

HERE BE MONSTERS: FAMILY MAP-MAKING NIGHT

AGES

Children 6+ years

Tweens/teens

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Introduce cartography by hosting an all-ages map-making event! Show maps of real and fictional worlds, then let participants create their own. You could have them map their bedrooms, houses, neighborhoods, or towns, or remake a map from a book or movie. Show old maps that depict sea monsters and uncharted areas, and encourage map-makers to add their own fantastical elements to give them a historical nautical feel. See Resources for map elements, backdrops, and coloring sheets. Don't forget to discuss what a map key is and why it's important! A fun all-ages event. Suggested runtime: 60–90 minutes.

Outcomes for teens:

- Teens will become aware of the technologies and techniques used in map making;
- If partnering with a local GIS professional or government agency, teens will be introduced to potential careers in map making and other related fields;
- Teens will be able to articulate how artistic expression can be used in a practical way;
- Teens will practice communication skills by presenting their work to the group.



Image source: Shutterstock

TIP:

Local museums will likely have a number of maps in their collection (and many such map collections are digitized).

ADAPTATION:

Focus on fictional explorers of the seven seas, such as the Kidd siblings (*Treasure Hunters*), the Swiss Family Robinson, or Captain Nemo (*Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*). Children can make maps that depict these stories.

ADAPTATIONS FOR TEENS:

- For a pre-event craft, teens could make map paper by browning white paper in a tea bath and adding texture.
- Add a role-playing component. World-building and visuals are great to add to gameplay!
- Focus on map-making technology. Partner with a local GIS agency to introduce potential careers.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Map-making supplies:

- Brown grocery bags, large sheets of butcher paper, or printed templates
- Crayons and markers
- Printed icons
- Scissors and glue
- Examples of real and fictional maps
- Laptop/projector (optional)
- Poster tubes (optional)
- Dowels and string for hanging (optional)

Participants make maps from memory, as fantastical or realistic as they desire. For extra fun, streets and highways can be painted blue and referred to as waterways. Don't forget the map key so others can interpret it!

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

For outreach, try to find a local cartographer or historical society member. Local GIS agencies or professionals, fantasy authors, illustrators, or graphic designers might also be great guest presenters.

RESOURCES

Web

Map collection from *Library of Congress*: <https://bit.ly/3vygjHW>

Map collection from *New York Public Library*:
<https://www.nypl.org/node/80186>

Tutorial for tea-stained paper from *How Stuff Works*:
<https://bit.ly/3oUNCmk>

"Introduction to Cartography" from *GIS for Youth Empowerment*:
<https://bit.ly/3uqNmMH>

"A Brief History of Cartography and Maps" from *KnowledgeHub*:
<https://bit.ly/2QYrtqt>

Map Making Resources from *National Geographic*: <https://bit.ly/2Rlikmp>

"Map-Making 101: Drawing the Map" from *Go Teen Writers*:
<https://bit.ly/3vsuCO5>

"Draw Your Own Fantasy Maps" from *Instructables*: <https://bit.ly/3p3q1j5>

"How to Draw a Fantasy Map" from *WASD20*: <https://bit.ly/3hYCQtG>

"The Seven Seas" from *World Atlas*: <https://bit.ly/3yHOyhX>

"Old Maps of the Seven Seas" from *Old Maps Online*: <https://bit.ly/2RPor8l>
10 famous explorers from *Biography*: <https://bit.ly/3fpNhEQ>

Books

Non-fiction

How to Make Hand-Drawn Maps (2018) by Helen Cann (children's/YA)

Ultimate Mapping Guide for Kids (2016) by Justin Miles (children's)

Otis and Will Discover the Deep (2018) by Barb Rosenstock and Katherine Roy (children's)

Flying Deep (2018) by Michelle Cusolito and Nicole Wong (children's)

Solving the Puzzle Under the Sea: Marie Tharp Maps the Ocean Floor (2016) by Robert Burleigh and Raúl Colón (children's)

Atlas of Ocean Adventures (2019) by Emily Hawkins and Lucy Letherland (children's)

Fiction

The Writer's Map: An Atlas of Imaginary Lands (2018) edited by Huw Lewis-Jones (children's)

The Atlas of Fairy Tales (2017) by Claudia Bordin (children's)

