

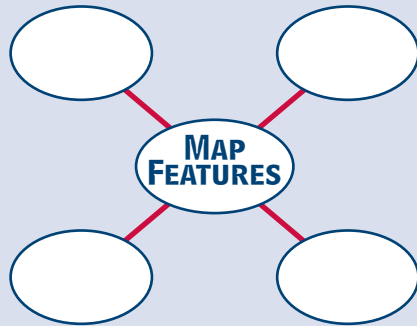
Comparing Types of Maps

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

To use maps with different themes

READING STRATEGY

Create a diagram like the one below. In each of the outer circles, write an example of a feature you would find on a typical physical map.



TERMS TO KNOW

physical map, relief map, political map, special-purpose map

Suppose you are planning a trip to another country. What would you like to know about that country before you leave home? What language is spoken there? Where are the country's interesting places to visit located? Should you take clothes for warm weather, or cold?

These are just a few of the things you can learn from maps. In fact, there are almost as many kinds of maps as there are kinds of information to show on them. Let's look at some of the different kinds of maps and what they can tell us about our world.

Using Physical Maps

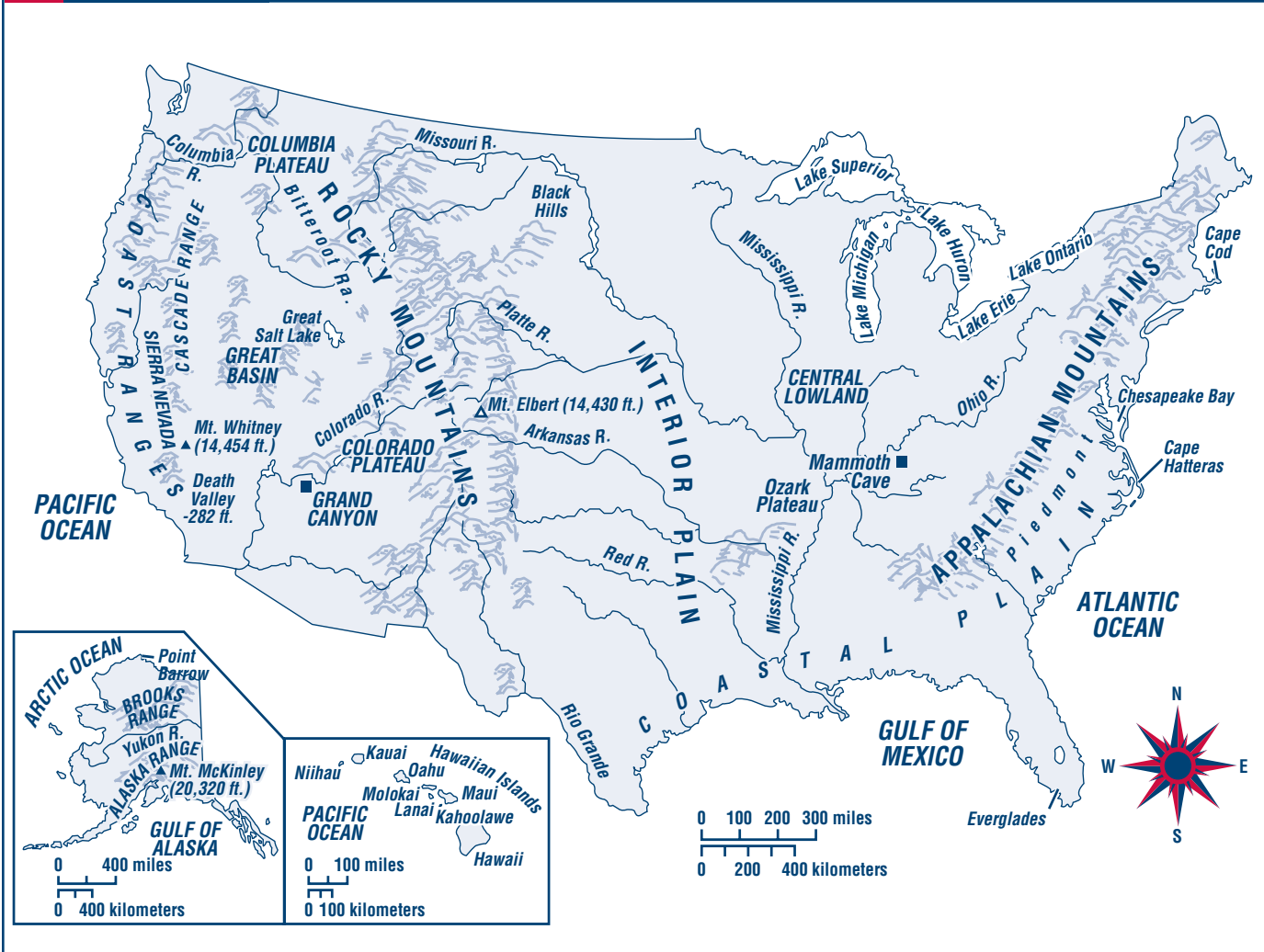
A **physical map** shows how the land looks. Mountains, rivers, plains, and lakes—the physical features of the land—are shown on a physical map. Sometimes a physical map shows the height of the land above sea level. It may use colors and shading to show *relief*—or how flat or rugged the land surface is. This kind of physical map is called a **relief map**.

