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Cartographic Design

Projection Layout – Patterns

*1. Who is the map for/what’s the point?*

The map is for students aged 15-20 years old who are learning about map projections. They will learn the basic concept of a projection, and understand why I chose to use the projection I did for Alaska and Russia. The most important take away is that the maps we commonly use can influence our perceptions of reality. On a traditional map, Alaska and Russia seem very far away.

*2. Scales of Thought*

I show three maps—the general region of Alaska and Russia, a close up of Diomede Islands, and map of the whole world.

*3. Vertical Central Meridian*

The central meridian of the map runs through the center of the Bering Straight, halfway between Russia and Alaska.

*4. Simplify the World*

As the map is meant to show the projections, I show only lines depicting the graticule and country boundaries. In the large-scale map of the islands, I show the distance between them with a line. The map of the word shows the continents in the simplest way possible.

*5. Simple-Palette*

The map colors are pale red, yellow, green, and blue.

*6. Object in the World/All Maps Are Interactive*

The map layout is designed to fit in a tabloid/magazine without being distorted. As a teaching tool, the map is both informative and fun.

*7. Separable Part/Visual Association*

The map readers can get the gist of the answer to the question without having to read the text. The map of the islands associates each island with Russia and Alaska by color.