

Mapping the New World Lesson Plan

Central Historical Question:
Why do maps change over time?

Materials:

- Copies of 1636 Powhatan map*
- Copies of 1651 Virginia map*
- Historical Context sheet
- Mapping the New World Guiding Questions

**[NOTE: The images may be clearer if projected rather than printed and copied. If you project the maps, students can answer the questions individually or as a whole class].*

Plan of Instruction:

1. Write WARM-UP question on board: Why would two maps of the same place differ?

Elicit student responses. Possible answers include: maps' different purposes (i.e., subway map vs. real estate map); new developments/changes in land use; changed names of streets/towns, etc.

2. Today we're going to look at two maps from the early-mid 1600s. Remember, Jamestown was established in 1608 and the *Mayflower* landed in 1620. So these maps are some of the very first maps from the English colonies.

Show the region of the Chesapeake Bay on a contemporary map.

3. Hand out Powhatan map and Virginia Map, Guiding Questions, and Historical Context Sheet.

Explain that the first map was made in 1636 and the second in 1651.

Explain that 'Historical Context' refers to what was happening at the time.
Have students answer questions.

4. Review student responses. Discussion:
 - How do the two maps differ? How do you explain the differences?
 - What do these maps tell you about the colonists' experiences in the New World?
 - What do these maps tell you about the colonists' attitudes towards Native Americans?
 - What do these maps tell you about why maps change over time?

- What are some predictions you would make about what a map of Virginia would portray in 1700? 1750? 1800? 1900?
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Citations:

Mercator, Gerhard. Virginia [and Maryland], 1636. John Carter Brown Library, Brown University.

Edward Williams, *A mapp of Virginia discovered to ye Falls, and in it's Latt: From 35 deg: & 1/2 neer Florida to 41 deg: bounds of new England*, 1651. John Carter Brown Library, Brown University.

Historical Context Sheet

- 1607** English settlers first land in Jamestown.
- Winter 1609-1610** Almost 150 (of 214) English colonists die from starvation and hardship.
- 1619** Virginia's population grows rapidly to 1,400.
- 1622-1623** Native Americans launch attacks against English settlements and kill 347 settlers.
- Colonists respond by poisoning and killing 250 Native Americans.
- 1634** Colonists build a wall across the Virginia Peninsula.
- An English Captain wrote that the wall "completely excludes the Indians . . .; this will be of extraordinary benefit to the country."
- 1636** **Date of Map A**
- 1646** First Indian reservations established for surviving Powhatan Indians.
- 1651** **Date of Map B.**

Guiding Questions

Name _____

1. What do you see when you look at the map from 1636?
2. What do you see when you look at the map from 1651?
3. List three differences between Map A and Map B:
4. These maps are showing the EXACT SAME PIECE OF LAND. Why do you think they differ?
5. Look at the HISTORICAL CONTEXT SHEET. How might settlers' attitudes towards Native Americans have changed from the 1630s to the 1650s? How might settlers' attitudes toward the land have changed from the 1630s to the 1650s? Explain your answer.

BONUS QUESTION: Why does the mapmaker of Map B think the Sea of China and the Indies are on the other side of Virginia? (remember where Columbus was headed?)