

Analyzing John Smith’s Map of New England and Comparing it to a Modern Map

Name: _____

Date: _____

Background: In 1614 the English explorer John Smith was sent to Monhegan Island in Maine on a fishing expedition. When he arrived in the area of New England (what was then called Northern Virginia) he realized that all of the maps of the area he had with him were useless. He decided to set off with his men and map the coastal area himself. It is one of the most accurate early English maps of the area.

Directions: Students will examine John Smith’s map of coastal New England and compare it to a more modern map of the area.

[John Smith Map](#)

Part 1: Pre-Knowledge and Initial Thoughts

1. What do you already know about John Smith, if anything?

2. Write down three initial observations you have about this map:

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

- 3. _____

Part 2: Illustration Analysis

Find these pictures on the map and answer the questions in 2-3 sentences.



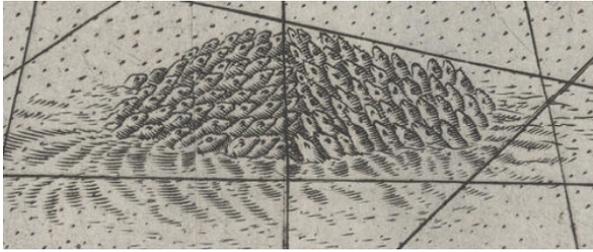
What do you think this animal is?

Why do you think John Smith chose to put it on his map?



Describe what you see in this picture.

What do you think this image represents?



What types of animals do you think these are?

Why do you think John Smith chose to put them on his map?



Describe what you see in these pictures (shapes, animals, words, etc.).

What do you think these illustrations represent?

Part 3: Name Recognition

In this box write down any names of towns or features that you recognize.

Part 4: Sight Recognition

In this box put screenshots of any regions of the map that look familiar to you.

Part 5: Comparisons

Directions: Now that you have examined John Smith's map, you will compare it with a more modern map of the area; the [Matthews-Northrup Works Map](#) from 1912.

Find this area on both of your maps:



In the boxes below write down what you see that is similar between the two and what you see that is different.

Similarities	Differences

Now follow the coastline north until you find this area on both of your maps:



In the boxes below write down what you see that is similar between the two and what you see that is different.

Similarities	Differences

Almost all of the towns, rivers, hills, etc. on John Smith's map are named differently in the map from 1912. By comparing the two, **can you complete the pairings below?**

Smith Map	Matthews-Northrup Works
	Mt. Agamenticus
	North Berwick
Smiths Iles	
	Portsmouth
Sandwich and Dartmouth	
Leth	
	Rockland

****Bonus Question****

Can you find and locate Monhegan Island, where John Smith started his mapping expedition from, on either of the maps? Put screenshots of your findings below.

Part 6: Reflection

By 1614, when John Smith made this map, there were no permanent European settlements in New England. Usually a location is named by people who are settled in the area.

How do you think the names on the Smith map came to be? Do they seem to be of Native American origin? **Write 2-3 sentences below.**

Using your critical thinking and research skills, identify the probable origins and meanings behind the place names from John Smith's map below.

Place Name	Potential Origin
Charles River	
Cape Elizabeth	
Stuard's Bay	
Cape James	
Salem	
Plimouth	

