

Mapping Local History*

Worksheet: [PDF]

Grade Level: Middle to early high school (grades 6-10)

Time Required: one fifty minute class period

Standards (National):

NSS-G.K-12.5 Environment and Society:

- Understand how human actions modify the physical environment.

NSS-G.K-12.6 The Uses of Geography:

- Understand how to apply geography to interpret the past.
- Understand how to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future.

Source: http://www.education-world.com/standards/national/soc_sci/geography/k_12.shtml

Standards (State):

[Iowa Core Curriculum](#)- Geography

- Understand the use of geographic tools to locate and analyze information about people, places, and environments
- Understand how physical and human characteristics create and define regions
- Understand how human factors and the distribution of resources affect the development of society and the movement of populations
- Understand how physical and human processes shape the earth's surface and major ecosystems
- Understand how human actions modify the environment and how the environment affects humans
- Understand how culture affects the interaction of human populations through time and space
- Understand how cultural factors influence the design of human communities

Inquiry Questions:

1. How has the community geographically changed since its establishment?
2. What economic, geographic, and social factors played a role in the community's development?

Objectives: The student will

1. Draw a mental map of the community and compare it to an actual map.
2. Identify specific landmarks on historic maps of the community.
3. Analyze why and how their community has geographically changed.

Materials Required:

1. *Mapping Local History* worksheet
2. Copies of historic maps found at the Iowa Digital library and at local library and historical societies
 - Iowa Historic County Atlases- <http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/maps>
 - Iowa Aerial Photo Indices- <http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/api>
 - Hixson Plat Map Atlases of Iowa- <http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/hixson>
 - University of Iowa Campus Maps- <http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/campusmaps>

Reproducible map analysis worksheets can be found at the National Archives website http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/map_analysis_worksheet.pdf

Prerequisite Knowledge:

1. Basic understanding of the community's geography
2. Knowledge of major landmarks in the community

Procedure:

A. Introduction

1. Have students draw a mental map of the community without aid of other resources. Include significant streets and landmarks.
2. After students are completed, have them compare their mental maps to an accurate map of the community.

B. Analysis of Historic Maps

1. Give students several historic maps of the community, preferably ones that portray different stages of the community's development, beginning with the earliest maps as well as more recent maps.
2. After analyzing the maps, students should answer the questions on the *Mapping Local History* worksheet.
3. Answers may be discussed as a class. If possible, compare and contrast your community to other neighboring communities that may have developed for similar or different reasons. (i.e. Des Moines, communities on rivers, farming communities, industrial communities)
4. After students are completed, have them compare their mental maps to an accurate map of the community.

C. Conclusion

1. Have students draw a mental map of the community without aid of the other resources. Include significant streets and landmarks.
2. Students can compare the first and second mental maps to see how many more details they were able to specify.

Assessment:

Assessment will be based on:

- Contribution to class discussion
- *Mapping Local History* worksheet
- Comparison of the first and last mental maps (pre and post testing)

Enrichment/Remediation:

Have students draw a modern map on a copy of an old map so that the community's changes can be documented on one map.

Name: _____

Mapping Local History

1. On your maps, try to find and label the following locations.

- a. Your neighborhood
- b. Your residence
- c. Local elementary and high schools
- d. City hall
- e. A friend's house
- f. Movie theater
- g. Church
- h. Main street

[This list should be altered to fit your community. Other items could include statues, parks, swimming pool, major streets, bodies of water...]

2. Why do you think the city developed where it did? What geographical, social, and/or economic factors played a role?

3. Based your analysis of the maps, briefly summarize the growth and geographic change of the community. What areas expanded? What areas, if any, degenerated? Why did these specific expansions and reductions occur?