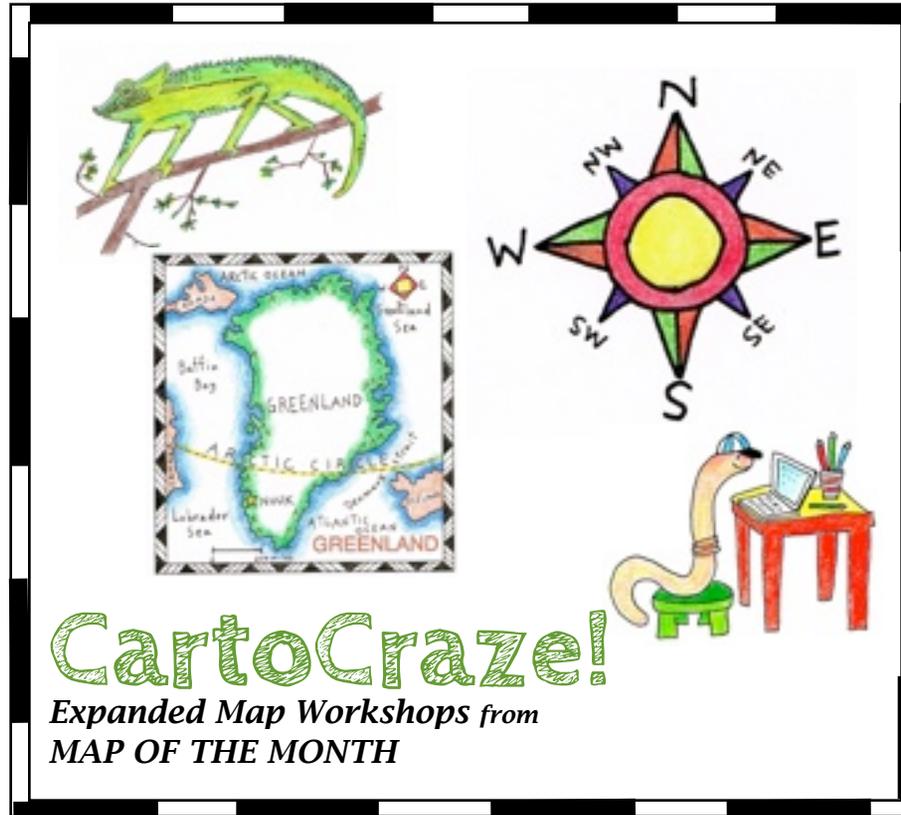


CUBA



CartoCraze!

Expanded Map Workshops

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P. O. Box 2484

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www.mapsfortheclassroom.com

ISLANDS

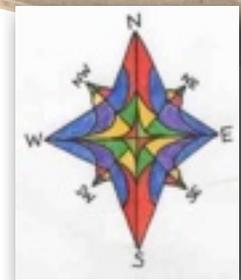
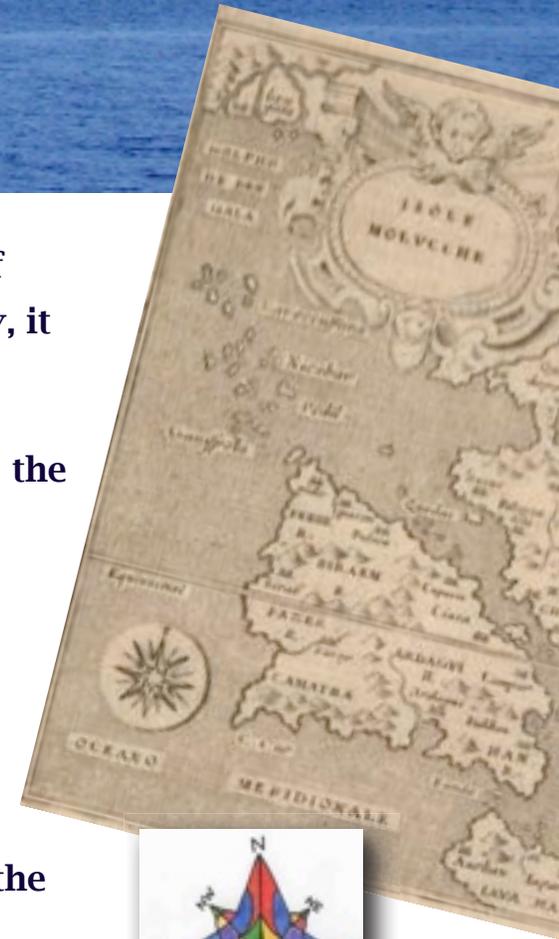


An island is a piece of land surrounded by water. An island can be as tiny as a spot of land at the center of a freshwater lake, only large enough for a few plants. Alternately, it can be very large, like Greenland, surrounded by salt water ocean.

