ITS Resource Center Home

Curricular Ideas with Maps

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Wondering how to use maps in your classes or research? Here are a number of examples of interesting curricular ideas, teaching resources and innovative uses of maps of all sorts.

Google Earth Outreach provides a platform for non-profits and public benefit organizations, helping them give geographic content to their stories. This site includes a Showcase of different topics, Community resources for organizations, and a number of excellent Tutorials.

Stanford University hosts the Spatial History Project which is "a place for a collaborative community of scholars to engage in creative visual analysis to further research in the field of history."

The University of Virginia has created Visual Eyes which is a "web-based authoring tool" that "weave[s] images, maps, charts, video and data into highly interactive and compelling dynamic visualizations."

Hamilton's own Barb Tewksbury presented a seminar on teaching GIS and Remote Sensing in 2010 at the *On the Cutting Edge* workshop. Although this program focuses on teaching geoscience, there are a number of tips and resources on teaching with GIS in general, including a list of ideal student outcomes.

San Antonio College has a page of Web Mapping Modules which illustrate how to "bring GIS to the humanities."
Students at Colby College have created the Atlas of Maine as part of their introductory GIS course.
Students at Trinity College have created several Google mash-ups for their course on "Invisible Cities."
Another project at Trinity College led to the creation of Smart Choices for school choice and the On The Line project, which studies "How Schooling, Housing, and Civil Rights Shaped Hartford and its Suburbs."
Students at Middlebury College have created a number of interesting maps in their Spatial Visualization course.
Amherst College has started Cityscapes, an online discovery tool for urban and cultural studies.

The University of Oregon has produced an interactive web site featuring Giambattista Nolli's 1748 map of Rome in addition to explanatory articles on architecture, landscape and social/political features of this historical map.

The University of Sydney has produced an interactive map of Harlem featuring information drawn from newspapers, legal records and other historical sources of life between 1915-1930.

Mapping Dubois is a "research, education, and outreach project ... dedicated to using new technology and archival data to recreate the survey W.E.B. Du Bois conducted of Philadelphia's Seventh Ward for his 1899 classic book, The Philadelphia Negro."

Mapping Gothic France "builds upon a theoretical framework derived from the work of Henri Lefèbvre that seeks to establish linkages between the architectural space of individual buildings, geo-political space, and the social space resulting from the interaction (collaboration and conflict) between multiple agents -- builders and users."

Walking Ulysses "is designed to represent, through an exploration of each of the senses, the experience of living in Dublin on a typical day around the turn of the twentieth century. Our map narrates the journey of Stephen Dedalus and Leopold Bloom over the course of a single day, paralleling the progress of James Joyce's Ulysses."

Funded by the British Academy, Mapping the Lakes "maps out two textual accounts of journeys through the landscape of the Lake District: Thomas Gray's tour of the region in the autumn of 1769; and Samuel Taylor Coleridge's 'circumcursion' of the area in August 1802."

For projects involving historical census data, try GIS for History, funded by the NEH, to "give history students and teachers the power ... to investigate critical moments in American history."

Harvard University's China Historical GIS is a project "to establish a database of populated places and historical administrative units for the period of Chinese history between 221 BCE and 1911 CE." This site also features some resources for Japan.

Three great resources for the Peutinger Map: the multi-layered viewer Peutinger Map from Richard Talbert's *Rome's World*; the clickable Complete Tabula Peutingeriana compared with a modern map; and Omnes Viae, the map reconstructed over Google Maps with a Latin route planner.

The US Holocaust Museum uses Google Earth to map various aspects of the Holocaust and World War II. This site includes additional resources and bibliographies.

Academic Commons has an article on three projects at DePauw University to engage students with the community through GIS.

ESRI's ArcLessons "is a resource for you to share lessons for using GIS in the classroom." ESRI also features Case Studies of how GIS is used in a number of fields.

The Duke University Teaching and Learning with Google Earth blog features lesson plans, articles, layers and more.

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