Using the Map Scale

A map is always much smaller than the area it represents. In order to figure out distances when using a map, you need to know the scale of the map. The scale on a map tells you the relationship between a distance on a map and the real distance on the earth’s surface. You measure a distance on the map. Then, you use the scale to convert it to the real distance.

Directions: Study the map and the map scale below. Then, use a ruler along with either a piece of string or the edge of a piece of paper to measure distances and to answer the questions.

1. How many miles is it from London to Madrid? 

   How many kilometers? 

2. If you were to fly directly from Rome to Paris and then on to Berlin, how many miles would you travel? 

3. Which city is farther from Paris, Madrid or Berlin? 

4. If you were to travel from London to Rome via Paris and back again by the same route, how many miles would you travel? 

5. How many kilometers would you go if you flew from Madrid to Rome? 

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