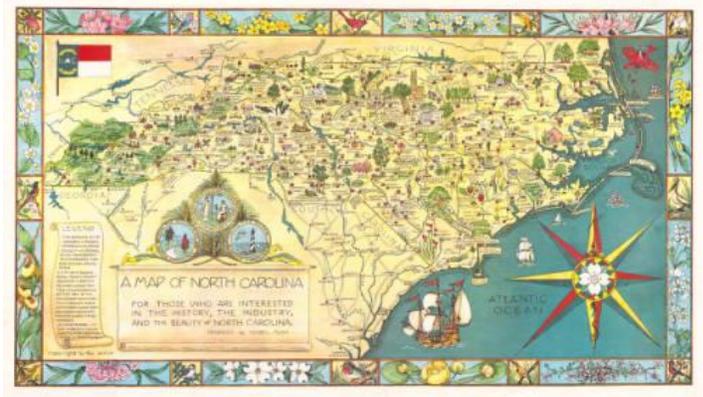


## Mapping Your World and Finding Your Way

Have you ever used a paper map or looked at a very old map? How did the world look compared to online maps that you might use today, like Google Maps? If you were going to make a map of your world, what would it include? What landmarks are most important to you to include?

Human beings have been making maps for thousands of years. Some of the earliest maps that have survived date back more than 16,000 years ago. These early maps weren't maps of places we visit on earth. They were maps of the night sky above us. The earliest maps of places date back more than 2,500 years. Some of these maps were created by carving into objects like clay or stone. One thing is for sure: human beings make maps to try to understand the world and to help others find their way. And since the world around us is always changing, maps have changed along with it. No two maps are the same, and no two mapmakers map their world the same. Some maps are even works of art, with decorative borders and beautiful drawings. Sometimes people even make maps of imaginary places or just for fun!



*A Map of North Carolina, by Mabel Pugh, 1960.*  
State Archives of North Carolina.

For this activity, you will read two articles, explore some very different maps and then you'll map your own world.

### Materials:

- Internet access
- This worksheet printed out or a piece of paper
- Something to write or draw with

### What you'll learn:

- How to use an online resource and explore a collection of maps online
- How maps are different depending on when they were made, who made them, and their purpose
- Creative expression and how to select landmarks and other important details to map your own world

### Activity #1:

Read the following two pages online about maps and the history of maps in North Carolina. The maps you'll be exploring can also be found on these pages.

1. [Maps: Many Varieties and Many Uses](#) (NCpedia.org)  
[North Carolina Maps](#) (NCpedia.org)
2. Look at the maps on this activity sheet. Click on them with your mouse to see a larger version. When you click, you'll visit an online collection called [North Carolina Maps](#).
3. The first map you'll see on the next page is one of the earliest maps made by Europeans of the territory that became North Carolina. It was made in 1590.

The second map is a map of the Carolina colony before it became North Carolina made in 1685.

The third map is a map of the State of North Carolina made in 1917, after the state's final two counties were added.

**Take a minute to notice the dates and how different the three maps might look to you at first.**

4. Click on the first map to see the maps at North Carolina Maps. Explore the map by zooming in and out. Think about and answer these questions:

Can you identify any landmarks that the mapmaker decided to include? What do you see?

Can you find the Outer Banks? Can you locate Roanoke Island? (Hint: it's spelled a little differently. Look for "Roanoc.")



*Map of Virginia*, by Theodor De Bry, 1590.  
North Carolina Collection, UNC-Chapel Hill.

Did he label the directionals for north, south, east and west?

What do you notice that is unique or surprising about how the mapmaker chose to show the land and sea? What kinds of symbols did the mapmaker use?

5. Now look at the second map made in 1685 and click to see it on North Carolina Maps and zoom in and out.

Can you already notice how different it looks from the map made in 1590? What is different? What is similar?



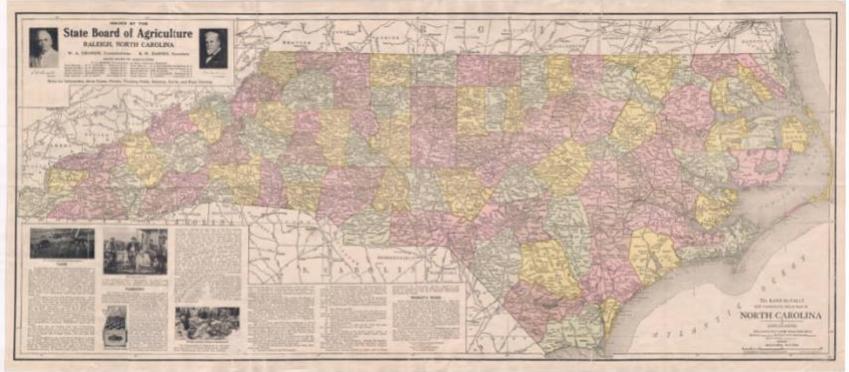
*A New Map of Carolina*, by George Wildey, John Thornton, Robert Morden, and Philip Lea, 1685, London, England.  
State Archives of North Carolina.

What landmarks did we include? Were there more or less than the 1590 map? Why?

Do you think this map was more useful than the first one? If so, what things did the mapmaker include that might have made this map more useful? What questions do you have about the map? If you were going to make this map, how might you do it differently? Write down what you find and think here.

6. Next, check out the map of the entire State of North Carolina made in 1917. Zoom in on this map on the NC Maps website and look at all of the details the mapmakers included.

Now that you're a pro at comparing maps, what do think?



*Rand McNally New Commercial Atlas Map of North Carolina, issued by the State Board of Agriculture, 1917. State Archives of North Carolina.*

What do you think the purpose of this map was? How would you use this map?