The actual foundation of an island is below water. Many islands in the deep ocean are the tips of volcanoes. Other islands emerge from the Continental Shelf.

The topography of an island is influenced by its position on Earth. Its temperature, climate, flora and fauna and its size are determined by its location. Some islands are uninhabited, others are home to millions of people. An island can be isolated and far away from other pieces of land, or it can be part of a group of islands.

Throughout history, islands have captured the imaginations of humans. Explorers in the early history of the civilized world risked their lives to visit islands that were yet unknown. People choose islands as a destination, to relax in areas that have easy access to water. People love movies about islands! Robert Louis Stevenson's book TREASURE ISLAND, published in 1883, is still popular today with readers around the world. There is something very fascinating about a piece of land that has a continuous coastline.....



ISLAND TERMS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS

It is impossible to talk about islands, or learn about them, without knowing some terms that relate to islands. Here are just a few terms! Can you come up with other terms?



DESERT ISLAND An island not inhabited by humans.

ATOLL A coral reef shaped like a circle or ring and is filled with water. This is usually the tip of an extinct volcano.

COASTLINE The land along the outer edge of an island, where the land meets the water.

ARCHIPELAGO A chain or group of islands

BARRIER ISLAND An island formed of dunes, made of flat or lumpy areas of sand parallel to a coastline.

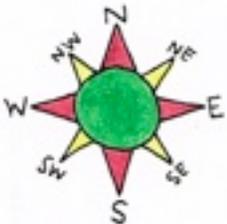
PENINSULA A piece of land that is surrounded by water on three sides but connected to mainland.

GULF A large bay that is connected to the ocean or larger body of water.

BAY A large indentation on a coastline that is connected to an ocean or lake

LAGOON A shallow body of water separated from a larger body of water by coral reefs or barrier islands.

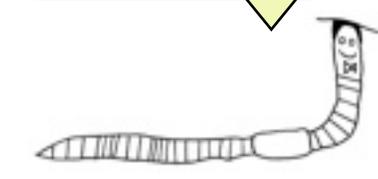
BEACH Land along the coast of an ocean, sea, lake, or river consisting of loose particles made of sand or rock.



The following presentation is an introduction to the islands of CUBA, with guidelines about making a map, as well as some information about its geography, people and animals.



Make a compass rose for YOUR map by following the directions [HERE!](#)



**I am
Professor Earthworm!**

CUBA

Cuba is an island country only 90 miles away from the Florida Keys, south of the United States. Did you know Cuba is the largest island in the Caribbean Sea, even though it is the size of the state of Pennsylvania? It is surrounded by 4 other smaller groups of islands that form the REPUBLIC OF CUBA.

Cuba has a tropical climate: it can be very hot but there are trade winds that cool the air. The east coast of the island experiences hurricanes. Even though there is a long rainy season from May to October, the island can also experience periods of drought in the other months.

