

Introduction to Cartography: Creating a “Resource Map” of Mi'kma'ki (Nova Scotia)

Learning Objectives

In this activity you will learn:

1. about cartography, a fancy name for mapping.
2. about some of the resources available in Mi'kmaki (Nova Scotia) and their uses by Mi'kmaw.

Introduction

Western societies use maps to record and find the location of places and resources. A resource is anything that has a use; it could be food, clothing, items used for heating or cooking, aid in transportation or even for fun and recreation. se time and markers to locate resources and this knowledge was passed along orally. In this activity we will combine Mi'kmaq oral traditions with mapping.

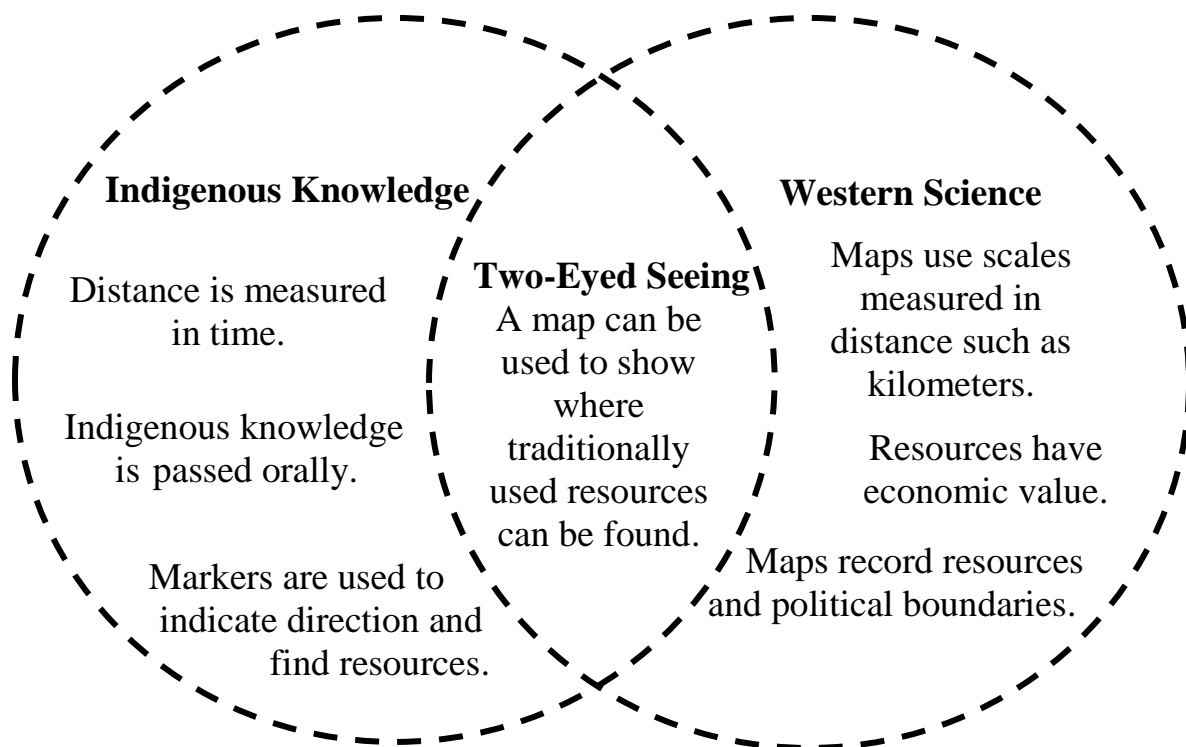


Figure 1: Two-Eyed Seeing Diagram

Table 1. Vocabulary

Migration	Seasonal movement from one area to another.
Pictograph	A picture or image that is used to describe something.
Rhyolite	A type of fined grained rock that consists mostly of quartz.

Activity 1: Matching Pictographs to Mi'kmaq Resources

What we need for our activity:

- A blank map of Mi'kmaki (Nova Scotia) with pictographs
- A list of Mi'kmaki regions, places and items
- Pencils
- Colouring pencils

What we will do, step by step:

Step 1: Split into groups

Get into groups of two.

Step 2: Review your list of items and place names

Review each column in Table 1.

