



Geography: Exploring Your Community Using Historic Maps

Topics: Landmarks, Geography, Architecture, Maps

Supplies Needed:

- Primary source worksheet
- Pencil
- Blank Marblehead Map
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Access to computer or tablet for digital map

Maps:

[Plan of the Town of Marblehead by Alfred Ingalls, 1795](#)

[Plan of Marblehead by John G. Hales, 1830](#)

[Plan of Marblehead, Ma by Henry McIntire, 1850](#)

Parent Tips for leading the program:



- Use *wait time* after asking questions (example 1-2 minutes, but you know your child best that allows a student to think about a question)
 - Ask students to expand on their thoughts when possible
 - Ask them why they think what they do about an image or object
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Program Outline:

I. What's the plan?

We're going to learn about maps! We will talk about what makes something map and who creates them. Then we will talk a little bit about the founding of Marblehead. Next, we will explore one (or more) map of Marblehead. We will focus on details, taking notes about what we observe. Finally we will create our own map of Marblehead.

II. A Very Brief History of Marblehead's Founding

What we know as Marblehead was first inhabited by the Naumkeag, Native Americans, who settled most of the Northshore area. The English Puritans arrived here in approximately 1629 and they called it "Marble-Harbor" because of the rocky coastline. Originally a party of Salem, Marblehead



became independent in 1649. Fishing was the main trade or occupation that brought people here, and it was very prosperous, especially for trips out to the Grand Banks off the shores of Newfoundland in Canada.

III. What are maps? What do you see or think when you hear the word “map?”

A **map** is a drawing that shows where things are on earth. It can be small, for example, a map of your neighborhood. It could be a map of your town or state. It could even be a map of the entire United States! There are many types of maps. An **atlas** is a book that holds many maps.

Cartography is the job of map making. The person who makes the map is known as a **cartographer**. Map making has been used throughout history to provide information about towns, cities, states, territories, and countries. You might even think of a treasure map, with “X” marking a spot to find hidden things.

Another person who helps create maps is called a **surveyor**. This person measures the distance between two points (note- most basic definition) to help establish a boundary. Think about this, do you have a front or back yard where you live? How do you know where your land ends and the neighbor’s or town’s land starts? Maps can tell you all of these things and more!

What are the different parts of a map?

Most maps will include a compass rose, a legend, and a scale. A **compass rose** tells you which direction north, south, east, and west are on your map. A **legend** is sometimes called a key, which tells you what a symbol means. For instance, a star might be for the capital of a state, a squiggle line might mean water. Finally, a **scale** gives you a way to measure the distance between points on a map. Think of a scale as a type of ruler, but it might be for miles or kilometers instead of feet and inches.

What about things on a map that you recognize? Sometimes you might hear something called a landmark. What does that actually mean? A **landmark** is an object or feature of a landscape or town that is easily seen and recognized from a distance that helps a person know where they are (or want to be).

IV. Activity: Map Analysis



Now, let’s take a look at some maps! There are a couple of options for this activity. All the maps are linked on the top of the page and available on our website.

Option 1: Choose one map to investigate using the corresponding activity sheet that investigates one map.



Option 2: Choose two historical maps to compare to a modern map of Marblehead (recommend using Google maps or a local paper one), and use the corresponding activity sheet. For the second activity sheet, think about the following questions:

- Why does Marblehead today look the way it does?
- How has the geography affected our community over time?
- How have science and technology affected Marblehead?

V. Activity: Create your own map of Marblehead



- Using the outline provided, what landmarks (schools, restaurants, playgrounds, etc.) would you put on a map?
- Be sure to label your drawings

Optional Extended Learning Activities:

Explore the town either via a walk or a drive.

- ★ use the character cards to learn more about the people who lived in the different historic structures.

Try the architectural history activity to learn about historic preservation in Marblehead

- ★ Design your own house (or other building) using the different architectural elements in the activity

Read one these books to learn more about maps:

- ★ *Follow that Map* by Scot Ritchie
- ★ *City Maps: A Historical Journey through Maps, Plans, and Paintings* by DK and the Smithsonian Institution

House History Search

- ★ Choose an address on one of the maps (or a house that you want to learn more about) and conduct a house history search using the online tools here. Watch the workshop video on YouTube to learn more.