

Mapping and Meaning: draw, compare, interpret

This assignment is designed to help you to think about how maps are not neutral reflections but rather representations can and should be manipulated and interpreted like other representations. In other words, it is designed to make you think conceptually about how maps make meaning and how we make meaning of maps.

It allows a formative self-assessment where you can notice how much you do and do not know about Caribbean geography.

It guides you in the acquisition of knowledge about cartography (different types of maps, the history of map-making), and the history and geography of the Caribbean.

It introduces you to GoogleMaps, a tool that you will be using in a variety of ways throughout the course.

1. Draw a map of your home town (whatever that means to you: could be where you grew up, where you live now)
 - a. In groups of 3, talk with your classmates about what your map shows
 - i. About your home town
 - ii. About you
2. Open google maps and google that same town
 - a. How is the google map different?
3. Draw a map of the Caribbean
 - a. Talk with your same classmates about what your map shows
 - i. About the Caribbean
 - ii. About you
4. Do a search for maps of the Caribbean (Caribbean, map; images)
 - a. In your group, divvy up to find one 16th c, one 17th c, one 18th c, one 19thc, one 20th c. map, one nautical map, one map with tides and currents, one map with winds, one map with foods, one map with plants, one map with people (migration and/or immigration), one map with languages
 - b. How is the map you found different from and similar to the map you drew?
 - c. How are the maps you all in your groups found different from one another?
 - d. What does this make you think about maps?