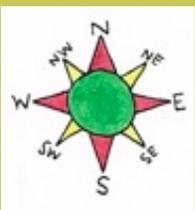
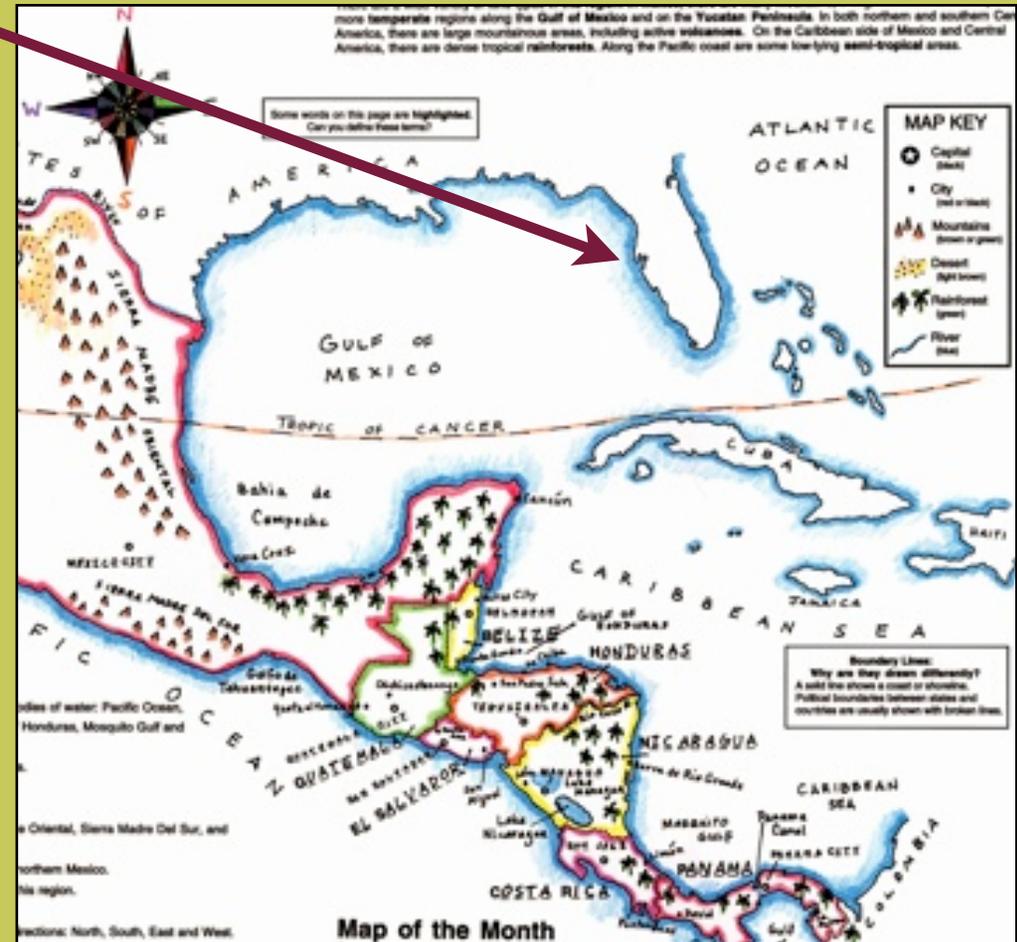
In Cuba, you can see many natural geographic wonders, ranging from pine forests, coral reefs, and waterfalls, just to name a few. A very unique features is Lagune de Leche, which is a large natural water mirror. Have you heard of these unusual creatures that are in Cuba? The Cuban Crocodile, the Caribbean Flamingo, the Caribbean Reef Shark, the Cuban Croaking Gekko -- and the Painted Tree Snail!



The map at left is from 1798, showing Florida, the Gulf of Mexico, Louisiana, and Central America, drawn by the Italian cartographer Giovanni Maria Cassini.

For those of us looking at the map today it is more of an interesting picture than a useful tool. The boundaries of land and outlines of rivers and water are not correct.

ON THE MAP!



Compare our map of MEXICO and CENTRAL AMERICA at right to the antique map above! Can you see how the outlines that we know today are different from the old ones?



The Bee Hummingbird

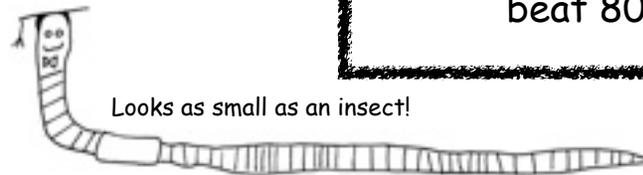
The Bee Hummingbird is the world's smallest bird, measuring only 5-6 cm in length and weighing approximately 2 grams.

Its eggs are no larger than a pea!

Native to Cuba, these colorful hummingbirds have iridescent plumage making them look like tiny jewels. Unlike the slender appearance of most other hummingbirds, these are rounder and less streamlined.

These tiny creatures feed primarily on nectar and can visit up to 1,500 flowers in a single day.

