

## ENGL 301 Assignment 1:3 Definition: Cartography

### Introduction

The purpose of this assignment is to explain intricate terms from a technical discipline to an uninformed audience. I chose to define the term Cartography from a Geographic Information Science(GIS) perspective in three ways: a parenthetical definition, a sentence definition, and an expanded definition.

### Parenthetical Definition

Cartography is the study and process of developing a map.

### Sentence Definition

In GIS, map making is an integral component of displaying spatial data. By following cartographic conventions(ie. putting a north arrow, legend, neatline and scale on a map) and design principles(ex. visual contrast, legibility, balance, figure-ground and hierarchical organization) a map maker is able to communicate information and findings that may otherwise prove challenging to put into words<sup>1</sup>.

### Expanded Definition

*Who is using cartography?*

Cartography is a field in which many disciplines are apt to use. Health scientists may make a map displaying disease rates within a country or archaeologists can make maps showing potential dig sites in a particular region of interest.

*Why is cartography important?*

Maps can provide an aesthetically pleasing platform on which to learn something new<sup>2</sup>. Knowing what makes a good map stand out is beneficial to the viewer(see Sentence definition). A lot of data available nowadays has a spatial component and to be able to judge a map with certain criteria in mind will either enhance or diminish the message a cartographer is trying establish.



### Works Cited

1. Buckley, Aileen. "Make Maps People Want to Look At" ArcUser, ESRI Winter 2012 Edition. Web. 25 Jan. 2016 <<http://www.esri.com/news/arcuser/0112/make-maps-people-want-to-look-at.html>>
2. Seppa, Nathan. "Chikungunya is on the move" ScienceNews. 2 June 2015. Web. 25 Jan. 2016 <<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/chikungunya-move#&gid=1&pid=1>>