Type as a Symbol - World Map Activity 7 - Grade 4-5

Activity Goal   To identify the meaning of type on any map.

Materials Needed: None. No exercises included.

Lesson

Characteristics of Type

Type can be shown in many different ways to help make it different from other type. Some of the type differences are shown here;

Black Color	or	Dark Blue Color
Big	or	Small
Straight	or	*Leaning (italic)*
Light	or	**Bold**
Upper-Lower	or	CAPITALS
No Underline	or	Underlined
With Serifs	or	No Serifs
Regular	or	Extended

Type Fonts

The way in which these differences can be combined into a unique "look" is called a font. Mapmakers use many fonts on a map to help identify different features. The way

fonts are used effects the overall appearance of the map. Examples of different fonts are;

Antique Olive Bold

Times New Roman Italic

Univers Condensed

Albertus Medium

Different characteristics of type could be arranged on a map similar to this;

CONTINENT

OCEAN

STATE

SEA

Capital City

River

POINT OF INTEREST

MOUNTAIN

A quick way to become familiar with how type is used on a map is to look at an area you know, such as the United States. As an example, notice how United States appears on the world map. Though small countries will have smaller type, all countries should have the same style of country type; black, straight and bold letters shown in capitals. Check out the "look" of cities, capitals, rivers, mountains, and other features.