

Google My Maps Community Mapping Activity

Before completing this activity, make sure you've done the reading for this week, which will help you conceptualize the practicalities and implications of mapping space.

Watch this [tutorial](#) for how to add polygons and points to Google My Maps.

You will add 6-8 points and/or polygons to this [Google my Maps](#) project that has two layers:

1. Hidden Histories & Remapping Space: this layer should strive to reveal hidden histories of New York. You should add points and/or polygons that illuminate areas of interest that allow us to see New York from a non-dominant, decolonial viewpoint. You might add locations related to the histories and lived experiences related to indigenous people, people of color, LGBTQAI, people with lower economic power, women, and people with disability/different abilities.
 - a. You should probably do a little research through Googling and/or searching Google Scholar or Marist Fox Hunt. For instance, I found a *Hudson Valley Magazine* article on the indigenous history of the Hudson Valley and read that the Mohican people lived in the area approximately from where I live in Kingston to Lake Champlain.
 - b. Add a point or polygon to approximate the area related to that history and rename it. For example, I added a polygon, filled it with a blue color and renamed it "Mohican Land: Approximate."
 - c. In the text box for the entry, add a link to the source in which you found your information. I added the *Hudson Valley Magazine* link and also a link to a native land mapping project that helped me get a better idea of the area, although still very inexact and approximate.
2. Insider's Guide Alternative Tourism: This layer should strive to reveal the way our community, in this case, our Intro to DH community, experiences

Poughkeepsie and/or the surrounding area. You might add favorite spots to visit that are under the popular radar or areas that are important to know about for one reason or another.

- a. Rename spots according to your use/perspective. For example, I've renamed Tavern 23 Restaurant, "Happy Hour Pierogi". You don't have to limit your areas to actual businesses. D'Ignazio and Klein talk about a community mapping project that involved adding a spot for a park bench where one community member liked to sit and draw. Anything goes as long as it is from a community viewpoint and not a standard description of the spot.
- b. Add an image. In a separate browser window, open Google Maps and drop the little figure into street view. Take a screenshot and attach it to your My Maps point/polygon.

Of course, we would never create a map that has two layers that are so different, but I wanted to take two different approaches to mapping that contest dominant views of the space to begin to get a sense of the possibilities. Again, I'm not looking for any perfect entries, just for you to gain a better understanding of how to map and what mapping can and can't do.