Column 1 is a list of regions, places, and items in parts of Mi'kma'ki. Column 2 contains the English translations of the words in column 1. Column 3 contains a description of the resource available in the region. Column 4 describes how the item is used.

Step 3: Review mineral properties

- Answer the questions below. We learned about minerals and talked about their properties.

1. When we discussed minerals, we talked about quartz. What type of fracture did we find in quartz?

2. Was quartz harder or softer than steel?

3. If we fracture quartz a certain way, what can it be use it for?

4. Quartz is in found in different forms and in different rocks but still maintains its properties. Rhyolite is a fine grained rock with a lot of quartz. If Rhyolite has similar properties to quartz what do you think it can be used for?

Step 4: Match items on list with pictographs

Review the pictographs on the map.

Match each pictograph to the “resource available” in table 1.

When you have matched the resource to the pictograph, write the name of the Mi’kmaq word or name in table 1 that goes with the resource.

Each group has been provided with two maps (two per pair). On the map you will find an outline of Nova Scotia. This is a special map because it contains pictographs (drawings) of Mi’kmaw regions as well as areas of interest to Mi’kmaq people in the past and present. Look at the pictographs on the map and match it to the list. When you find a match write the name of the place or item in Mi’kmaq on the line under the pictograph on the map. If no Mi’kmaq translation is available, write it in English.

Table 1: Mi'kmaq Regions, Peoples and Resources

Mi'kmaq Word or Name	English Translation	Resource Available	Use by the Mi'kmaw
Sipekne'katik	Wild Potato Area	Wild Potatoes	Food
Eskikewa'kik	Skin Dressers Territory	Animal Skins	Clothing
Epexiwitk	Lying in the Water	---	---
Kespukwitk	Land Ends	---	---
Kespek	Last Land	---	---
Tlawo'q	Sharp Knife	Rhyolite for arrowheads, Ingonish Island	Hunting and tool making
Tlawo'q	Sharp Knife	Chalcedony Davidson's Island	Hunting and tool making
Salyan	Halite	Salt	Food preservation
Tlawo'q	Sharp Knife	Brown Chert Cape Breton	Hunting and tool making
Puktewe'katik	At the place of fire	Coal	Heating and cooking
Puktewte'kn	Firestarter	Quartzite and pyrite	Fire bundle
Elsetkook'	Bear River	A gathering place	---
Chegagoo	A Bass, a fish	Bass	Food
÷pka'w	Kaolin	Clay	Ceramics for storage
Me'kank	Maccan River	Place with all the fish	food
Plamui-sipu	Salmon River	Salmon	food
Plamu	Salmon	Salmon	food
---	Hematite, red ochre	Red dye or tint	Tattoos, identification, burial ceremonies
E'se'katik	Clam Harbour	Clams	food
Plawejue'katik	Partridge Island	Amethyst	Used for healing
---	Native Copper	Copper	Hammered and used for kettles

