**Cartography**, the art and [science](https://www.britannica.com/science/science) of graphically representing a geographical area, usually on a [flat](https://www.britannica.com/science/playa) surface such as a map or chart. It may involve the superimposition of political, cultural, or other non-geographical divisions onto the representation of a geographical area.

**Cartography** ([/kɑːrˈtɒɡrəfi/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA/English); from [Greek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_language) χάρτης *chartēs*, "papyrus, sheet of paper, map"; and γράφειν *graphein*, "write") is the study and practice of making [maps](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Map). Combining [science](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science), [aesthetics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aesthetics), and technique, cartography builds on the premise that reality (or an imagined reality) can be modelled in ways that communicate spatial information effectively.