

MAPS: GEOGRAPHIC MAPS, CONCEPT MAPS (MIND MAPS)

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Abstract: A map is a representation of the Earth's surface presented on a flat plane using scale, symbols, and a projection system to provide information about the condition of a particular area. Maps have an important role in human life because they help show the location of places, describe the condition of the Earth's surface, determine direction and distance, and support regional planning and learning activities. In addition to geographic maps, there are also concept maps or mind maps that are used to illustrate relationships between ideas, concepts, or information within a particular topic. Concept maps are usually arranged in the form of branching diagrams that begin with a main idea and then develop into several related subtopics. This paper aims to explain the definition of maps, the functions of maps, map elements, geographic maps, concept maps, and the differences between geographic maps and concept maps. The method used in this writing is a literature study by reviewing various books and relevant sources. The results of the discussion show that geographic maps are used to describe the condition and location of regions on the Earth's surface, while concept maps are used to help understand relationships between concepts in a subject. Therefore, both types of maps have different functions but are equally important as media for delivering information and supporting learning.

Keywords: map, geographic map, concept map, mind map, learning

INTRODUCTION

Maps are one of the important media used by humans to depict the earth's surface and convey various geographical information. Through maps, someone can find out the location of an area, the shape of the earth's surface, and various natural and man-made features such as mountains, rivers, roads, and regional boundaries. This information is presented in the form of images on a flat surface using a certain scale, symbols and projection system to make it easier for readers to understand the conditions of an area.

In everyday life, maps have many functions, both in the fields of education, research, regional planning, and navigation activities. With maps, humans can find out the location of a place, estimate the distance between regions, and understand the characteristics of an area without having to see it directly. Therefore, maps are a very important tool in conveying spatial information. One type of map that is often used is a geographic map, which is used to describe natural conditions or physical features on the earth's surface, such as mountains, rivers, lakes, highlands, lowlands, and seas. Through geographic maps, one can understand the natural conditions of a region and the distribution of various geographic elements within it. This information is extremely useful for learning, research, and development planning.

Apart from geographical maps, they are also used to illustrate the relationship between ideas or concepts in a material. Concept maps are usually presented in the form of diagrams or branches that start from one main concept and then develop into several sub concepts. The use of concept maps is very helpful in the learning process because it can make it easier for someone to understand, organize, and remember the information they are learning. Even though they are both called maps, geographic maps and concept maps have differences in function, purpose and form of presentation. Geographic maps relate to depictions of areas on the earth's surface, while concept maps relate to relationships between ideas or concepts in a material. Therefore, it is important to understand the meaning, function, and differences between the two types of maps so that they can be used appropriately in various fields, especially in learning activities.

DISCUSSION

A. MAP

A map is a depiction of the earth's surface on a flat surface at a certain scale using a projection system. A map is a depiction of the earth's surface or part of the earth's surface displayed on a flat surface using a certain scale. Maps are made to show the location of an area, the shape of the earth's surface, and various other geographical information such as rivers, mountains, roads, and regional boundaries. With a map, someone can find out the location of a place and understand the conditions of the area more easily (Suharyono & Amien, 2013). According to

Purwanto (2021), A map is a visual representation of the earth's surface presented on a flat surface at a certain scale and equipped with symbols to make it easier for readers to understand geographic information. Meanwhile, the Geospatial Information Agency (BIG) (2022) explains that a map is a depiction of elements of the earth's surface displayed on a flat surface through a certain projection, scale, and symbol system so that it can provide spatial information to users.

Based on this description, it can be concluded that a map is a depiction of all or part of the earth's surface presented on a flat surface using a scale, projection system and certain symbols. Maps function to provide information about the location, shape and condition of an area, such as rivers, mountains, roads and regional boundaries. With maps, humans can understand the location and condition of an area more easily and clearly, so that maps become an important medium for conveying geographical information.

Maps have several important functions in human life. One of them is as a tool to show the location of a place. In addition, maps are also used to help with development planning, research, education, and navigation or travel activities. In the field of education, maps are very important to help students understand the geographical conditions of a region or country (Sandy, 2014).

The function of a map is as a tool to present and provide information about the condition of an area on the earth's surface. According to Purwanto (2021), maps have several important functions as follows:

1. Shows the location of a place

Maps function to show the location or position of an area on the earth's surface. By looking at a map, someone can find out where an area is located and its relationship to other areas.

2. Provides an overview of the condition of the earth's surface

Maps can depict various natural and man-made features, such as mountains, rivers, roads, cities and regional boundaries so that readers can understand the conditions of an area more clearly.

