

Lesson

8

Reading a Road Map

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

To use a road map to select routes and estimate distance and travel time, and plan a family trip

READING STRATEGY

Create a table like the one below listing four important uses for road maps.

HOW ROAD MAPS ARE USEFUL

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

A new thing from American carmakers is a car that doesn't need road maps. A special computer in the car "talks" to a satellite orbiting the earth. The computer and the satellite keep track of where the car is every minute. This information is displayed on a screen in the car. As you drive the car, its location is shown on a map on the screen. The new technology is called a Global Positioning System (GPS).

Using Road Maps

Even with this new technology, however, we will still need road maps. Road maps are useful for planning what route to take on a trip, finding the location of places that are new to us, and estimating how long it will take to drive to a particular place. Road maps can also give information about things to see and do.

Reading a road map requires many of the skills you have practiced in earlier lessons in this book. You need to know how to find direction and distance. Road maps have an index that uses a grid. Symbols are used on road maps to tell you such things as how large towns are, where you can stop to rest, and even points of interest along the way.

You will often use the index first when you read a road map. Find the name of the place you want to visit. The index will tell you the cell in the grid where the place is located.

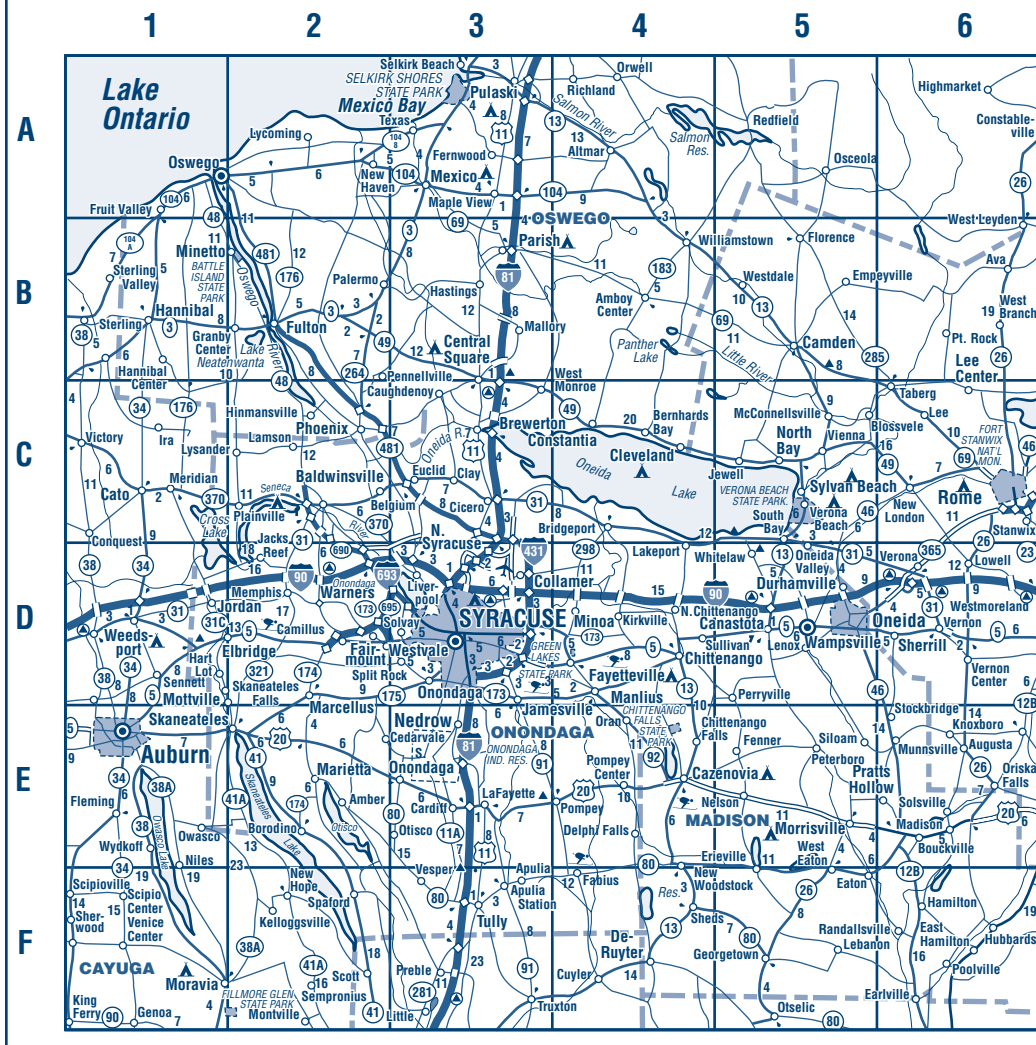
Using Your Skills

A PRACTICING MAP SKILLS

Use the legend of **Map 1-11: Road Map of Part of New York State** to answer these questions.

1. What kind of highways are the ones numbered 81 and 90 which cross near the center of the map?

2. What can you expect to find at a place marked with this symbol? ▲



LEGEND

- Ski Area
- Rest Area Without Rest Rooms
- Rest Area With Rest Rooms
- Campground
- Airport
- Interstate Highway
- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- Distance Between Mile Markers

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Texas	A-3
Weedsport	D-1

3. What do the numbers between two marks like these tell you?

4. What is the difference in meaning between these two symbols?

5. What could you expect to do at a place marked with this symbol?

6. How many different kinds of highways are shown on the map?

