic information in order to create and update maps and charts for computer apps, education, and other purposes. Modern cartography is a mixture of art, science, and technology. Cartographers use high-tech tools like satellites, survey drones, and lasers to do their jobs. Global positioning systems make it possible to record extremely precise details about any location. They work for government agencies, architectural and engineering firms, and technology companies.

Companies like Google employ thousands of cartographers to make digital maps. Most cartographers need a bachelor's degree in a subject like cartography, geography, geomatics, or surveying.

CHALLENGE #1: *If you had this career...*

What kind of training would you need?

Where could you find a job?

How much money could you earn?

Who would you help and how would you make a difference

Why would (or wouldn't) you like doing a job like this?

CHALLENGE #2: *Think Tank*

It's time to put your mapmaking skills to the test. On your way home from school, take special note about the route. Record the streets you pass, the turns you make and any significant details that would help you find your way again.

When you arrive home, sketch out a map showing how to get from your school to your house.

Then go online to Google maps and compare your route with the route Google recommends.