Using Historic Maps as Visual Art to Teach Geography Skills

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Grade 7
Rationale

- Teach basic map skills that will be necessary for course success
- Begin teaching media literacy
Using Historic Maps Lesson Plan

Understandings:
- Students will understand that maps are not absolute and certain aspects are included (and not included) to serve the creator’s purposes.

Essential Questions:
- What is it important to have geography skills?
- How do people visually represent geography?

Students will be able to:
- Read, interpret, and create different types of maps (physical, political, historical, contour, vegetation)
- Read, interpret, and create graphs, charts, and diagrams.
- Read, analyze, and interpret visual media in the same way they have learned to read print media.
Activities

- Analysis of Historic Maps (using map analysis worksheet)
- Reading Maps (Who, what, where, when, why)
- Representing Data in Maps
Map Analysis Worksheet

Name(s) ___________________________ Class: _______________________

TYPE OF MAP (Check one)

___ Raised Relief Map
___ Topographical map
___ Political Map
___ Other (describe): ___________________________

___ Natural Resource Map
___ Bird’s-eye View
___ Weather Map

UNIQUE PHYSICAL QUALITIES OF MAP (Check one or more)

___ Compass
___ Handwritten
___ Date
___ Notations
___ Other (describe): ___________________________

___ Scale
___ Name of mapmaker
___ Title
___ Legend (key)

DATE OF MAP: ___________________________

CREATOR OF MAP: _______________________

WHERE WAS THE MAP PRODUCED? ___________________________

MAP INFORMATION:

List three things in this map that you think are important:

________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

Why do you think this map was drawn?

________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

What evidence in the map supports your theory?

________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

If you could ask the mapmaker one question, what would it be?

________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
Sailors’ Logs

- Purpose: To create an ongoing “log” of classroom activities and learning experiences

Sailor’s Log “Rules”
(To be glued into the back cover of your Sailor’s Log)

- Name and Class must be clearly written on the inside cover of your Log
- All pages must be numbered in a corner (you may decide which corner to use)
- All odd numbered pages (left sides) will be for drawings, maps, diagrams, and other visual representations. All even numbered pages (right sides) will be used for composition.
- Logs may be kept in assigned baskets in the classroom when you do not have an assignment to work on.
- You do not need to always be creative, but your Log must be kept neat.
- Sailor’s Logs will be collected periodically and graded.
Other Ideas for Year

- 5 Themes of Geography Ransom Note
- End of Unit on North America:
  - Authentic assessment involving writing a letter to a colonial ruler (as a time traveler) suggesting where would be the best area to settle (referencing the 5 themes of geography)
- Comparison of Classical Rome, the Renaissance, and the Neo–Classical
THANK YOU!!