

Activity Idea

Native Lands and Mapping

Recommended for Adults

Maps show how the cartographers and the group they represent see land. In the Western sense, it can show which entity has ownership of land and rights to natural resources. It can also show land open to settlers. In United States history, maps and the concept of Manifest Destiny were used for colonization purposes, which forced removal of many Native peoples from their tribal lands, justified acts of persecution against them, and laid ground to treaties and legal acts that purposefully diminished Native land and natural resource rights.

To decolonize history and add more Native perspectives, Native communities, historians, and cartographers are highlighting traditional Native maps such as traveling songs, the Catawba Deerskin map, and the Tlingit Map of 1869. Some have even created new maps to outline the boundaries of Native territories before colonization as well as to map out the world around them.

In recent years, various community leaders and institutions have included land acknowledgements in their events, websites, and email signatures. They acknowledge the indigenous peoples as the original caretakers of the land. While this does help bring awareness that Native peoples are still here today, some say it is not enough to rectify the past persecutions and genocide that still affects today's Native generations.

Books:

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz on OverDrive

<https://tinyurl.com/w4uqpm>

The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee by David Treuer on OverDrive <https://tinyurl.com/tqvbyws>

Outward Bound Map and Compass Handbook by Glenn Randall on OverDrive

<https://tinyurl.com/y9rx5y9a>

Great City Maps on OverDrive <https://tinyurl.com/ydfos4y8>

Early American Cartographies by Martin Brückner on Hoopla <https://tinyurl.com/ycog5x7t>

Articles and Media:

Clarke, Chris. (2016). "Untold History: The Survival of California's Indians." *KCET*. (article and video clips) <https://tinyurl.com/y7xkdz9q>



Cloud, John. (2012). "The Tlingit Map of 1869: A Masterwork of Indigenous Cartography." *Penn Museum*. <https://tinyurl.com/y7tqk9s6>

Counter Mapping (video clip about Jim Enote, Zuni farmer and museum director)
<https://tinyurl.com/sqcgbqn>

Cram, Stephanie. (2019). "Giant Indigenous Peoples Atlas Floor Map Will Change the Way You See Canada." *CBC*. <https://tinyurl.com/y77dphxo>

St. Onge, Tim. (2016). "Celebrating Native America Cartography: The Catawba Deerskin Map." *Library of Congress*. <https://tinyurl.com/yaq9dv6u>

Wang, Hansi Lo. (2014). "The Map of Native American Tribes You've Never Seen Before." *NPR*.
<https://tinyurl.com/y82yxtp6>

Websites:

Mapping Indigenous LA <https://tinyurl.com/yd3owvpt>

Mapping the Tongva Villages of L.A.'s Past <https://tinyurl.com/yykpb96y>

Native Land, shows traditional Native and indigenous territory <https://tinyurl.com/y9p7qyjx>

LandMark, Global Platform of Indigenous and Community Lands <https://tinyurl.com/y45etbm4>

Spark an Idea!

Use the Native Land map to look up your city and place of birth to figure out which Native, First Nation, and/or Indigenous peoples territory boundary your city belongs to.

<https://tinyurl.com/y9p7qyjx>

Bonus Spark an Idea!

Watch the video clip *Counter Mapping* about Jim Enote and make your own unique map.

<https://tinyurl.com/sqcgbqn>