Cheesie Mack Is Not Exactly Famous (Cheesie Mack series) (2014) by Steve Cotler and Douglas Holgate (children's)

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (Graphic Revolve: Common Core Editions) (2014) by Jules Verne, Carl Bowen, Benny Fuentes, and Jose Alfonso Ruiz (YA)

Mice of the Seven Seas (Mice of the Herring Bone) (1999) by Tim Davis (children's)

Swiss Family Robinson (1813) by Johann David Wyss (children's)

Ocean Meets Sky (2018) by Terry Fan and Eric Fan (children's)

Printables

Vintage Sea Monsters

Nautical Map Icons

Historical Boats

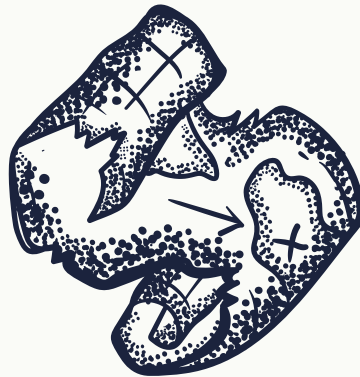
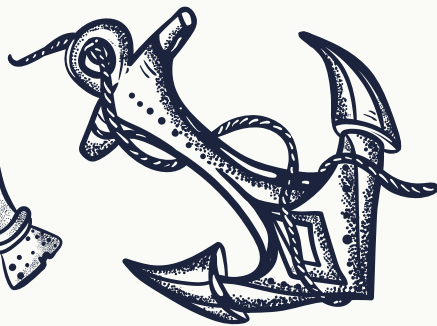
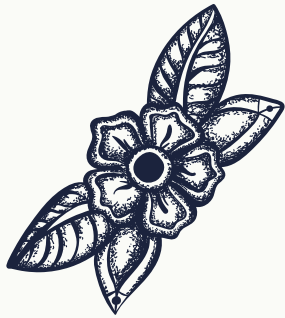
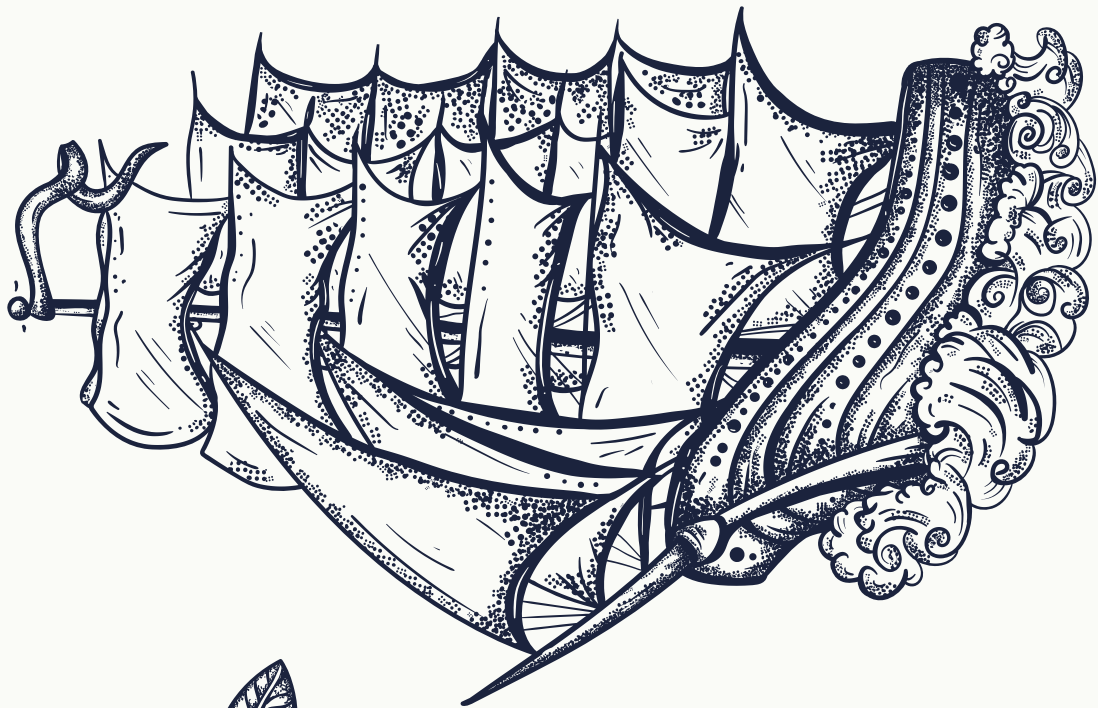
Old Map Paper

