

Reading Maps

Before we begin looking at sources, let's think about what kind of documents we're looking at. Describe what a map is in your own words.

Making Observations

Look at the map in front of you. What is the first thing you notice? What stands out most to you?

Examine your source more closely. What else do you observe? Write down at least five observations here.

An important part of every map is the key. A key tells us what different symbols mean. If your source has a key, what does it explain to you? If it does not have a key, imagine: if you were going to make a key for this map, what would you include on it?

Make some inferences based on your observations. What can you infer about the people who lived in this place? What can we infer about the kinds of activities that happened in this place? What else do you want to know after looking at this map?

Examining a Second Source

We can learn a lot by comparing two different maps that show the same location. Write down the date of your second source.

Begin by making observations of this source. When you first look at it, what stands out to you the most?

Let's do some math: how many years are between your first and second sources?

Think back to the first source you looked at, and the details you observed. Which ones can you find on this second source?

What details are different on the second source? What changes do you see? If you have a key, make use of it to help you understand your source.

What questions do you have about what happened in this location between the dates of the two sources you have examined?

Reflecting on what you have learned from these sources, what information would you like to know about this location that you can't learn from maps?