

## **Abstract**

The presented diploma thesis focuses on the map skills' problematic, which is currently becoming widespread in the Czech research environment. In contrast to the previous empirical studies, this thesis is devoted to the thematic map skills and their level of development among students of grammar schools and geographically oriented branches of university studies. Due to the significant differences between used cartographic methods of visualization on thematic maps the main aim of this diploma thesis is to identify and explain used cartographic method's influence on the level of these important skills.

To achieve this aim, it was necessary to focus on different parts of the curriculum (intended, implemented, learned) and to use several scientific methods because this topic hasn't been well established yet and therefore only few theoretical and empirical studies dealt with this specific issue.

Firstly, the review of literature focused on thematic cartography, map skills and on identifying their level of development among students was done. Due to the lack of specialized resources the model of thematic map skills was created. This specific model was further used during didactic test's designing and also for its results' interpretation. Similarly for the creation of appropriate didactic test – specifically for the creation of test thematic maps, geography textbooks' and school atlases' content analysis was conducted.

The main part of the study is oriented on the thematic map skills' testing itself – methodology of didactic test designing, pilot study of the created test, description and interpretation of research results. Furthermore, the final part of diploma thesis is also fundamental. It consists of the discussion of didactic testing's results and specific suggestions for geography teachers on how to improve thematic map skills' development and for cartographers designing didactically oriented cartographic works.

### **Keywords:**

cartographic methods of visualization, thematic maps, map skills, didactic test, analysis of textbooks, geographical education