

Reading Maps Like a Historian Anchor Chart

Teacher Resource

Resource Overview:

Use this resource to guide the creation of an anchor chart with your class. You can build the chart together on the classroom board or on chart paper. Consider adding images or icons to boost student engagement and support visual learners. As you create the chart, review and explain each part to ensure student understanding. The completed anchor chart can serve as a helpful reference for students during independent work. For a step-by-step approach to exploring maps, see the *Geography and History: A Map-Based Inquiry* Lesson Plan.

1. Understand the Purpose of Maps

- Maps tell stories about geography, economy, and history.
- They provide clues to understanding historical events and trends.

2. Key Questions to Ask

- What is the map showing?
- What geographic features are present?
- What trends or patterns can I identify?

3. Steps to Analyze a Map

- Observe: Look at the details (colors, symbols, labels).
 - What do I see?
- Infer: Think about what the details mean.
 - What does this imply about the region?
- Connect: Relate the map to historical events or economic activities.
 - How does geography influence life in this area?