



Map Maker Activity

This activity uses National Geographic MapMaker, a free ArcGIS-based mapping tool. Explore pre-made lessons at:

<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/mapmaker/>

Step 1. Open the tool

Go to mapmaker.nationalgeographic.org and click *Make a Map*.

Step 2. Change the basemap

Click the *Basemap* button and try a different style (streets or Imagery work well). Notice how the same place looks different depending on what information is shown.

Step 3. Add a transportation layer

Open the *Layers* panel and search for "transportation in the United States." Add the layer to your map.

Step 4. Add a heat severity layer

Search for and add a heat severity layer. Areas shown in darker or warmer colors experience more extreme heat.

Step 5. Measure a line

Use the *Measure* tool and select *Line*. Click between two severely hot areas on the map and record the distance.

Step 6. Measure an area

Switch the Measure tool to *Area*. Draw a shape around one severely hot area and record the square mileage.

Step 7. Mark spots for trees

Severely hot areas often lack tree cover. Use the *sketch* tool to place three markers where you think trees should be planted. Add a short note to each explaining why you chose that spot. Is there anything else you want to mark on your map?

Step 8. Save your map

Click *Save* and give your map a title with your name. Copy the share link or take a screenshot to submit.