Comparing World Maps
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Grade 6

Overview:
This lesson will teach students that maps have changed over time with the acquisition of geographic knowledge of the world through exploration. Students will read some text pages and then compare a modern day world map with maps from earlier times. Students will work in small groups and be assessed individually. This lesson will take one 49-minute class period, but can be adjusted as needed.

Standards:
History, Economics, Geography, Civics

- Kansas, United States, and World History Benchmark 4: Indicator 1: examines a topic in World history to analyze changes over time and makes logical inferences concerning cause and effect.

Common Core (Reading)

- RH6.2 Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide and accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.
- W6.1Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
- SL 6.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, text, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Content Objectives:

- The student will analyze a world map from an earlier time, looking for parts of the map and the parts of the world shown.
- The student will compare a modern world map to the map from an earlier time.

Skill Objectives:

- The student will orally share his/her analysis with peers in a small group setting.

- The student will orally share his/her analysis with peers in a whole group setting.
- The student will use inferencing to produce a written summary of the comparison of the two maps.

Essential Questions:

- How have maps changed over time?
- Why have maps changed over time?

Lesson plan

1.Project an image of a modern-day world map on the screen at the front of the room.

2.Review background knowledge about globes, maps, reading maps, map projections, hemispheres, the geographic grid.

3. Say, “Today we will be learning about how maps change overtime. Now, we are going to compare a modern map with maps from earlier times. Let’s do a Think-Pair-Share. First, I want you to silently make a prediction about what differences you might find between today’s map and a map from earlier times. (pause) Now I’d like you to share your prediction with the other members of your group.” (pause) Teacher moves though groups during discussion assessing oral participation. Ask each group to make one prediction to share with the whole class.

4. Give each student a copy “Comparing World Maps” activity sheet and each group a laminated (primary source) world map from A.D. 150- 1775.

5. Small groups will work together on the activity sheet while teacher moves about the room monitoring progress.

6. When everyone has finished the activity sheet, the group with the earliest (oldest) map comes to the front of the room. Each member of the group will tell at least one way their map is different from the modern map. When they finish presenting, they leave their map on the chalk rail below the projection of the modern world map. This continues with the group with the next oldest map until all groups have presented their findings and all of the comparison maps have been placed in chronological order along the chalk rail.

Assessment

After the presentations by the groups, each student will return to their own seat to write on the back of their activity sheet a 5 sentence summary telling how maps have changed throughout history and why. This will be turned in to be graded by the teacher.

For the Teacher:

- For the struggling learner, brainstorm some words (continents, hemispheres, oceans, Europe, Asia, North America, etc.) that would be useful to the student in writing the assessment paragraph and write them on the board. Reduce required number of sentences in the assessment paragraph to meet the ability of the student.
- After you download and print the maps from earlier time that are found on the resource chart, have them laminated. To make it easier on yourself, label the back of each map with the date and maker.