The four color theorem states that for any map, if we color the regions of the map so that regions with a common border are colored with different colors, then we will never need more than 4 colors. This was conjectured in 1852 and was not proven until 1976, 124 years later, with the aid of a supercomputer.

In this talk, we discuss the history of the theorem, transition it to the notion of planar graphs (with a few definitions to make the talk more accessible), and prove a few results along the way. Of particular interest is the simple elementary proof that only five colors are sufficient, and how this result came out of a failed proof for the four color theorem. We finally outline how the proof of the four color theorem was structured.