EXERCISE 6

GEO592M

CREATING PATTERNS

1. Open Illustrator and go to the File menu and choose New. Choose Letter for the size, inches for the Units, and Landscape for the Orientation, then click OK. Under the View menu, click on Show Grid, and put a check mark in front of Snap to Grid.
2. We will start with a review by making a compass rose and a scale bar including the text for each.
3. Illustrator will create a pattern of anything that you draw, but you must make sure that whatever you draw has two dimensions – length and width. A horizontal or vertical line, for instance has length but no width You change the stroke or fill by clicking on the swatches icon (looks like a grid) and then clicking on the Fill box and then on the color you want to use. You can also use the Stroke and Fill icons near the bottom of the left-hand toolbar.
4. Once you have your pattern created, you can simply drag it to the Swatches window for later use. **If you made a box around the pattern, you must have it selected as well as the pattern** when you drag it to the Swatches window.
5. To use the pattern as a fill, draw the shape you want filled, change to the black pointer, select the fill box either in the lower part of the Tools toolbar or in the Color icon, open the Swatches window and then click on your pattern.
6. You can adjust the size and rotation of your pattern by right clicking on the shape with the pattern, choosing Transform and then Scale or Rotate and make sure that only Patterns is checked – NOT Objects.
7. To create a diagonal pattern, draw a rectangle five grid blocks long and 2 grid blocks high. Now draw a horizontal line with the pen tool through the center of the rectangle and is longer than the rectangle (see below). Now select the rectangle only and change the fill and stroke both to none. Use the black pointer to select both the line and the unseen rectangle and drag them to the Swatches window and drop them in the blank space below the brown color swatches.
8. Finally, create a pattern that looks like gravel, and one with horizontal wavy lines – like a sine wave. For the gravel pattern, use randomly spaced black circles and ellipses (with no fill) of different sizes (and different rotations for the ellipses) inside a square. Remember that the pattern will repeat itself over and over, so be careful how you position things near the edges.