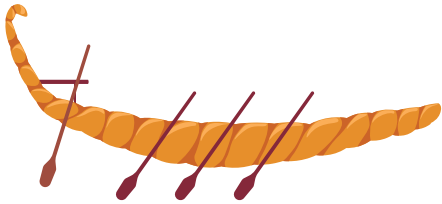
Map of World Coloring Sheet

TIP:

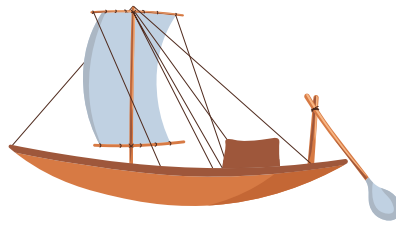
You could also pull books with maps from your fantasy collection, such as those of *Eragon*, *The Illustrated Wizard of Oz*, *The Lord of the Rings*, or *Winnie the Pooh*. More fantasy book map ideas here: <https://bit.ly/3vuMZCf>



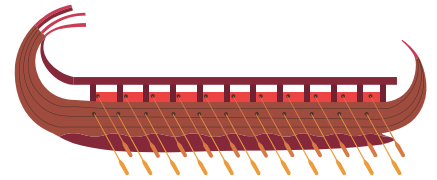




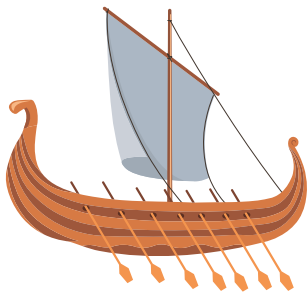
3400 BC



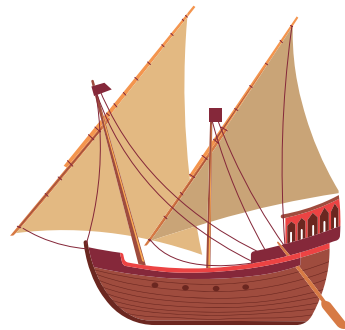
2000 BC



1500 BC



X



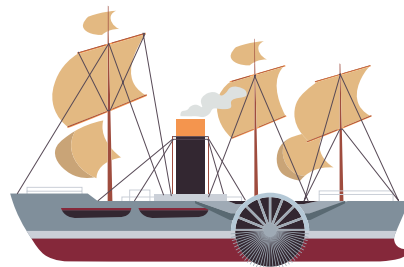
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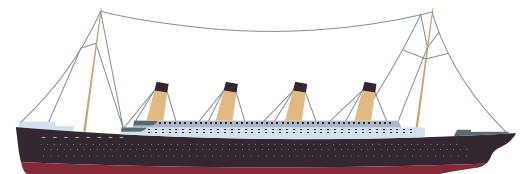
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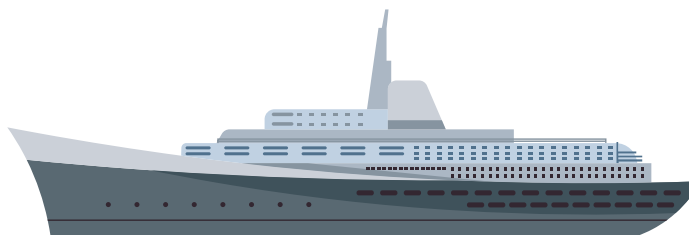
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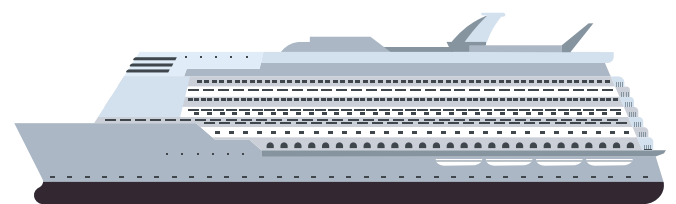
1850



1910



1960



2010



