



One of the best parts of fantasy books, Fantasy Maps are easy to draw! A few lines here, a few there and soon, your world has come to life! You can make it as detailed as you like. This tutorial will cover the basics to get you started on Fantasy Map making.

[Click here for a YouTube video tutorial.](#)

Supplies Needed:

- paper- computer paper, notebook paper, or a map template
- pencil or pen
- fine tip Sharpie or black pen for outlines
- uncooked rice, beans, or small pebbles (optional but helpful)
- coloring supplies (optional)
- your imagination!

Instructions:

1. **Draw the land mass:** Freehand or Rice Method

- a. Rice Method: *(You can also use beans, small pebbles, etc.)*
 - i. Pour a pile of rice onto your paper.
 - ii. Start spreading out the rice to give the shape of your land mass. Separate small piles of rice for smaller islands if desired.
 - iii. Lightly trace around the rice to form your land mass.
 - iv. Once you've traced around everything, carefully pour the rice back into the cup.

2. **Add terrain.**

- a. Page 4 of this tutorial has a Detail Idea Sheet filled with different examples of terrain and water features you can add to your map. Of course you are not limited to these. Be creative and use your imagination!
- b. Things to consider: Does your map cover an entire continent or is it just one or two countries? What type of climate is your country in: Desert or Grasslands, cold Mountains or warm Coastal?

3. **Add details.**

- a. Page 5 of this tutorial has a Detail Idea Sheet with examples of trees and buildings to add to your map.
 - i. Again, be creative and unique! This is your fantasy map. You are not limited to what is on the Idea sheet.

4. **Add your Map Legend:** A map legend provides the viewer of your map with a helpful guide to the important locations and cities on your map. It simply displays a symbol followed by a text description of what that symbol represents.

- a. Give each city or special landmark on your map a unique symbol.
- b. Draw that same symbol in the map legend and then write the name of that city or landmark next to the symbol.

Instructions cont.:

5. Refine your map and outline in Sharpie or pen.

a. Add any final details and changes before outlining.

6. Color your map. (Optional)

a. Coloring your map is optional but can be fun! Color is an easy way to show different climates and areas within your map.

7. Show off your map!

a. We'd love to see the world you created! If you share your map on social media, remember to tag Polk County Library so we can see it! Or bring your map in to the library and share the story of your world with us!

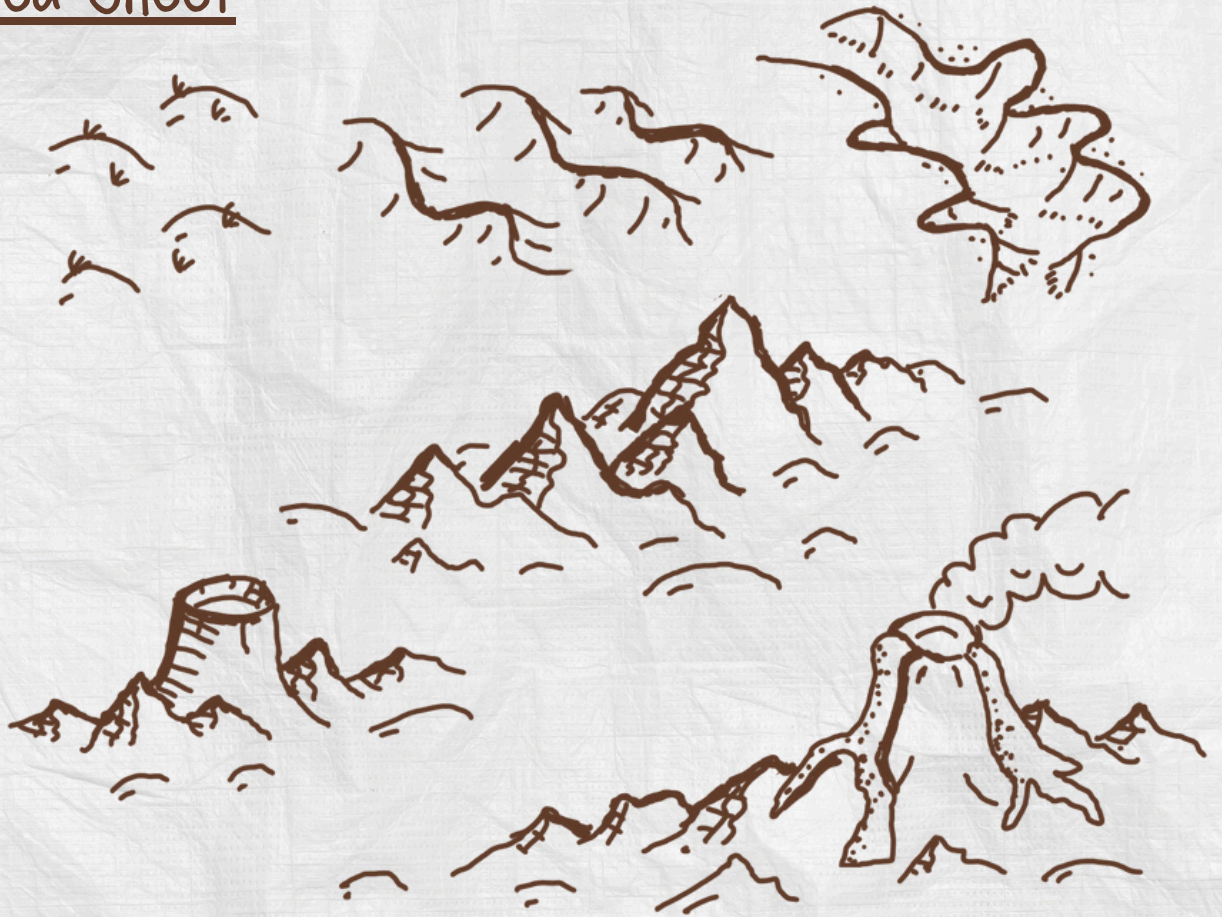
Your Fantasy Map is complete!