In a short span of 24 hours the bee hummingbird can drink up to eight times its mass in water. Skillful maneuvering skills help them to avoid predators -- these agile birds can even fly backwards! Appearing as just a blur to the naked eye, the hummingbird's wings can beat 80 times a second!



Looks as small as an insect!

CUBA



CUBA

PRINT THIS PAGE:
COLOR AND LABEL THE
MAP, BOTH LANDFORMS
AND WATER.

ADD A COMPASS ROSE
TO YOUR MAP!
COLOR
THE BEE HUMMINGBIRD!

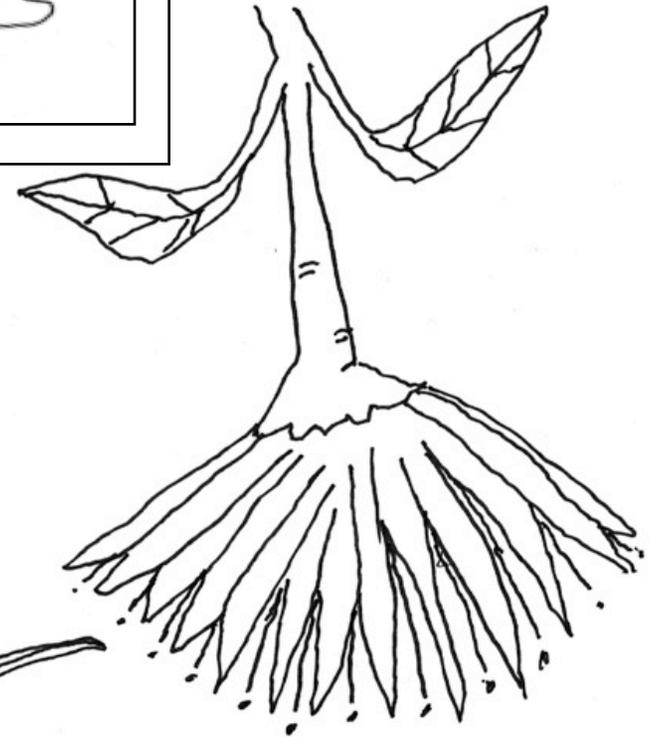
VOCABULARY WORDS

Turn your map over and
define these words!

iridescent
metabolism
vertebrate
nectar
incubate
plumage
swift
shrubbery
energetic
consume

SPELLING WORDS

tiny
underside
woodland
probing
colorful
hover
tongue
pollen
chunky
tongue
forest
nest



The Bee Hummingbird



The Bee Hummingbird

HAVANA TREASURES.... and MATH!

This is a photo of an old church in the capital city of Havana. Builders started this Cathedral of Havana in 1748 but it was not completed until the year 1777. Some of the stones are made from coral and have visible fossils!



1. Based on the description above, how many years did it take to build?
2. Cuba was visited by a famous European explorer in the year 1492: who was that? How many years ago was that adventure?
3. Cuba gained independence as a country in 1902: how many years after European discovery was that? How many years ago was that from today?



American cars from the 1950s still survive today and are seen in Havana. Some are well-preserved and the owners are very proud of their old cars.

Interesting fact: they are called "yank tanks".

Can you guess why they have this nickname?

This car was made in 1952 by the company Chevrolet, which is still in business today.



How old is this car today?

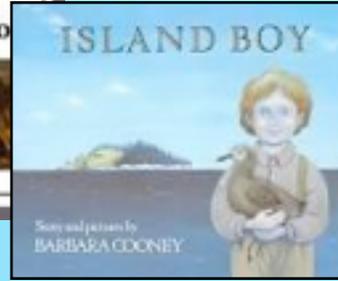
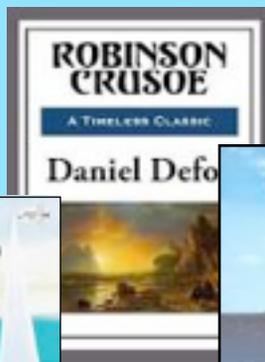
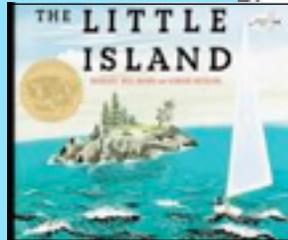
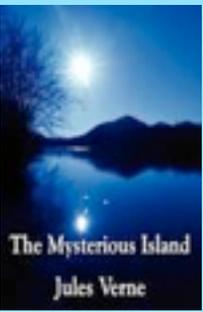
And some more math.....