3. Makes it easier to determine direction and distance

Through the scale and symbols on the map, someone can estimate the distance between one place and another and know the direction of travel that will be taken.

4. As a tool in regional planning

Maps are often used by governments and researchers to assist in development planning, such as urban planning, road construction, and natural resource management.

5. As a learning and research medium

Maps also function as a means of learning geography because they can help students and researchers understand various phenomena that occur on the earth's surface.

In making maps, there are several important elements that must be present so that the map is easy for the reader to understand. These elements include the map title, map scale, legend or symbol description, cardinal directions, astronomical lines, and the source and year the map was made. These elements function to provide clear information so that readers can understand the contents of the map correctly (Prihandito, 2017). Each element on the map complements each other so that the information conveyed becomes clearer and easier to understand. For example, the map title serves to explain the contents or theme of the map so that readers immediately know what information is displayed on the map.

Furthermore, the map scale is used to show the comparison between the distance on the map and the actual distance on the earth's surface. With a scale, readers can estimate the distance between one place and another. The legend, or symbol caption, is also very important because it explains the meaning of the symbols used on the map, such as roads, rivers, mountains, or boundaries. Furthermore, the cardinal directions on the map help readers identify directions like north, south, east, and west. This is very useful for readers to understand the orientation or position of a region. There are also astronomical lines, namely latitude and longitude, which are used to indicate the location of a region based on

geographic coordinates. Finally, the source and year of creation of the map are listed to show where the map data was obtained from and when the map was created.

B. GEOGRAPHIC MAP

A geographic map is a type of map used to depict natural conditions or physical features on the earth's surface. These features include various natural forms such as mountains, rivers, lakes, highlands, lowlands, valleys and seas. Geographic maps are typically created to provide an overview of the natural conditions of a region, making it easier for people to understand the environmental conditions in that area. Geographic maps are crucial in geography because they can help explain the relationships between the various natural elements found in a region. Through this map, one can understand the shape of the Earth's surface, the distribution of regions, and the natural conditions within an area. This information is extremely useful for various purposes such as research, education, development planning, and natural resource management.

A geographical map is a depiction of the earth's surface or part of the earth's territory presented on a flat surface using a certain scale and equipped with symbols to show various geographical features in a region (Suharyono and Amien: 2013). Apart from that, there are also those who explain that a geographical map is a map used to present information about the natural and environmental conditions of an area so that it can help humans understand the characteristics of the area (Haryono, 2020). Meanwhile, the Geospatial Information Agency (2022) explains that a geographic map is a visual representation of the condition of the earth's surface that depicts natural and man-made elements using certain symbols, colors, and scales so that it can provide information about the condition of an area.

Based on this explanation, it can be concluded that a geographical map is a picture or representation of the earth's surface displayed in visual form on a flat surface. This map is created using various elements such as symbols, colors, and scales to make the information contained within it easier for readers to understand. Through the use of specific symbols and colors, maps can show various features on the Earth's surface, both natural features such as mountains, rivers, and plains, and man-made features such as roads, cities, and boundaries. Furthermore, geographic

maps also serve as a source of information regarding the condition of a region. By looking at a map, one can determine the location of an area, the shape of the Earth's surface, and various characteristics of that area. Geographic maps are also very helpful in learning, research, and regional planning because the information they present can provide a clear picture of the conditions in an area.

Therefore, geographical maps have a very important role in helping humans understand the conditions and distribution of various elements on the earth's surface. With a geographic map, information about an area can be conveyed more clearly, is easier to understand, and can be used for various purposes.

Not only that, geographic maps also have several very important functions to study. According to Suharyono and Amien (2013), the functions of geographic maps are:

1. Shows the location of an area

Geographic maps serve to show the location of an area on the Earth's surface. With a map, someone can determine the position of an area and its relationship to other areas.

2. Provides an overview of the natural conditions of an area

Geographic maps can display various natural features such as mountains, rivers, lakes, plateaus, and lowlands. This information helps readers understand the natural conditions of a region.

3. Shows the distribution of geographical features

Through a geographical map, someone can find out how various geographical elements are distributed in an area, such as the distribution of rivers, mountains, or lowland areas.

4. Assisting with research and regional planning activities

Geographic maps are often used by researchers and governments as a basis for conducting research, development planning, and managing natural resources.

5. As a medium for learning geography

In the field of education, geographical maps are very useful in helping students understand material about natural conditions and the location of an area more clearly.