Now that your map is done, what can you do with it? Besides hanging it up for everyone to see, you can write a story inspired by your map!

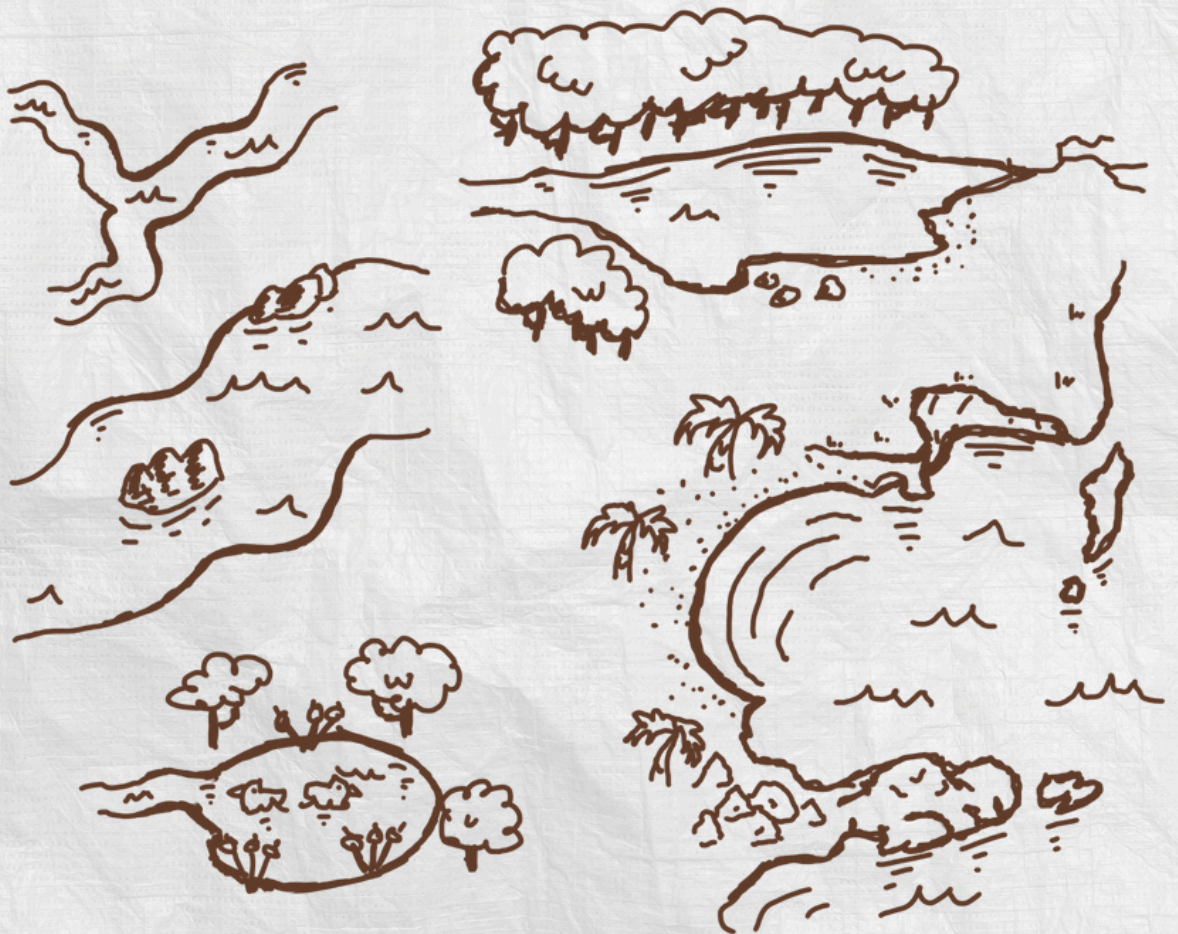
On the back side of your map, or on another sheet of paper, write the history of your map. Or choose an area or city on your map and create a story about it. What kind of creatures lurk in your forests or in the deep lake? Whose heroic tale started in the little village or is told throughout the capital city? Be as imaginative in your story as you were in your map!