Using the very simple scale on our map on the opening page, approximately how long is the island of Cuba?

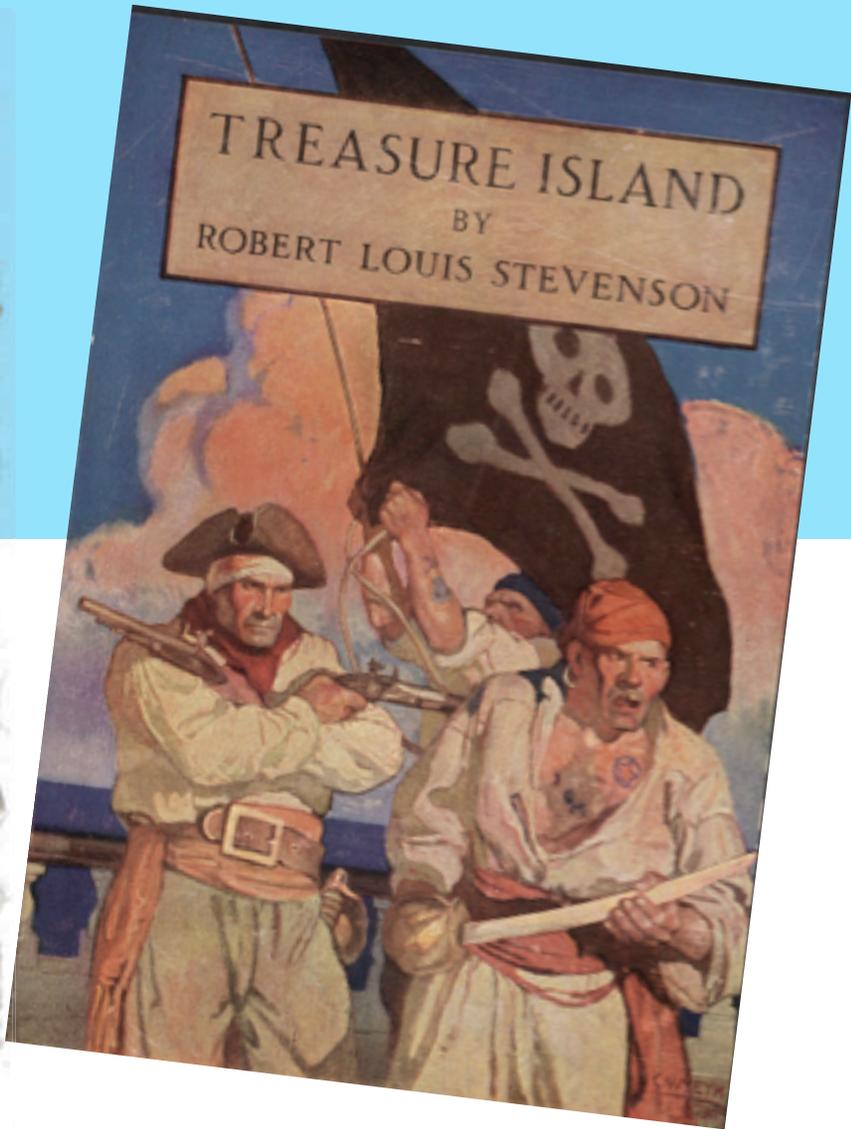
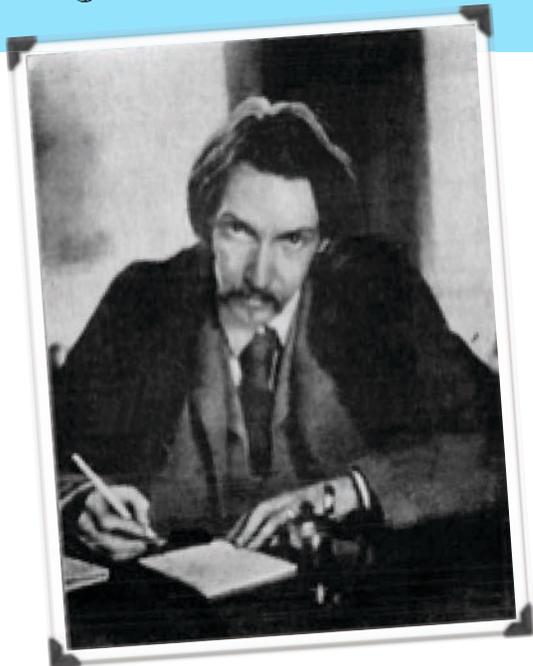
And about how wide is it?

