

LESSON DESIGN

ARCHAEOLOGY

USGS & Historical Maps 3

OVERVIEW: The students will discuss and write about the reasons for the differences in the perception of the USGS map versus an historical map of the same area.

OBJECTIVE: Given a USGS and an historical map of the same area the students will be able to discuss and write about: (1) why the earlier map looks like it does compared to the USGS map, (2) what that might mean for the people who drew the map and, (3) what that might mean to the people who lived in the place drawn **ON** the map.

SET: The teacher holds up a USGS map and an historical map and says, “What kinds of things might we learn about the perception of the people who drew these maps and who lived where these maps were drawn?” Wait for a response. If there is a correct one, recognize it and then say, “Today we are going to investigate three questions.”

INSTRUCTION AND ACTIVITIES: Put students in groups of four, and give each group a USGS and an historical map of the same area. Review the findings and pass out the master sheet from Lesson: USGS & Historical Maps 1. Have the questions in the OBJECTIVE written on the board. Have each group: (1) work together to create a written response to all three questions, (2) present their findings to the class, and (3) add to their list at the end of each presentation. At the end the teacher will add anything that has not been discussed. Create a master list of the findings to be distributed to the students.

TEST OF OBJECTIVES: The teacher will move about the room interacting with the groups and reading what they have written.

EXTENSION: Have each group discuss how a knowledge of cartography could help the archaeologist. Have each group present their findings to the class.

GRADE LEVEL, MATERIALS AND TIME: 1st through 12th. Enough USGS and historical maps, pencils, and paper for groups of four students. Review of the lesson on USGS & Historical Maps 1. One period.

GENERAL COMMENTS: An excellent book is Be Expert With Map & Compass: The Orienteering Handbook by Bjorn Kjellstrom.

ANY QUESTIONS? E-mail me at georgeschneider@comcast.net
George Schneider, B.A., M.A. (Anthropology), Elementary Teacher, SAAPEC & SCA member