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Working with coordinate systems

The earth is not flat, it is in the shape of a geoid. Using a datum to center yourself on the earth is how we can determine an accurate position while using a coordinate system. If the correct coordinate system is not being used with the exact datum your position will not be exact. This can be changed in the transformation tab in Arcmap.

If you were assigned to build a map using GIS it is important to use a scale that makes things visible enough that you can position things such as a fire hydrant to exactly where is should be. If your scale was to small a point may appear to be in its proper location when in reality its not.