In my opinion, geographic maps play a crucial role in helping people understand the conditions of a region on the Earth's surface. One of the primary functions of a geographic map is to show the location of an area. With a map, one can determine the location of an area and its position in relation to other areas. This makes it easier for someone to find or identify a place. Furthermore, geographic maps can also provide an overview of the natural conditions of an area. Through maps, we can see various natural features such as mountains, rivers, lakes, highlands, and lowlands. This information helps us understand the natural conditions in an area without having to visit the location in person.

Geographic maps also function to show the distribution of geographical features. This means that through maps we can find out how natural elements are distributed in an area, for example areas that have many rivers, mountains, or lowland areas. That way, we can more easily understand the characteristics of a region. Apart from being used to see natural conditions, geographical maps are also very useful in research activities and regional planning.

In education, geographic maps also serve as learning tools. Through maps, students can more easily understand material about natural conditions, geographic locations, and various other geographic information. By looking at maps, learning becomes clearer and easier to understand.

C. Concept Map (Mind Map)

A concept map or mind map is a form of map used to describe the relationships between concepts, ideas, or information in a particular topic. Mind maps are usually made in the form of a branching diagram that starts from one main idea in the middle, then develops into several branches containing subtopics or additional explanations. According to Buzan (2013), mind maps are a method of recording and organizing information visually using keywords, lines, symbols and colors to help the brain understand and remember information more easily.

In my opinion, a mind map is a way of taking notes that is very helpful in understanding lessons. By using keywords, lines, symbols, and colors, as described by Buzan (2013), information can be organized in a clearer and more engaging manner. This method prevents notes from appearing as boring as long texts, making them easier to understand and remember. By using keywords, lines, symbols, and colors, as described by Buzan (2013), information can be organized in a clearer and more engaging manner. This method prevents notes from appearing as boring as long texts, making them easier to understand and remember. In addition, mind maps also help someone see the relationship between one piece of information and another, so that the learning process becomes more effective and enjoyable.

Meanwhile, Novak and Cañas (2008) explain that concept maps are a tool for organizing and representing knowledge in the form of relationships between concepts shown through diagrams or charts. Concept maps are a great way to organize and understand learning materials. As explained, concept maps help us see the relationships between concepts through diagrams or charts. This way, the material being studied becomes more organized and easier to understand. Furthermore, concept maps can also help students remember information because important concepts are clearly structured and interconnected.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that concept maps and mind maps are methods used to organize and describe the relationship between ideas, concepts, or information in a material. Mind maps are usually created in the form of branches from one main idea and use keywords, lines, symbols, and colors so that the information is easier to understand and remember. Meanwhile, concept maps display the relationships between concepts in the form of structured diagrams or charts. Both methods help organize information, making learning materials clearer, more organized, and easier to learn. Therefore, using concept maps and mind maps can help students understand and remember the material better.

Concept maps, or mind maps, have many benefits in helping people understand and remember information. By presenting material in the form of images, branches, and keywords, concept maps can make information easier to understand. Some of the benefits of concept maps include the following:

1. Facilitates understanding of material

Concept maps help someone see the relationship between one concept and another, making the material being studied easier to understand.

2. Helps you remember information

By using keywords, colors, and images, concept maps can help your brain remember information longer than regular notes.

3. Organize information in an orderly manner

Concept maps help organize ideas or learning materials systematically, starting with the main concept and then branching out into smaller concepts.

4. Increase creativity

When creating concept maps, one can use colors, symbols, and images to stimulate creativity in learning.

5. Assisting the learning and teaching process

In education, concept maps are often used by teachers and students to explain lesson material so that it is easier to understand (Buzan: 2013).

According to Novak and Cañas (2008), concept maps have several benefits in the learning and understanding process. Some of these benefits include the following:

1. Helps understand relationships between concepts

Concept maps help someone see the relationships between one concept and another. This way, the material being studied is not only memorized but also understood more deeply.

2. Helps organize knowledge

Through concept maps, information can be organized in an orderly manner, moving from main concepts to more detailed concepts. This makes knowledge more structured and easier to learn.

3. Facilitates the learning process

Concept maps can help students learn subject matter because the information is presented in a simpler and more easily understood form compared to lengthy texts.

4. Helps in the process of remembering material

By seeing the relationships between concepts depicted in a concept map, a person can more easily remember the material they have learned.

5. As a tool to evaluate understanding

Concept maps can also be used by teachers to determine the extent of students' understanding of a material through the conceptual relationships they create.

Based on this explanation, it can be concluded that concept maps have many benefits in the process of learning and understanding material. Concept maps help someone see the relationship between one concept and another so that the material being studied becomes easier to understand. In addition, the use of keywords, colors, and images in concept maps can also help someone remember information better and longer.

Concept maps also function to organize information or knowledge in an orderly manner, starting from the main concept then developing to more detailed concepts. Dengan penyusunan seperti ini, materi pelajaran menjadi lebih jelas, terstruktur, dan mudah dipelajari. Selain itu, pembuatan peta konsep juga dapat meningkatkan kreativitas karena seseorang dapat menggunakan berbagai simbol, warna, dan gambar dalam menyusun ide atau informasi.

In education, concept maps are also very useful for both teachers and students. Teachers can use concept maps to explain subject matter more easily, while students can use them to understand and remember what they've learned. Concept maps can even be used as a tool to evaluate students' understanding of a topic through the conceptual relationships they create. Thus, concept maps are an effective learning tool in supporting the learning process.

D. Differences between Geographic Maps and Concept Maps

Although both are called maps, geographic maps and concept maps have quite distinct differences. Geographic maps are used to depict conditions or locations of areas on the Earth's surface, while concept maps are used to illustrate relationships between ideas or concepts within a subject. Geographic maps are spatial or related to space and territory, while concept maps are conceptual, related to understanding ideas or knowledge.

Geographic maps and concept maps are two types of maps with different functions and purposes. Although both are used to present information visually, they differ in meaning, purpose, form, and usage. These differences can be explained as follows:

D. Differences between Geographic Maps and Concept Maps

Although both are called maps, geographic maps and concept maps have quite distinct differences. Geographic maps are used to depict conditions or the location of regions on the Earth's surface, while concept maps are used to illustrate the relationships between ideas or concepts within a material. Geographic maps are spatial, or related to space and territory, while concept maps are conceptual, related to the understanding of ideas or knowledge. Geographic maps and concept maps are two types of maps with different functions and purposes. Although both are used to present information in visual form, they have differences in meaning, purpose, form, and how they are used. These differences can be explained as follows:

1. Differences Based on Definition

A geographic map is a depiction of the Earth's surface or a portion of it displayed on a flat surface using a specific scale, symbols, and colors to show various geographic features such as mountains, rivers, seas, and plains (Geospatial Information Agency, 2022). This map is used to provide information about the condition and location of an area on the Earth's surface.

A concept map, on the other hand, is a diagram used to illustrate the relationship between one concept and another. Concept maps are typically constructed from one main concept and then connected to other related concepts to

form a network of knowledge (Trianto, 2014). Concept maps are more commonly used in learning activities to aid understanding of material.

2. Differences Based on Purpose

The purpose of creating a geographic map is to provide information about the location and conditions of a region. Through a geographic map, one can determine the position of an area, its boundaries, the shape of the Earth's surface, and the distribution of various natural and man-made features (Geospatial Information Agency, 2022)

Meanwhile, the purpose of creating a concept map is to organize and explain the relationships between ideas or concepts in a subject matter. With a concept map, someone can more easily understand the relationships between one concept and another (Trianto, 2014).

3. Differences Based on Function

The primary function of a geographic map is to provide information about the geographic conditions of an area. These maps are widely used in geography, regional planning, research, and navigation or travel because they can show the location and conditions of an area (Geospatial Information Agency, 2022).

4. Differences Based on Usage

Meanwhile, concept maps function to aid the learning process and understanding of knowledge. In learning activities, concept maps can help students summarize material, see relationships between concepts, and facilitate the process of remembering information they have learned (Trianto, 2014).

5. Differences Based on Usage

Geographic maps are commonly used in geography, regional planning, mapping, and environmental research. They are frequently used by governments, researchers, and the public to understand the conditions of an area. Meanwhile, concept maps are more widely used in education and learning. Teachers and students often use concept maps as a tool to explain lesson material and make it easier to understand.

CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion that has been explained, it can be concluded that a map is a depiction of the earth's surface or part of the earth's area presented on a flat surface using a certain scale, symbols and projection system. Peta berfungsi untuk memberikan informasi mengenai letak, bentuk, dan kondisi suatu wilayah sehingga memudahkan manusia memahami keadaan geografis suatu daerah. Salah satu jenis peta adalah peta geografi, yaitu peta yang menggambarkan kenampakan alam maupun buatan manusia di permukaan bumi seperti gunung, sungai, dan dataran. Selain itu, terdapat juga peta konsep (mind map) yang digunakan untuk menunjukkan hubungan antara ide atau konsep dalam suatu materi sehingga memudahkan proses belajar.

Thus, although both are called maps, geographic maps and concept maps have different functions. Geographic maps are used to depict conditions on the Earth's surface, while concept maps are used to help understand and organize knowledge.

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