Digital Map Competition

There is a large amount of maps produced every day worldwide. Some maps communicate their information better than others. Although map quality depends on an individual, there are some generic rules that should be applied to what we can call a good map.

Explorer's Guide

Before You Start

During a group discussion, recall from your memory or one of previous exercise a map that you liked or a map that you did not like. What was special in both cases? What is a good map?

Learning by Doing

1. In teams of 2-4, select a topic for your map and identify the audience. Identify whether World, USA or Nebraska project is the most suitable to start constructing your map. List necessary data layers. For example, a tourist map of the State of Nebraska shall be constructed based on Nebraska project and indicate location and names of major parks and their relative location to main towns and cities, rivers, roads, etc. Such map shall be used by recreational visitors of the state. Summarize your selections below

    Topic: _____

    Audience: _____

    Initial project (circle):   *World   USA   Nebraska*

    Needed data layers: 1. _____
                           2. _____
                           3. _____
                           4. _____
                           5. _____

2. Open an existing "start" project and save it to the directory pointed by your instructor. Delete all unnecessary data layers, but keep in mind that you will need at least one point, line and polygon data layer.

3. Customize each data layer and prepare map layout with all map elements. Print out the map and present your work to the other teams.

4. Each team shall evaluate maps produced by three other teams using the scoring table below. Grade each category on 1 to 5 scale with 5 meaning perfect. The instructor shall collect the scores and identify three teams with the highest scoring maps.

Criteria	Team A	Team B	Team C
Team ID			
Clear topic of the map			
Well-defined audience			
Suitable amount of information (map is not overloaded)			
Good selection of symbology			
Clear legend			
Well-placed north arrow			
Correct scale bar			
Brief and clear title			
Mentioned names of the authors and data source			
Clear and brief map presentation			
Average score			

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