

Visualizing the World: Maps as Stories

Teachers as Scholars

Maps tell stories. Historic maps in particular can tell us much about how our views of our world have evolved and also connect us to historic events both globally and in our own backyards. Helping students of all ages to read and analyze historic maps is key, not only for the where and what but also to help them evaluate the source critically, asking about the context, author's purpose and motivations.

This workshop will introduce teachers to the collections of the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library and the wealth of maps dating from 1482 to the present. Participants will learn from map historians as well as engage with maps in their printed and enhanced digital formats to compare the "then and now" aspects of cities like Boston.

Focus Questions:

- What framework can we apply to reading and talking about maps?
- How can we be better map readers and thus help our students be better as well?
- How does the geography of a place impact what happened there? How does spatial awareness contribute to an overall understanding of daily life and historical events?
- What kinds of evidence do maps provide as primary sources? What do they NOT provide?
- How can digital spatial tools enhance how we engage with our community and the world?

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Day 1 (March 15): 9:30 am - 3pm @ Mapparium

The Big Picture: Making Sense of a Complicated World

9:30-11:00 Mapparium Visit (Maps v Globes)

How does this model of the earth compare with maps?

11:00-11:30: Walk back to BPL

Contribute to the CrowdSource map on your way to the Map Center (<http://bit.ly/2HwENrM>)

11:30-12:15 @ Map Center

Globes and Projections

12:15-1:00: Lunch

1 pm-3 pm: BPL Computer Lab

Learn about Open Street Map and simple Projects to do with Students (Shawn Goulet & Celeste Reynolds)

Day 2 (March 29): 9:30 am - 3 pm @ Leventhal Map Center

Understanding Maps

9:30-10:00 am: Gallery Walk: Breathing Room (Michelle)

Pick a map or graphic that connects to something you teach.

Be ready to introduce your map and yourself!

10:00 am: Map Sort Activity (Michelle)

Create 2 categories. Then create 2 new ones.

Can you pick a “best” and “worst” map? Be ready to share your discussion.

10:20-11:00: The Stories Maps Tell (Ron)

11:00-11:15: Break

11:15-12:30: Urban Mapping: Map Center Collections (Ron & Michelle)

How do we understand change over time?

12:30-1:15: Lunch

1:15-3:00: Teaching with Maps (Michelle)

Sample Map inquiry: Maps of the American Revolution

Online collections & finding map resources