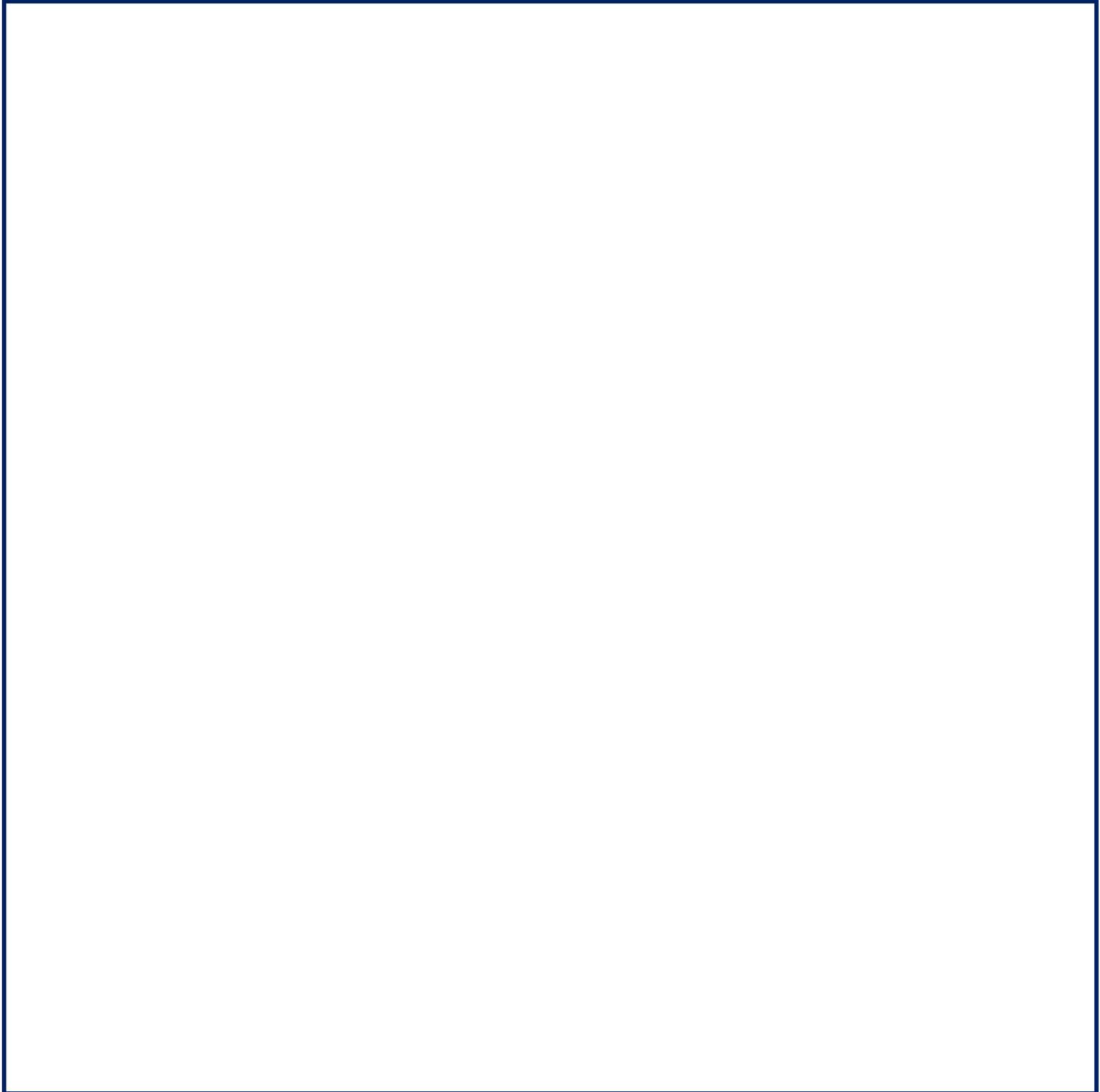
Which of the three maps is your favorite? Why? Write down what you find and think here.

## **Activity #2: Mapping Your World**

Now it's your turn be a cartographer or mapmaker! In the space on the next page or another sheet of paper, make your own map of your neighborhood. Before you get started, take a minute to think about and answer these questions:

- What are the landmarks in your neighborhood, the streets and buildings and other things you see?
- How do you decide where your neighborhood ends and another begins? Why?
- What type of map do you want to create? How will you or another person use it?
- Will your map help someone find their way around or will it tell a story?
- Do you often go places that aren't in your neighborhood? Do you want to include these? If so, how?
- What important features will your map have?
- Don't forget to give your map a title and label your location in the neighborhood!
- What other maps would you like to make?

Title: \_\_\_\_\_



Find this activity sheet in NCpedia: [https://www.ncpedia.org/sites/default/files//print\\_pdf/ncpedia\\_activity\\_sheet\\_mapping\\_your\\_world.pdf](https://www.ncpedia.org/sites/default/files//print_pdf/ncpedia_activity_sheet_mapping_your_world.pdf)

Find the companion articles in NCpedia: [Maps: Many Varieties and Many Uses](#); [North Carolina Maps](#)

Activity page created by Kelly Agan, State Library of North Carolina, 2020.

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*A Map of North Carolina*, by Mabel Pugh, 1960. State Archives of North Carolina.

*Map of Virginia*, by Theodor De Bry, 1590. North Carolina Collection, UNC-Chapel Hill.

*A New Map of Carolina*, by George Wildey et al., 1685. State Archives of North Carolina.

*Rand McNally New Commercial Atlas Map of North Carolina*, 1917. State Archives of North Carolina.