

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Campus Maps and Scale

Introduction to Scale

The distance between points shown on a map depends upon the scale of the map. Scale is the ratio between map distance and the actual ground distance that the map represents. This **fractional scale** can be converted to conventional units of length. For example, a map scale of 1:100,000 means that one unit on the map represents 100,000 units on the ground, so one centimeter on the map equals 100,000 centimeters (or one kilometer) on the Earth's surface.

Graphic scales are often also included on maps. This device is a length of line divided into numbered segments. The units are in conventional terms of measurement, such as meters or miles. To use the graphic scale, hold the edge of a piece of paper along the line to be measured on the map and mark the distance on the edge of the paper. Then place the paper along the graphic scale and read the length of the line directly.

Use the attached campus map for this activity.

1. Devise a methodology using the available classroom resources to determine if the map is to scale.
2. Determine the scale of the map.
3. Provide the appropriate scale both fractionally and graphically (show your work).

