

General Map Questions



1. What kinds of maps does the OGS sell?

Primarily topographic maps, which show the shape of the Earth's surface (hills, valleys, streams, etc.), and geologic maps, which show geologic formations and rock types.

We sell a wide variety of maps including all the topographic maps of Oklahoma published by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Among them are 7.5' quadrangles (1 inch = 0.38 mile), 15' quadrangles (1 inch = 1 mile), 30' x 60' sheets (1 inch = 1.6 miles), 1° x 2° sheets (1 inch = 3.9 miles), and a topographic map of the entire State (1 inch = 7.9 miles).

Geologic maps available from the OGS vary widely in scale and coverage, ranging from 7.5' quadrangles to the "Geologic Map of Oklahoma." Geologic maps of 1° x 2° sheets for the entire State—except the Panhandle—are included in the OGS Hydrologic Atlas series; geologic maps of the Panhandle are available as county maps (1 inch = 2.0 miles) in the USGS Hydrologic Investigations Atlas series. Some geologic maps are sold individually, others only as parts of technical reports.

Many of the geologic maps focus on natural resources, particularly oil and gas, coal, and water.

2. Where is the flattest land in Oklahoma?

Areas of old windblown silt and sand in the Panhandle.

Many places in Oklahoma are remarkably flat, but few cover an extensive area. Floodplains along many of Oklahoma's major rivers are flat, but rarely are more than a mile wide. Some other areas of the State are flat over small areas because the bedrock there is almost horizontal and/or easily eroded.

Perhaps the largest area of flat land in the State is in the Panhandle. An example is the area east and southeast of Guymon. There, the land is flat and featureless, tilting only about 15 feet per mile to the east. The area is flat because (1) the bedrock, the Ogallala Formation (Miocene–Pliocene) (Appendix 6), is nearly horizontal and is covered by a thin veneer of windblown sand and silt but no dunes; and (2) the area is so dry that drainage networks have not developed except near the larger streams. Most of the rain sinks into the soil rather than dissecting the land surface.

3. What topographic map shows my land?

We'll need a legal description of your land—the section, township, and range. Alternatively, give us exact distances and directions from towns or highway intersections (for example, 3.2 miles west and 1.7 miles north of the intersection of Highways 19 and 177, west of Ada.)

Send (or call) the description to our Publication Sales Office (Appendix 1), or ask for a copy of "Oklahoma: Index to Topographic and Other Map Coverage." This free publication, by the U.S. Geological Survey, shows all the quadrangles and townships in the State. Using it you must determine where a particular section lies within a township, and from that you can find the name of the appropriate topographic map.