ISLAND READING LIST!

- TREASURE ISLAND Robert Louis Stevenson
- ISLAND OF THE BLUE DOLPHINS Scott O'Dell
- THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND Jules Verne
- THE LITTLE ISLAND Golden MacDonald
- ISLAND BOY Barbara Cooney
- ROBINSON CRUSOE Daniel Defoe



In 1883, Robert Lewis Stevenson's exciting book **TREASURE ISLAND** was published. Adventure! Pirates! Treasure and.... the dreaded **BLACK SPOT!** Stevenson drew his own fictional island map when he was writing his book to help him envision the action of his novel. You can see his map at right!





MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA

Places and Geographic Features



Welcome to Mexico and Central America. This area of land is part of the North American continent. Mexico is a large country to the south of the United States. Central America is a region which lies to the south of Mexico and is made up of seven smaller countries. Central America, a narrow strip of land called an isthmus, links the North and South American continents. This land bridge also separates the Atlantic Ocean to the east from the Pacific Ocean to the west.

Between 1904 and 1914, the Panama Canal was built. This man-made water way links the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. Previous to the building of this 51 mile long canal, ships were forced to travel around the southernmost tip of South America.

There are a wide variety of land types in this region. In Mexico, there are many mountains, a large desert in the north, and more temperate regions along the Gulf of Mexico and on the Yucatan Peninsula. In both northern and southern Central America, there are large mountainous areas, including active volcanoes. On the Caribbean side of Mexico and Central America, there are dense tropical rainforests. Along the Pacific coast are some low-lying semi-tropical areas.

Some words on this page are highlighted. Can you define these terms?

MAP KEY	
	Capital (black)
	City (red or black)
	Mountains (brown or green)
	Desert (light brown)
	Rainforest (green)
	River (blue)

Earthworm's Cartographic Activities
Your job as cartographer is to fill in some details not shown on this map. Refer to an atlas or encyclopedia. Refer to the Map Key for symbols and suggested colors. Be neat when labeling and drawing in details. Colored pencils work best. Shade very lightly so you don't obscure other features.

- Countries:** Fill in the remaining letters for each country name.
- Capitals:** Locate the capital symbol for each country and fill in the remaining letters for each capital city.
- Cities:** Locate and label two other cities in each country.
- Oceans:** With blue, shade along coastline areas. Label the following bodies of water: Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of California, Gulf of Honduras, Mosquito Gulf and Gulf of Panama.
- Lakes:** Label and shade Lake Nicaragua with blue. Add Lake Managua.
- Rivers:** Locate and shade the Rio Grandé. Add others.
- Panama Canal:** Locate, draw and label this man-made waterway.
- Mountains:** Locate and draw in Sierra Madre Occidental, Sierra Madre Oriental, Sierra Madre Del Sur, and Central American Highlands.
- Desert:** Using the symbol in the Map Key, shade the desert regions of northern Mexico.
- Rainforest:** Using the symbol in the Map Key, draw the rainforests of this region.
- Latitude line:** With a sharp pencil, draw in the Tropic of Cancer.
- Compass Rose:** This feature indicates direction. Label the cardinal directions: North, South, East and West. Label the intermediate directions: NW, NE, SW, and SE.
- Decoration:** Color the title of the map, the Compass Rose, and our mascot Earthworm.

Boundary Lines:
Why are they drawn differently?
A solid line shows a coast or shoreline. Political boundaries between states and countries are usually shown with broken lines.

Map of the Month
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East Side Station, P. O. Box 2484
Providence, RI 02906-0484
Visit us at www.mapofthemonth.com