Detail Idea Sheet

TERRAIN



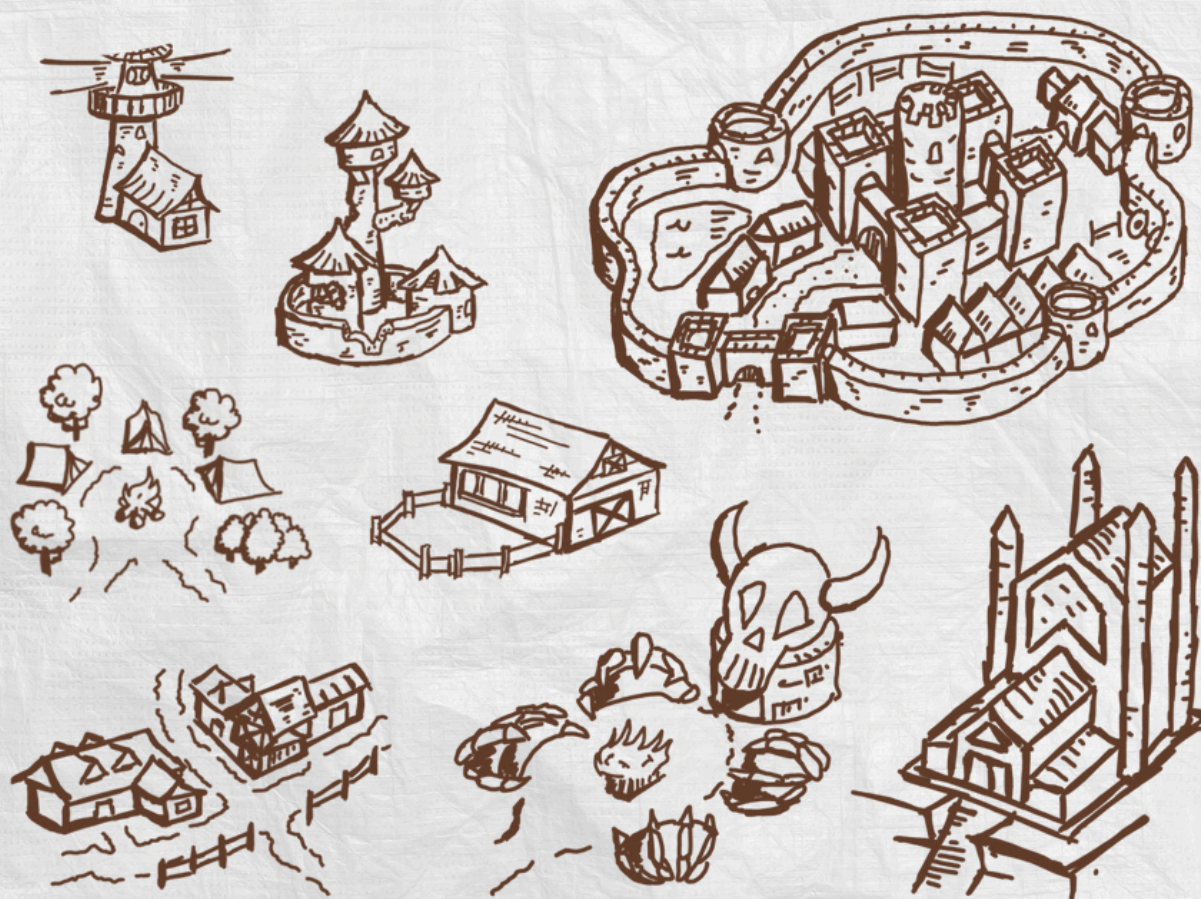
WATER



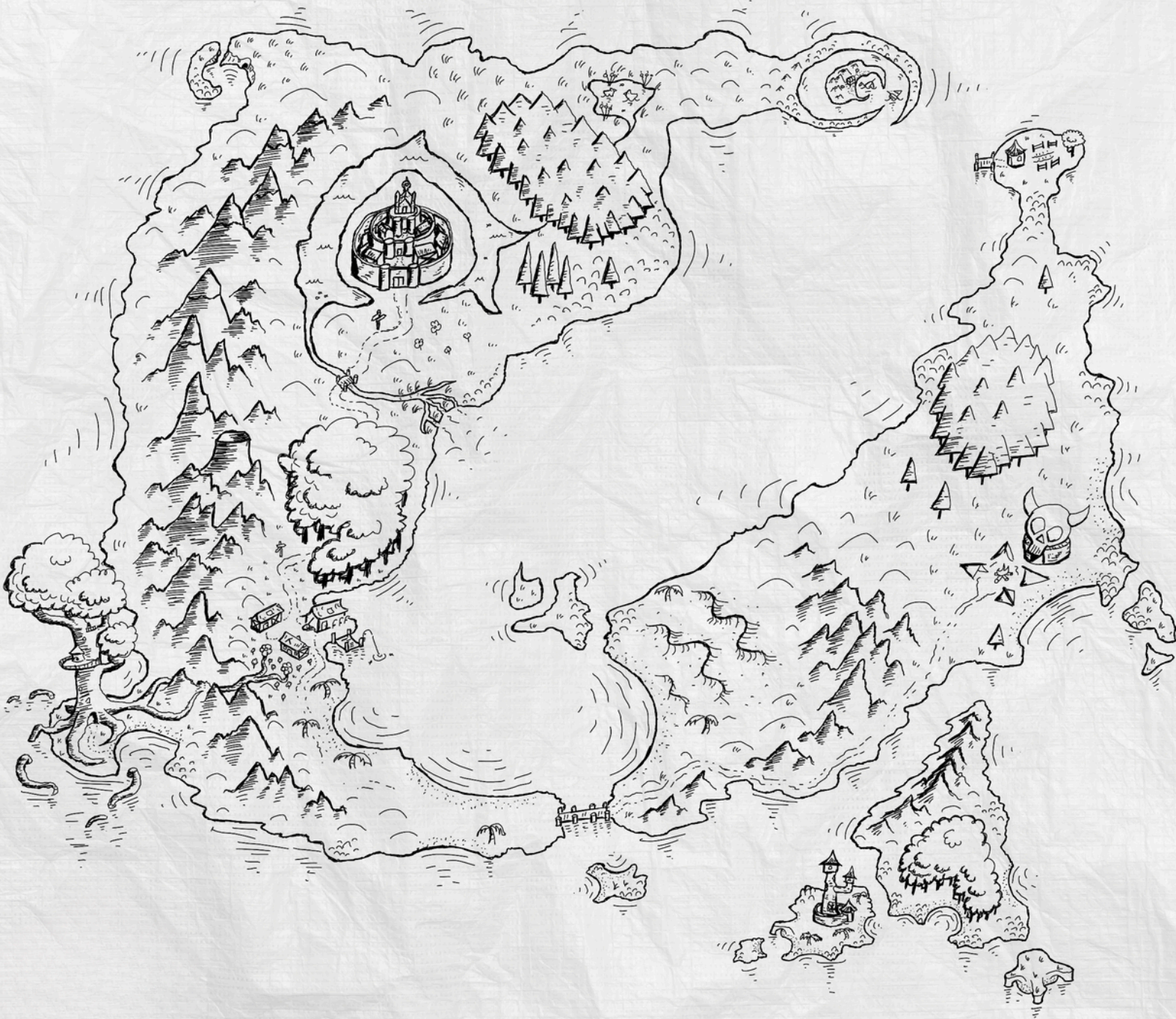
TREES

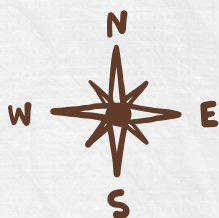


BUILDINGS



Example Map





MAP LEGEND



