

Map making in the Colonial Era

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Overview of Lesson:

Students will experience map-making as the early settlers did. Students will use orienteering skills and a journal to record their observations of the schoolyard. Then using their observations, they will create a detailed map.

Grade Levels:

Upper Elementary or Middle

Suggested Time Allowance:

2-3 45 minute class periods

Objectives:

Students will create a map of the schoolyard.

Students will use procedures similar to those used by the early settlers in recording and describing the land.

Students will learn orienteering skills.

Materials and Resources:

Journal- bound paper (1 per group or 1 per student)

Pencil or writing instrument

Manila paper 12X18

Colored pencils, markers, or crayons (or black ink for authenticity)

Internet access to the Maryland Archives

<http://teachingamericanhistorymd.net>

Internet access to Terraserver maps.

<http://terraserver.homeadvisor.msn.com/default.aspx>

Activities and Procedures:

- Ask students how they believe the first maps were made. Discuss this in the context of early settlers with no technology as we know it.
- Compare early maps with present day maps of the same place. Discuss scale.
- Talk about the land. Was it overgrown with trees, bushes, plants, or was it barren? Tell students they will be mapping out the schoolyard similarly to the way early colonists mapped their surroundings.
- In work groups, have students strategize a plan for mapping the schoolyard. As they discuss, students should see a need for measuring devices. Since I will not be giving them measurement tools, students will have to devise their own measurement system. (I teach pacing). Instruct students to key in on landmarks, such as trees, benches, etc.

- Once the groups have a plan, take them outside to the designated area to be mapped. Students should record distances and observations in their journals. Remind students to take a lot of notes that they will not be returning prior to creating the map.
- When students return to the classroom, give each student or group manila drawing paper and writing implements (black ink or markers, etc). Instruct students to map the schoolyard.
- After students complete their maps, go online to Terraserver to find aerial photos and topographic maps of your school. Compare student created maps with the online maps. Notice the dates the Terraserver maps were made.

Debriefing Questions:

What was the most difficult aspect of mapping the school? Why
 What tools available to 17th century settlers would have been useful in this activity?
 Which map is more accurate, the aerial photo or the topographic map?

Extension or Enrichment Activities:

Find out what tools early surveyors used to describe and map the land.

Interdisciplinary Connections:

History, Geography, Language Arts

National Standards:

Geography: NSS-G.K-12.1
 NSS-G.K-12.2
 NSS-G.K-12.3
 NSS-G.K-12.6

Mathematics: NM-MEA 3-5.2

Language arts: NL-ENG. K-12.4
 NL-ENG. K-12.5
 NL-ENG. K-12.12

Florida Standards:

SSA1.2.2
 SSA4.2.2
 SSB1.2.1

MAB1.2.1
 MAB1.2.2

LAB2.2.1
 LAB2.2.3