

Name: _____

Maps of the World - Exploration Activity

Most of the very old maps that still exist today were made in Europe, because Europeans often printed hundreds or thousands of copies of their maps to sell, making it more likely that some survived over time. It is important to remember that these maps have a European perspective. Some important dates and time periods in European History that these maps reflect are:

Middle Ages: A time when Europeans knew little about the outside world, except from what they read in old Greek and Roman books. The Catholic Church was the center of education.

1492-1493: Christopher Columbus sails to the New World. Europeans begin to colonize (take land and resources from) North and South America very soon after.

Renaissance: Towards the very end of the Middle Ages, Europeans became obsessed with the art and mythology of the Greeks and Romans. This period of time (from the 1300s through the 1600s) is called the "Renaissance" which means "rebirth."

Scientific Revolution: During the 1600s (and part of the 1500s and 1700s), European scholars valued science and worked to learn more about the world.

1633: Galileo is arrested by the Catholic church for teaching that the Earth revolves around the sun and that the Earth's rotation is what makes the sun rise and set.

World War I: 1914-1918

World War II: 1939-1945

Part One: **LOOK** each map for at least *10 seconds*, noticing its title, its language, the year it was made, the area of the Earth it focuses on, and its images and symbolism.

Part Two: **NOTE** three* things you found while looking at the set of maps:

Observation (something you find interesting): _____

Question (something you want to know more about): _____

Connection (something you recognize or have already learned about): _____

*Find your observation, question, and connection in the set of maps; not on each map.

Part Three: Choose a map to **EXAMINE** carefully. **ANSWER** the questions (below) about it.

Map: _____ (put in the year it was made)

1. How is this map showing directions, if at all? *Check all that apply:*
Windheads? _____ Compass Rose? _____ Labels? _____ Longitude/Latitude? _____
Not at all? _____ A Different Way (if so, tell me more)? _____

2. Where is north on this map? (*'At the top,' for example*) _____
3. Circle the continents shown: Africa Europe Asia Antarctica Australia
South America North America 'Terra Incognita'
4. Imagine using this map for an ocean journey. What about this map would be helpful or harmful for that use? _____

Challenge Yourself:

- **Guess** the language used (*Hint: 'Nova' = Latin; 'Nouvelle' = French; 'Nieu' = Dutch*) _____
- Look at what part of the Earth is closest to the center of this map. Why might the mapmaker put this in the center of his/her map? _____

- Imagine that this is the only world map you have ever seen. What is something you might believe about the world? _____