Look at **Map 1-13: United States: Physical** on page 44. Find the Rocky Mountains. What physical feature lies just east of the Rocky Mountains? Into what river do the Ohio and Missouri rivers flow? Into what body of water does the Mississippi River flow? What ocean lies east of the United States? These are all kinds of information you can find on physical maps.

Using Political Maps

A **political map** shows how humans have divided the surface of the earth into countries, states, and other political divisions. Often, a political map will show some physical features, such as lakes and rivers, because these are sometimes used as political boundaries. A political map will show where the boundaries between countries, states, or counties are located. It may also show the locations of cities. Unlike physical maps, which remain fairly constant over time, political maps change as political relationships shift.

Look at **Map 1-14: Australia and New Zealand: Political** on page 45. Notice the dashed lines on the map. These show the boundaries between states. The letters in CAPITALS are the names of the states. Queensland is the name of one state. Can you name



the others? What is the capital of Australia? What tells you it is the capital? What are some other cities shown on the map?

Using Special-Purpose Maps

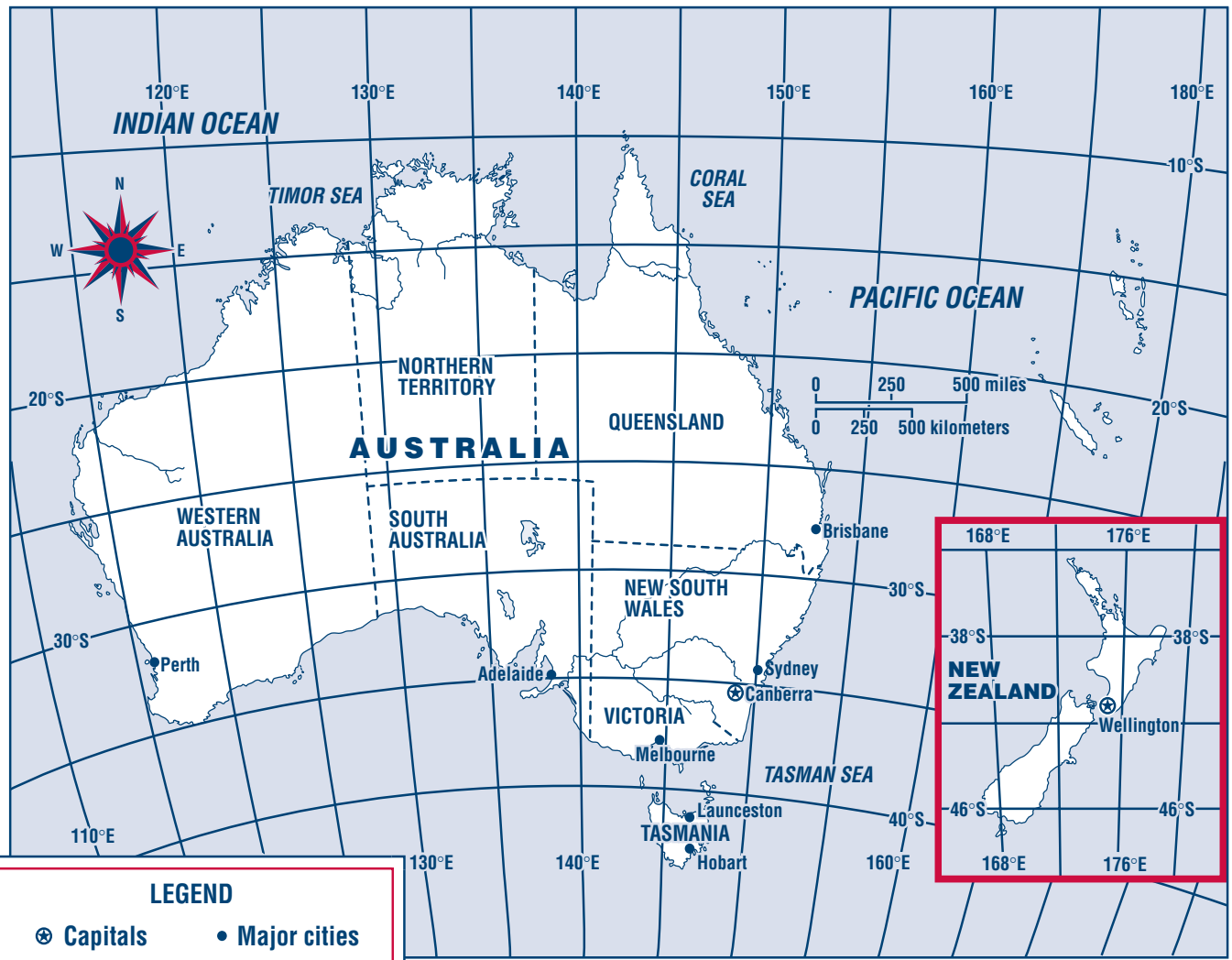
Maps that emphasize a single idea or a particular kind of information about an area are called **special-purpose maps**. There are many kinds of special-purpose maps, each designed to serve a different need. Population density maps, time zone maps, and climate maps are among the different kinds of special-purpose maps. You will learn to read these and other kinds of special-purpose maps later in this book.

