

Education with the National Library of Israel

Primary Source Analysis Worksheet

Map

This worksheet will accompany your exploration of maps from the primary sources collections of the National Library of Israel.

Stage 1 – First Impressions

Describe the map.

Pay attention to details such as texts, illustrations and drawings, size, language, materials used etc.

What kind of map is this? *(You can mark more than one option)*

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Topographic map | <input type="checkbox"/> City map |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Political map | <input type="checkbox"/> Imaginary map |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical map | <input type="checkbox"/> Road map |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climate map | <input type="checkbox"/> Military map |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic or resources map | <input type="checkbox"/> Thematic map |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial map | (Which theme?) _____ |

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Stage 2 – Noticing the Details

What do you know about the creation of the map? _____

When was the map created? _____

Who created the map? _____

Where was the map created? _____

What language is used in the texts on the map? _____

Where did the map appear? (In a Bible, atlas, other book or drawing?) _____

What else do you know about the creation of the map? _____

What details appear on the map?

Political details <i>(countries, states, borders, regions)</i>	Topographical details <i>(mountains, seas, lakes, forests)</i>	Settlements <i>(cities, towns, villages)</i>	Historical Events	Illustrations	Additional details

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Write a list of other details which appear on the map besides the description of the geographical area (for example, title, dedication, quotation, compass rose, map legend, drawings, names of people). Describe these details.

Stage 3 – Understanding the Meanings

What is the main topic that the map presents?

Every map is produced for a specific purpose. This purpose can influence cartographers and cause them to emphasize or omit certain details.

Are any details emphasized in this map? Are there any important details missing? Why?

Is this map geographically accurate? Is it based on scientific facts or imagination? Explain and give examples.

What is the viewpoint of the creators of the map? What do you think they wanted to state? What was their goal in producing this map? How did you come to this conclusion?

What can you learn from this map about the period or region where it was created? From which details did you learn this?

Stage 4 – Thinking and Evaluating

What information do we not know about this primary source?

Write 3 questions that came up while researching this source

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Where can we find answers to these questions?

How can we get a full perspective?

Each historical document, such as this map, presents the specific viewpoint of its creator.

What do you think is needed in order to get a full perspective of the area presented in this map? (For example, other maps, a document, other ideas)
