

# Osher Map Library Lesson Plan

## Exploring A Nation's Change Over Time Through Cartography

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This lesson plan was designed for a Model United Nations advanced class. However, it could easily be used in an Advanced Placement Modern World or an advanced World History II class.

Prior to the lesson: Assign each student a different country. Aim to have an equal number of students representing each region of the world (at least 3) in preparation for the final assessment. Ideally, in a Model United Nations class, the country should be that which they are researching and representing in mock United Nations simulations.

### Teaching Activity: Brazil

Students will participate in a class discussion centered around the maps of Brazil included below. Following the activity, students will write a short reflection to demonstrate an understanding of how maps illustrate change over time and the worldview of their creator. Students will also reflect on how these maps could be used to support or refute interpretations of historical events. This activity will help them gain the skills necessary to analyze maps on their own of their assigned country for the summative assessment.

### **Guiding Questions For Class Discussion**

What elements can you identify on the map? Do you see a scale? A compass rose? Rhumb lines/wind roses? A legend? Title? Notations?

What place or places are shown? What is labeled?

What type of map is this? What is the purpose of the map and who is the intended audience?

When was it made? Who is the cartographer?

What was happening in history at the time this map was created?

What is in the center of the map? What occupies pride of place (upper left hand corner where the eye is usually drawn to first)?

Are there signs of royal authority such as coats of arms, leopards, lions, mottos, national flags, textual cartouches (scroll with inscription) etc.?

Is there evidence of royal or aristocratic toponyms (place names)?

Is there evidence of religious influence?

What do you notice about how Brazil is portrayed in this map? Consider depictions of people, dwellings, animals, etc.

What is the worldview of the cartographer? Can you provide evidence of the cartographer's beliefs or values as demonstrated in the map?

How has political control over Brazil changed over time?

Did the borders of Brazil change over time as indicated in these maps?

How do these maps incorporate or exclude rival empires?

How do these maps reflect the economic importance of Brazil?

How do these maps reflect the geographical importance of Brazil?

How do these maps reflect Brazil's involvement in WWI and WWII?  
How do these maps reflect Brazil's involvement in the Cold War?  
What do these maps help us to understand about Brazil?

### **Maps of Brazil**

Note: These maps should be shown and discussed in chronological order to help students see change over time. Use the guiding questions above to facilitate class discussions of each map. Below the URLs are a few points of interest you may want to discuss with students.

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=111975#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=163%2C-218%2C4774%2C3960> (published 1592)

\*The coat of arms depicted on the upper left hand corner (pride of place) is that of Phillip II of Spain (ruler of Spain at the time the map was created)

\*The heraldic badge in the upper right hand corner is that of the House of Bourbon-Anjou (used by the Spanish royal family to show their descent from the French House of Bourbon through the Anjou line)

\*The Latin text in the bottom left corner of the map references the "well known and rich" provinces of Peru and Brazil

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=111976#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=3414%2C2978%2C3331%2C1655> (published 1593)

\*Note the depictions of both Europeans and Indigenous Peoples of Brazil

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=109427#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=-1330%2C1912%2C11397%2C4227> (published 1638)

\*Note the depiction of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil on the right hand margin of the map

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=98857#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=632%2C4116%2C1510%2C458> (published 1649)

\*Note the armadillo on the cartouche (lower right hand corner). Armadillos were often associated with the Americas (especially South America) on early maps

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=156519#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=-2%2C-172%2C6988%2C5795> (published 1680)

\*Note the rhumb lines/wind roses as well as evidence of Christian missionary motives

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=212423#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=-3536%2C-616%2C18456%2C8297> (published 1716)

\*Note the inscription on the inset map of Brazil on the left hand side, which indicates the Portuguese colonies in Brazil

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=166139#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=987%2C396%2C5136%2C1517> (published 1740)

\*Note the translation of the text in the upper right hand corner

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=114536#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=537%2C3545%2C3292%2C1479> (published 1764)

\*Note the map says “Most of the inland Parts of Brasil are unknown the natives bear the general name of Tapayos & are decendants [sic] of the Tupinambas”

\*Note the identification of a Portuguese garrison off the coast of Brazil

\*Note the legend on the left side of the map indicating colonial possessions

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=148954#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=2757%2C1848%2C4197%2C2702> (published 1889)

