TRAVEL

How To Get Maps On Minecraft

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Introduction: Navigating the World of Minecraft Maps

Minecraft is a game built on exploration. From the first moment you spawn into a vast, procedurally generated world, the desire to document your surroundings, mark your base, and chart unknown territories becomes a core part of the experience. Whether you are a seasoned adventurer or a builder looking to plan a massive project, understanding **how to get maps on Minecraft** is an essential skill that transforms the way you play.

Maps serve as more than just decorative items; they are functional tools that help you track your movements, locate specific biomes, and avoid getting hopelessly lost in the endless blocks of the Overworld, the Nether, or even the End. Many players, especially those new to the game, find the process of acquiring and using maps confusing. Unlike a simple compass, a map requires specific materials, proper crafting techniques, and a bit of knowledge to use effectively.

In this guide, we will walk you through every method available for obtaining maps in Minecraft. You will learn the traditional crafting route, discover how to trade with villagers for ready-made maps, find maps hidden in generated structures, and even use commands if you are playing in Creative mode. By the end of this article, you will have a complete understanding of **how to get maps on Minecraft**and how to use them to enhance your exploration and building projects.

Understanding the Different Types of Maps

Before diving into the acquisition methods, it is important to understand that not all maps in Minecraft are the same. There are primarily three types of maps you can obtain, and each serves a distinct purpose.

Empty Maps

An **Empty Map**, sometimes referred to as a blank map, is the starting point for cartography. When you hold an Empty Map and use it, the map is activated and begins to fill in with the terrain of the surrounding area. This type of map does not show your location until it is activated. You can craft Empty Maps using paper and a compass, or you can obtain them through trading.

Empty Locator Maps

An **Empty Locator Map**is functionally similar to an Empty Map, but with one critical difference: it includes a small white dot that represents your current position. This makes navigation significantly easier because you can always see where you are relative to the mapped terrain. In Bedrock Edition, this is the default map you craft with a compass. In Java Edition, an Empty Locator Map is crafted by adding a compass to a regular Empty Map.

Explorer Maps

Explorer Maps are special, pre-filled maps that show the location of specific structures. There are two main types: **Woodland Explorer Maps** which lead to Woodland Mansions, and **Ocean Explorer Maps**which guide you to Ocean Monuments. These maps are not crafted; they are exclusively obtained by trading with cartographer villagers. They are extremely valuable for finding rare loot and challenging structures.

Method 1: Crafting Maps Using Paper and a Compass

The most fundamental way to learn **how to get maps on Minecraft**is through crafting. This method is available to all players in Survival mode and gives you complete control over when and where you create your maps.

Gathering the Required Materials

To craft a basic map, you will need two primary ingredients: paper and a compass.

- Paper: You need nine pieces of paper to craft a single map. Paper is made from sugar cane, which grows naturally near water sources. Plant sugar cane on sand or dirt blocks adjacent to water, and harvest it when it reaches three blocks tall. Three sugar cane items will craft into three pieces of paper. Therefore, you will need nine sugar cane to get nine paper.
- Compass: A compass requires four iron ingots and one redstone dust. Iron ingots are smelted from iron ore, which is commonly found in caves and mines. Redstone dust is obtained by mining redstone ore with an iron pickaxe or better. Once you have these items, arrange them in a crafting table: place the redstone dust in the center square and surround it with the four iron ingots at the top, bottom, left, and right.

The Crafting Recipe

Once you have nine paper and one compass, follow these steps:

1. Open your crafting table to access the 3x3 crafting grid.
2. Place the compass in the center square of the grid.
3. Fill the remaining eight squares with paper. You will use all nine pieces of paper.
4. The resulting item is an Empty Locator Map (in Bedrock Edition) or an Empty Map (in Java Edition).

If you are playing Java Edition and want a Locator Map, you will need to craft an Empty Map first using nine pieces of paper without a compass, and then combine that Empty Map with a compass in a crafting table or anvil to create an Empty Locator Map.

Activating Your Map

Crafting the map is only half the process. To use it, equip the Empty Map in your hand and right-click (or press the use button). The map will fill in with the terrain of the area you are currently in. The map will only record terrain as you explore, so you will need to travel around with the map in your inventory to fully chart a region. Remember that maps are tied to a specific area; if you travel too far, your map will not show new terrain until you create a new map for that region.

Method 2: Trading with Villagers for Maps

If you prefer a hands-off approach or if you are looking for Explorer Maps that cannot be crafted, trading with villagers is your best option. Learning **how to get maps on Minecraft**via trading is efficient once you establish a village with a working cartographer.

Finding a Cartographer Villager

Cartographer villagers are identifiable by their profession. They wear a white coat and have a monocle. If you do not have a cartographer in your village, you can turn an unemployed villager into a cartographer by placing a Cartography Table nearby. The Cartography Table is crafted using two planks and four paper. Once the villader claims the workstation, their profession will change to cartographer.