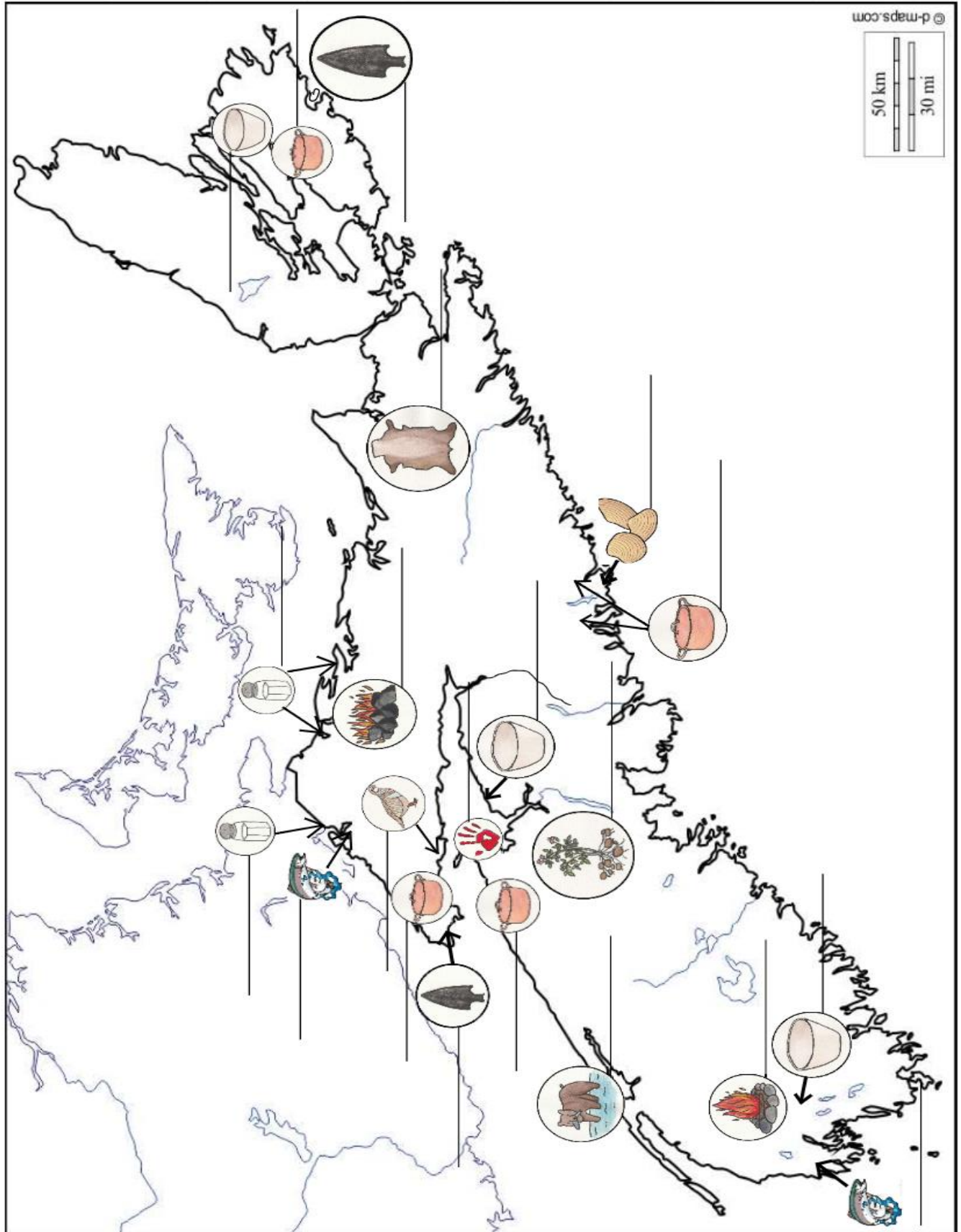


Figure 2: Map of Mi'kmaki. Adapted from Dmaps

Activity 2: Creating a Migration Route

Migration is an opportunity to collect items that you require. You can do this by collecting the item yourself or trading things that you already have. We will make a migration route in this activity.

What we need

- Your completed Mi'kmaki (Nova Scotia) map
- Coloured pencils

What we will do

Step 1: Prepare for a Migration

Choose a starting place on the map.

Create a list of the following on the next page:

1. Items that you have at your starting place and can use to trade (these are items that are plentiful in your region that people from other regions may want).
2. Items you can pick up during your migration (these are resources that you need, that you can trade or both).
3. Items that you need and will trade for (these are items that someone else has and will trade with you)

Step 6: Make a migration route

Beginning at your starting place, create a migration route that you think would be the best.

Before you begin you will need to think about what direction or path you will be taking. Remember you will be trading with a group that is also migrating. Think about where they are from, what they have, and what they might need. There is no right or wrong answer, look at the resources in your chosen area.

1. List of items you have to trade

2. Items you can pick up while migrating

3. Items you require

Step 7: Show your migration route

After you have completed your lists, using your map, using the coloured pencils show your migration route. We will show our migration routes at a science fair and allow others to create their own migration route as well.

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3. Elisha Sapier, Pictou Landing First Nation, Community Member
4. Art Stevens, Manager, Aboriginal Students at Dalhousie University Faculty of Agriculture

All unreferenced stories, Mi'kmaq words, or Indigenous knowledge was provided by the Elders/Knowledge Keepers listed above.

References

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