

You need to produce an argument that will work in all cases. Which means that you have very little to go on. In fact, just what is there to go on? At this stage it is wise to make sure that we are certain what is involved in the problem.

Figure 34. A complicated map that would be difficult (though not impossible!) to colour using just four colours. (Try it!) This particular map was published as part of an April Fool's joke in the magazine *Scientific American* on 1 April 1975. It was included in an article by the celebrated mathematical columnist Martin Gardner who, with his tongue placed firmly in his cheek, claimed that it was an example of a map which refuted the long-standing four-colour conjecture.

