

This term in English we studied the novel "Hatchet" by Gary Paulsen. It is based on survival. It's about a boy who crashes in a plane and has to survive in the wilderness until he is found. Honestly, I found the novel pretty good, but the idea of a thirteen year old lost in the wilderness could have been more exciting. For part of our Humanities CAT One, we had to produce a map of where Brian crashed in the novel. I was actually excited to start the map, as it was my first paper map I have done.

I did over six rough drafts for my map because each time I finished one I realized I had done something wrong. I was having a heap of trouble with working out the scale and ratios for my map. Our teacher helped us with choosing the appropriate scale for our maps.

Some of the things we had to include in the map were the lake in which Brian crashed, the berry patch where he first found food and the where the plane crashed. We also had to include BOLTSS (border, orientation, title, scale, source). I included BOLTSS by using six-figure grid referencing for my border, compass direction, my scale was 1 centimetre on the map is 250 metres on the ground (1: 25 000) and my source was the novel Hatchet. The title of my map was "Map of Hatchet Lake".

At first my scale was 1cm equals 100m on the ground. I asked my teacher if this was OK for my scale and we measured it with string. The length of the string had to be 8-10km on our scale and mine was only 600m. After I had changed it I understood scale a bit better.

I presented my map in digital and hard copy form. I decided to do it in digital form as well to gain an extra ACE point. I'm not too keen on ratios, as I don't completely understand them but I am going to work on it more.

I found the six-figure grid referencing interesting and I caught on the idea quite well. I thought my map was successful because this was the first map I have actually produced myself before.