The I Brazilian Cartographic Olympiad (OBRAC - www.olimpiadecatografia.uff.br) had national coverage and was focused on high school students, aged between 14 and 18 years, from public and private schools. Schools formed a team of 4 students and a teacher. The organization started on January, 2015, the tests began in April and the final step was in August.

The objectives of the event were: 1) stimulating school interest in science, especially in mapping science; 2) provide teachers with the knowledge and tools for dynamic and participatory teaching for covering the cartographic content in school; 3) promoting socialization of teachers and students through group activities and also 4) foster the interest to work in the field of Cartography.

The OBRAC activities were executed in four stages, 1st and 2nd stages were done at distance learning platform. The 3rd and 4th stages were face-to-face and were held in Rio de Janeiro.

There were two types of tests: theoretical (stage 1) and practical (stage 2).

In theoretical test, 40 questions were answered in a determined time. The score in this Stage 1 consisted of the number of correct answers and time limit for the test, this was an elimination stage.
In the practical test, the teams, that passed the first step, had two tasks to do during a month, (1) a cartographic instrument using recycled material (they made a new reading of the theodolite, compass, pantograph, odometer, astrolabe, level instrument, etc) and (2) a map about the regions where their schools are located (they should focus on environmental issues, historical and cultural aspects)

They were asked to use the instrument on the map preparation.

They produced videos about the activities, showing its development and the involvement of the teams during the preformed activities.

- More than 1300 teams have done the inscription, this means that around 5000 students and teachers have studied, discussed and talked about cartography in the schools during the event.

The evaluation committee selected the top three teams. They came from Rondônia, Minas Gerais and Santa Catarina states. All them from public schools.

✓ In the 3rd and 4th stages these three teams came to Rio de Janeiro, where some activities were held, as courses, technical visits, a face-to-face test and an orienteering competition.

After the final steps the winning team was declared the champion of the I Brazilian Cartographic Olympiad, during the opening ceremony of ICC 2015.

This map shows the participating schools around the country

http://www.oolimpiadadecartografia.uff.br/index.php/mapa
http://www.olimpiadadecartografia.uff.br

✓ Stages I and II
Online (website-Moodle)

✓ Stages III and IV
Face-to-face test and Orienteering competition

Finalist teams

The Theodolite of the Team from Barão de Cocais, Minas Gerais State

The Odometer of the Team from Presidente Médice, Rondônia State

The pantograph of the Team from Florianópolis, Santa Catarina State
STAGE 3 (Face-to-face test)

Federal Fluminense University Niterói, Rio de Janeiro
STAGE 4 – Aterro do Flamengo - Orienteering competition
Many other Instruments produced
Some of the Teams

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https://www.facebook.com/internationalmap?fref=nf
Some of the Maps Produced

Figure 1 – Maps of Constructions, Historic Sites, and Other Areas of Interest.
Final Considerations

The competition added many new and innovative experiences to students' lives. To work in a team was great!

Students were encouraged to learn and it may have awaked the willingness to get good achievements on their lives. A scientific Olympiad can change the view of students on a particular knowledge area.

The students said:

“It was the best experience I had in my life, the people I met will be marked in my formation as an individual and as a student...”
“I liked this idea of practical tests, I did not know about orienteering and it was a way to integrate knowledge with a sport”.

“I loved the experience, OBRAC changed the way I see the world and showed me how can I participate on it.”

“I always thought that maps were only those political ones but now I could have another view, I can make maps up on Health issues...”

“Because we ourselves have constructed the instrument and the map, we learned a lot...”

“The OBRAC was the best thing that happened in 2015, today I am a passionate for cartography, I learned to appreciate the beauty of the maps and their importance in our daily lives”.
Awarding teams
The Team that won the first place - Minas Gerais State