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=111558#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=5019%2C797%2C2953%2C1327> (published 1916)

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=114570#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=4327%2C2473%2C2645%2C842> (published 1942)

\*Note the mention of Natal in the text at the bottom of the map under “Names in the News” as a place of strategic importance during the war

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=111869#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=277%2C832%2C5304%2C2159> (published 1943)

\*Note that the map identifies the natural resources of Brazil considered important in WWII including oil, rubber and manganese (used to strengthen steel)

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=105426#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=2331%2C2348%2C3092%2C1147> (published 1944)

<https://digital.library.cornell.edu/catalog/ss:29327860> (published 1957)

[https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/uscd\\_a\\_1970.jpg](https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/uscd_a_1970.jpg) (published 1970)

<https://digital.library.cornell.edu/catalog/ss:22518940> (published 1982)

\*Note the map at the top depicting nuclear proliferation (Brazil is predicted to have nuclear weapons capability within ten years).

## Formative Performance Task:

Students should write a short reflection on how the maps above showed a change over time for Brazil/South America. They should reference specifically at least two examples of maps and how they reflect the worldview of their creator. Additionally, students should discuss at least one example of a map that might be used to support a particular interpretation of the Age of Discover/Old Imperialism, New Imperialism and World War I, World War II and Decolonization, or the Cold War.

## Summative Performance Task

Students should choose one map from each of the following historical eras that includes their country.

1. Age of Discovery and Old Imperialism
2. New Imperialism and World War I
3. World War II and Decolonization
4. Cold War

Students should complete a worksheet for each map (see below). These worksheets will help them to develop a written analysis focusing on the following questions:

- 1) How do these maps illustrate change over time for your country and region?
- 2) How do these maps illustrate the worldview of their creator?
- 3) How might these maps be used to support or refute interpretation of historical events or eras?

Students will then meet in small groups (based on region) and share their analysis. Each group will then present their analysis with the rest of class.

Maps are categorized by region. A list of additional potential resources is included at the end.

### **Age of Discovery and Old Imperialism**

Region: World

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=107830#?c=&m=&cv=>

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=107423#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=-684%2C-641%2C9963%2C7409>

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=111984#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=4785%2C4456%2C3312%2C1489>

[https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/shepherd\\_1911/shepherd-c-107-110.jpg](https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/shepherd_1911/shepherd-c-107-110.jpg)

[https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/shepherd\\_1911/shepherd-c-128.jpg](https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/shepherd_1911/shepherd-c-128.jpg)

Region: North and South America

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=105011#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=-463%2C3126%2C9318%2C3276>

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=114536#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=537%2C3545%2C3292%2C1479>

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=112303#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=65%2C3939%2C1896%2C852>

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=105684#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=-7807%2C-221%2C22203%2C9981>

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=108985#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=-2399%2C1844%2C16417%2C7380>

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=114401#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=-3653%2C-246%2C13845%2C6224>

## **New Imperialism and World War I**

Region: World

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=212356#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=-192%2C7388%2C2986%2C2476>

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=111558#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=4550%2C1300%2C1896%2C1572>

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=217908#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=-467%2C247%2C7109%2C5286>

[https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/ward\\_1912/world\\_1910.jpg](https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/ward_1912/world_1910.jpg)

Region: Europe and Asia

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=102250#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=-185%2C-1233%2C9035%2C7494>

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=106804#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=-196%2C-542%2C9556%2C7925>

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=101539#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=705%2C-324%2C8359%2C6933>

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=99787#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=-395%2C1748%2C9101%2C7548>

Region: Europe, Africa, Asia

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=100445#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=-165%2C-205%2C8065%2C6689>

Region: Africa

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=113578#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=493%2C4680%2C4566%2C3396>

## **World War II and Decolonization**

Region: World

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=111869#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=277%2C832%2C5304%2C2159>

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=105426#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=122%2C987%2C1897%2C1080>

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=109330#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=3411%2C159%2C5079%2C2893>

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=101549#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=-2031%2C-363%2C12738%2C7255>

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=111623#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=-4941%2C-456%2C15982%2C9103>

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=114570#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=1393%2C3610%2C1442%2C821>

<https://digital.library.cornell.edu/catalog/ss:19343316>

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=102258#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=-6221%2C-598%2C20984%2C11952>

