

# HOW TO BUILD A MEGA MAP

Print map pieces and work with students in Grades K-12 to assemble large wall or floor maps that are up to 12 feet wide and 8 feet tall.



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## Background Information

MapMaker Kit Mega Maps are large wall or floor maps that students can build together. The finished product can cover the wall of a classroom, cafeteria, or gymnasium—even the side of a school building. It includes outlines of continents, islands, country and state borders, major cities, bodies of water, and rivers. Pale lines labeled on the four sides indicate latitude and longitude in degrees. Mega Maps allow students to explore a variety of features and topics by physically interacting with and making maps.

## Setup

Clear a space on the floor approximately 20' x 20' for each Mega Map of a continent to be assembled, or clear wall space from floor to ceiling approximately 12' wide. Students can work on tables or the floor to start assembling.

## Materials You Provide

- paper
- scissors or paper cutter
- transparent tape
- wide tape to hang map on wall
- world atlas

## DIRECTIONS (30 MINUTES)

### 1. Prepare the materials.

Print the black-and-white Mega Map pieces on 8.5 x 11 paper. Trim the edges as needed with scissors or a paper cutter to remove white frames between pieces. Refer to the Mega Map key to group the pieces if students will assemble the pieces in small groups. You can laminate the Mega Map pieces for sturdiness, re-use, and ease and use wet or dry erase markers for activities.

#### Modification

For younger students or to save time, assemble groups of Mega Map pieces in advance so that students put together fewer pieces of the large map.

### 2. Demonstrate how to assemble the Mega Map.

Show students how to assemble the pieces. Hold two pieces together on a flat surface, aligning map features such as rivers, borders, and place names. Using small strips of transparent tape, attach the pieces together at the corners or along the sides.

#### Modification

Adding competition to the map-building can motivate older students. Print two sets of maps and divide students into two large groups. Then have the groups race to see which assembles the map first.

### 3. Assemble the Mega Map.

Have students work in groups on the floor or on tables. Depending on students' ages and the class time available, have students assemble groups of contiguous pieces to form small sections of the Mega Map. Although the pieces are numbered for easier organization, you can have students try to assemble the Mega Map using the map features, without explicitly telling them about the numbers.

## Extending the Learning

Use the assembled Mega Map with any activities where students apply different types of information to the map to develop mapping and analysis skills.