Trading for Various Map Types

Cartographer villagers offer several map-related trades at different levels of their career.

- Novice Level: At the first level, a cartographer may offer an Empty Map in exchange for emeralds. This is a

simple way to obtain a map without gathering paper and a compass. The cost is typically 7 to 11 emeralds, which is reasonable if you have a steady source of emeralds from other trades.

- Apprentice Level: Once you trade with a cartographer enough to level them up, they will offer an Explorer Map. You can choose between an Ocean Explorer Map or a Woodland Explorer Map. These trades cost emeralds and sometimes require other items like paper or glass panes. These maps are incredibly useful for locating rare structures without aimless wandering.
- Journeyman and Master Level: Higher-level cartographers may offer additional Empty Maps or even completed maps of local areas. They also sell banners and other cartography-related items. Trading at these levels can be a reliable source of maps if you need multiple copies.

Reading an Explorer Map

When you obtain an Explorer Map from a cartographer, you will notice a small icon on the map that represents the location of the target structure. For example, a Woodland Explorer Map shows a forest mansion icon, while an Ocean Explorer Map shows a monument icon. To use the map, equip it and travel in the direction indicated. Your position is shown as a white dot, and the structure icon will remain fixed. You may need to travel thousands of blocks to reach the destination, so come prepared with food, tools, and weapons.

Method 3: Finding Maps in Chests and Structures

Maps can also be found as loot inside various generated structures. If you are an explorer who enjoys raiding dungeons and temples, you may come across maps without needing to craft or trade. This method of **how to get maps on Minecraft** is entirely luck-based but can be very rewarding.

Locations Where Maps Spawn

- Shipwrecks: Shipwrecks are common in ocean biomes and contain chests with valuable loot, including treasure maps. These are special maps that lead to buried treasure. Once you find a treasure map in a shipwreck, follow it to the marked location and dig to find a buried chest filled with iron, gold, diamonds, and sometimes enchanted items.
- Dungeons: Dungeons are small rooms found underground that contain a monster spawner and chests. You may find standard Empty Maps or Locator Maps in these chests, though it is less common than other loot.
- Strongholds: The underground strongholds that contain End Portals also have multiple chests in libraries and corridors. Maps can appear here, though the loot pool is large and varied.
- Village Cartographer Houses: In villages that have a cartographer's house, you may find a chest containing paper, Empty Maps, and sometimes even partially filled maps. This is a great early-game source.
- Woodland Mansions: Ironically, while Woodland Explorer Maps lead you to mansions, the mansions themselves sometimes contain chests with maps inside. It is a nice bonus if you successfully navigate to one.

Using Treasure Maps

Treasure maps found in shipwrecks are a unique variant. They look like a standard map but show a specific island or coastline. A red **X** marks the spot where the treasure is buried. When you follow the map and reach the X, dig straight down to find the chest. Be careful: treasure can spawn under sand, gravel, or even dirt, and you may need to dig a few blocks deep. Treasure maps are one of the most exciting ways to get maps naturally, as they turn the entire map into a puzzle.

Method 4: Using Commands to Get Maps

If you are playing Minecraft in Creative mode or if you have cheats enabled in your Survival world, you can use commands to instantly spawn any type of map. This is the fastest method for **how to get maps on Minecraft**, and

it bypasses all crafting, trading, and exploration requirements.

Basic Give Command for Maps

The command to give yourself a map is straightforward. Open the chat window and type:

/give @p minecraft:map

This command gives the nearest player a standard Empty Map. If you want a specific number of maps, add a number at the end. For example, **/give @p minecraft:map 5** gives you five maps.

Giving a Filled Map

To get a map that is already filled with terrain, you need to specify the map ID. This is a bit more complex because the ID corresponds to a specific map that exists in the world's data. If you want a filled map of your current area, it is easier to simply give yourself an Empty Map and activate it manually. However, if you have a specific map ID from a previous session, you can use:

/give @p minecraft:filled_map{map:1}

Replace the number 1 with the actual map ID you want. Map IDs start at 0 and increment each time a new map is created.

Getting Explorer Maps via Commands

You can also use commands to obtain Explorer Maps directly. For a Woodland Explorer Map, use:

/give @p minecraft:filled_map{map_type:1}

For an Ocean Explorer Map, use:

/give @p minecraft:filled_map{map_type:0}

These commands give you a fully functional Explorer Map that points to the nearest structure of the corresponding type. This is an excellent tool for players who want to quickly locate monuments and mansions without spending hours traveling.

Tips for Using Maps Effectively

Knowing **how to get maps on Minecraft**is only the beginning. Using them effectively requires a bit of strategy and understanding of game mechanics.

Scale and Zoom Levels

Maps in Minecraft have multiple zoom levels. A standard map covers a 128x128 block area at the base level. You

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