

1. SPATIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF MAP OBJECTS

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The way in which you place names on a map is determined by the characteristics of the map objects. In cartography three kinds of objects are distinguished: **point**, **linear** and **area** object. We will shortly describe each of these objects.

(1) Point objects

- explicitly symbolized named objects: towns, mountain tops, passes, ruins
- implicitly symbolized named objects: capes
- not symbolized: sea depths

(2) Linear objects

- explicitly symbolized named objects: streams, canals
- implicitly symbolized named objects: coasts
- individual objects: streams, roads, railroads
- derived from area objects: boundaries, coastline = land area boundary (generally unnamed)

(3) Area objects

- explicitly symbolized (= cartographically bounded) named objects: lakes, islands, administrative areas
- implicitly symbolized named objects: swamps, mountain ridges, depressions, trenches, basins
- dito, partly symbolized: peninsulas, delta areas, gulfs and bays, seas, straits
- dito, collectivities: archipelagos, lakes areas
- not symbolized: historic areas, uncategorized physical areas (boundaries variable or disputed)

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