

Famous Maps in History — How Maps Changed the World

Activity Sheet

Base Sheet

The child explores famous historical maps and learns how cartography has evolved from ancient hand-drawn maps to modern satellite imagery. This connects to the week's mapping skills and introduces the concept that maps reflect what people know about the world.

What You Need

- Printed images of historical maps
- Globe
- Modern map of your area
- Drawing paper
- Colored pencils or markers
- Tea bags (optional, for aging paper)

Steps:

1. 'People have been making maps for thousands of years! But old maps look very different from modern ones because people did not know what the whole world looked like.'

- Ancient Babylonian clay tablet map (~600 BCE)

- Medieval mappamundi (world map with Jerusalem at center)

- Age of Exploration maps (with sea monsters!)

- Modern satellite photo of Earth

3. 'Look at how maps changed as people explored more of the world!'

4. 'Ancient maps showed only the places people had been. When explorers sailed to new lands, the maps got bigger!'

5. Discuss: Why do old maps have sea monsters? Because people did not

know what was in the ocean!

6. Child draws their own 'ancient-style' map of their neighborhood, including only the places they know.

7. Compare to a real map of the neighborhood.

Work Space:

A large, irregularly shaped dashed line forms a rectangle, intended for the child to draw their own 'ancient-style' map of their neighborhood.

Montessori Homeschool • Print on US Letter (8.5 x 11") • Activity sheet — print on standard paper