Region: Asia

[https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/asia\\_1941.jpg](https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/asia_1941.jpg)

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=110026>

Region: Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=99405#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=208%2C388%2C2493%2C1473>

Region: Africa

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=102094#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=-6141%2C-456%2C18134%2C9103>

Region: Europe

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=102095#?c=&m=&cv=>

Region: Europe, Africa, Asia

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=102446#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=-1666%2C-346%2C12129%2C6908>

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=108507#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=-1926%2C-330%2C11554%2C6581>

Region: North America and Asia

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=108451#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=-2166%2C-475%2C16678%2C9499>

## **Cold War**

Region: World

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=216060#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=-726%2C1099%2C9457%2C5589>

[https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/usda\\_1970.jpg](https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/usda_1970.jpg)

<https://digital.library.cornell.edu/catalog/ss:29327860>

<https://digital.library.cornell.edu/catalog/ss:3293897>

<https://digital.library.cornell.edu/catalog/ss:3293969>

<https://digital.library.cornell.edu/catalog/ss:22518940>

Region: Europe

<https://oshermaps.org/browse-maps?id=107257#?c=&m=&cv=&xywh=-3822%2C-274%2C13261%2C7836>

Region: Europe, Asia, North America

[https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/nato\\_1970.jpg](https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/nato_1970.jpg)

Region: Europe, Asia

<https://digital.library.cornell.edu/catalog/ss:22374956>

<https://digital.library.cornell.edu/catalog/ss:3293938>

Region: Europe, Asia, Africa

<https://digital.library.cornell.edu/catalog/ss:19343314>

Region: Asia

<https://digital.library.cornell.edu/catalog/ss:3293902>

**Additional digital map collections to search:**

<https://oshermaps.org/>

<https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/>

<https://loc.gov/maps>

<https://collections.leventhalmap.org/>

<https://uwm.edu/lib-collections/agsl-digital-map-collection/>

<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet>

[https://digital.library.cornell.edu/catalog?f%5Bcollection\\_tesim%5D%5B%5D=Persuasive+Maps%3A+PJ+Mode+Collection&search\\_field=all\\_fields](https://digital.library.cornell.edu/catalog?f%5Bcollection_tesim%5D%5B%5D=Persuasive+Maps%3A+PJ+Mode+Collection&search_field=all_fields)

<https://maps.nls.uk/>

<https://www.bl.uk/subjects/maps>

<http://gallica.bnf.fr/>

<https://www.europeana.eu/en>

**Student Worksheet: Map Analysis**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Model United Nations  
Map Analysis Reflection  
Osher Map Library

**Any map that you analyze should include your country/region. Choose one map for each of the following historical eras:**

- 1) Age of Discovery and Old Imperialism**
- 2) New Imperialism and World War I**
- 3) World War II and Decolonization**
- 4) Cold War**

1) List the URL for the map you chose AND write the historical era it pertains to.

2) What type of map is it? Examples include physical, political, economic, population, natural resource, etc.

3) Title of map: \_\_\_\_\_

4) Date of map: \_\_\_\_\_

5) Creator of map: \_\_\_\_\_

6) Where was the map produced?  
\_\_\_\_\_

7) Describe any decorative elements.

- 8) Do you see rhumb lines/wind roses? Do they extend over land (indicating it is a sea chart used by mariners)?
  
- 9) Do you think the map is propaganda? Is it a statement of territorial appropriation, cultural reproduction, or a visual weapon? Why?
  
- 10) Is the map intended as an accurate representation of territory or is it more for decorative use? Why?
  
- 11) Does this map depict people, flora, fauna, or other natural resources? If so, provide examples.
  
- 12) What occupies pride of place in the upper left hand corner (where the eye is usually drawn to first) and what is in the center?
  
- 13) Are there any other images to note? If so, what do you think is the importance of those images?
  
- 14) Put the map in context. What is happening during this time period and how does this map relate?

15) List three things in this map you think are important (and why)

1.

2.

3.

16) Write a question to the mapmaker that is left unanswered by this map.

17) What do these maps help you to understand about your country and/or region? For maps 2-4, consider how they illustrate change over time from the previous maps you analyzed. Draw three conclusions:

A)

B)

C)

18) Could this map be used to support or refute an interpretation about the time period or event? If so, explain.

19) How do you think this map might reflect the worldview of the creator?