Some special-purpose maps—such as economic activity maps and natural resource maps—

show the distribution of particular activities, resources, or products in a given area. Colors and symbols represent the location or distribution of activities and resources.

Many times maps will be a combination of physical, political, and special-purpose. For example, a special-purpose map that shows what products are produced in the United States will usually have state boundaries shown. What kind of map shows boundaries? A land-use map may also show major rivers. What kind of map shows rivers?

When you read a map, what should you look at first? In order to know what the map is about, you must first look at the map's title. The title may be at the top or bottom of the map, or it may be in a box with the legend.



Using Your Skills



A REVIEWING KEY TERMS

Match each term with its meaning. Draw a line from each term to its definition.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. political map | a. a kind of map that shows features of the land |
| 2. physical map | b. a kind of map that gives one particular kind of information |
| 3. special-purpose map | c. a kind of map that shows how humans have divided the earth into countries and states |

B PRACTICING MAP SKILLS

Use **Map 1-15: Ethiopia, 2001** below to answer the questions.

1. What is the title of this map? _____
2. What part of the map tells you what the symbols on the map mean? _____
3. What do the solid black lines on the map stand for? _____
4. What does  on the map stand for? _____
5. What does  on the map stand for? _____
6. Would you call this a physical map, a political map, a special-purpose map, or a combination of all three? Why?

