WEEK 3
Map Your World
What makes your world, real or imagined, unique and interesting? How can you make your world a better place?

Community Maps & Imaginary Maps

Your Quest:
Help people explore your neighborhood, community or city by mapping out the places and landmarks that are important and special to you. Help people discover your world and understand your view of the world better.

OR

Help people discover a world of your own making! Create a map of a world that’s inside your head and write a story in map form so that when someone sees it they picture the world without reading a word.

By embarking on this quest, you will gain the following skills:

• Get to know your neighborhood and community
• Understand the role of maps in our lives
• Understand the role of maps in telling a story
• Use your creative skills
• Develop the role of storytelling in your own life

Mission Materials:

• Blank white paper (you can use lined paper too!)
• Pencils and pens
• Markers, colored pencils, crayons
• Clear tape (if you only have small pieces of paper you can tape them together to create a larger piece of paper)

OR

• Sketchpad website - free drawing website
• Autodraw website - free drawing website
• Inkmate - create a free account to create a map of your imaginary world
• Google Map Contribute - use a Gmail account to contribute to actual Google Maps
• Argis Esri Storymaps - create a free account and create themed maps
Mission Directions:
Maps don’t just help us navigate the world or tell us where things are they also tell stories. They tell a story of a place or landmass, a story of the people or creatures that live there and a story of the person who created the map. They tell the people who look at the map what’s important to know about a place, what to make sure to see (or avoid) and experience and where to go for specific activities. Just by creating a map, you are conferring importance on a place that might otherwise go unexplored and if the place is known you are showing it through your own eyes and point of view. A map can also be a time machine: if you compare an old map of a place to a new map you see how that place evolved and its history. When you look at a map of an imaginary world you learn its history, what it looks like and the important characters and places of the world.

1. Decide if you are going to create a map of your community (neighborhood, city, borough town etc....) or a map of a world you’ve created yourself.

2. Brainstorm ideas for your map. Check out all the different kinds of maps listed in Mission Resources. What stories are they telling? What do you want your map to help people find out about your community or imaginary world and/or about you? Possible ideas to help you get started thinking:
   a. Map out the best places to eat
   b. Map out your favorite park
   c. Map all the places that you and your friends like to hang out
   d. Map out all the places where your family lives and what you like to do together
   e. Map out the best places to go in a nearby park
   f. Map out the landmarks in your area

If you’re making up an imaginary world map, think about and discover the maps for your favorite books and series, such as: Harry Potter, Winnie the Pooh, Six of Crows & the Shadow & Bone series, Folk of the Air series, Lord of the Rings, Game of Thrones, Wind in the Willows, Children of Blood and Bone, Peter Pan, Treasure Island... How does the map help to tell the story of the world?

3. Once you’ve decided what your map will be about, make a list of all the things that will be on it. Figure out where things are in relation to each other.

4. Now that you have a list of all the locations for the map, start drawing. How big will the map be? (It will all depend on the size of your paper but if you only have 8 x 11 sized paper you can always tape pieces of paper together to make a larger surface to work on). What does the landmass look like? Square? Round? Blobby? Oval? Are you trying to have an accurate shape or give people a general idea of where things are and what the area looks like?

5. Once you have your shape and size decided and drawn, start adding all the places from your list! How are you putting in roads, water, buildings, water and other landmarks?
6. Maps often have what's called a “key”: symbols that act as a guide to help people understand the map. What symbols will you use and what will they look like? See Map Symbols Handout (pg. 5) for more information on map symbols and map keys.

7. When you finish adding everything in, put in color and different artistic flourishes. Maps are often not just a way to explore a land mass or a place but it can also be a work of art! However, if you’re not feeling artistic don’t worry about it!

8. Share your map with people and see how they use it and how they figure out the story that it tells about you and the community you mapped. If you created an imaginary map tell them the story of the world you created.

Level Up:

• Write a guidebook to go along with your map. Pretend it will be given to tourists who have no idea where to go. Make sure to let them know what dangers to avoid and the places they must visit or eat at.
• Write a story to go along with your map. It can be a fictional story or the real story of you.
• Create a map of your favorite book series or story.
• Setting is so important to the telling of a story. So many great books are set in New York City. Research and make a list of books set in your neighborhood, borough, city, town, state (or a country) and map them out for people to discover where their favorite books are set. The map function on Padlet.com is a great online tool for this and it's free!
• Use Padlet.com and map out your favorite vacations and include pictures and memories of the fun you had.

More to Explore at the Library / Mission Resources:

Books

Plotted: a literary atlas by Andrew DeGraff - a collection of stunningly detailed maps, all inspired by literary classics, that take readers deep into the landscapes of their favorite books.

Novel Destinations: a travel guide to literary landmarks from Jane Austen’s Bath to Ernest Hemingway’s Key West by Sharon Mckenna Schmidt - follow in the footsteps of much loved authors, discover the landscapes that sparked their imaginations

You are here : NYC: mapping the soul of the city by Katharine Harmon - two hundred maps charting every inch and facet of the five boroughs, depicting New Yorks of past and present, and a city that never was

The History of America in 100 Maps by Susan Schulten - Explore five centuries of American history through its maps. It’s hopes, it’s dreams, what their creators knew and what they thought they knew. From the first voyages of discovery to the current digital age.
Online Maps from NYPL Digital Collections

- Historical NYC Maps & Atlases - a research guide and list of maps created by the NYPL Map Division
- NYC & Metro Interactive Maps and Databases - a fun list of different kinds of online, interactive maps of the city and surrounding areas put together by the NYPL Map Division.
- Thematic Maps of the Web - a list of themed maps put together by the NYPL Map Division
- NYPL Digital Collections Database - Explore almost 900,000 images and maps from NYPL’s digital collections. Input the name of your community and/or your home address and see what treasures come up!

NYPL Public Domain Map Activities & Games

- Mansion Maniac - Play a maze game using historical mansion floor plans - what’s a floor plan if not a map to a house.
- NYPL Map Warper - Create an account and use this digital tool to align or ‘rectify’ NYPL historical maps to match today’s more precise digital maps. You can browse maps that have already been rectified or rectify a map yourself. Watch the instructional video, search for maps and explore! Challenge: find a historical map of your neighborhood and see if you can rectify it to a digital map.

Your Reward:
Make sure to visit NYPL’s Online Reading Portal through our partner Beanstack and log your completed activity to receive a special badge! Find our portal at nypl.org/summerreading.

Activity Author: Anne Rouyer, Supervising Young Adult Librarian, Mulberry Street Library

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Map Symbols Handout

Symbols are small pictures that stand for different features on a map. A symbol is often drawn to look like what it represents. For example, a triangular shape is often used to denote a mountain. A desert is often shown by a group of dots that might look a little bit like sand. A forest could have little shapes that look like trees. A railroad can be shown as a line with bars drawn across it, like a train’s track.

All the symbols for a map are often grouped together in a map key for reference. Sometimes the map key is a box shape where the symbols are arranged. Sometimes the symbols are just displayed in a more freeform manner, without a box around them.

One common symbol in maps is the Compass Rose, which orients the viewer and tells them what is North, South, East, and West.

You do not have to use standard map symbols! You can make your own symbols up. There are no rules! Just make sure you give your map readers a map key to understand them.

Examples of map symbols: