



Local History Mapped: K-12 Activity and Assignment Ideas

Calisphere's Local History Mapped sets spark new understandings and connections for students and new activity ideas for teachers.

Students can work with the image sets in wired classrooms, school libraries, and media centers to do classroom activities or explore on their own. Teachers can use Local History Mapped as a resource for class activities, field trips, and extra credit assignments in a variety of subjects.

We'd like to hear about your ideas for using Local History Mapped with students. Let us know at calisphere@ucop.edu and we'll add it to the list for the benefit of other educators.

TIPS FOR IN-CLASS USE

Use these ideas to help students navigate the maps and get the most out of them:

- Use the "Questions to Consider" at the start of each historical essay to stimulate discussion.
- Use different views on the map — roads, satellite, and street view — to add dimension to an image. For example, compare old buildings in images with those in today's street view, or explore the surrounding landscape in the satellite view.
- Toggle between each of the five themes to get different perspectives on the map of California. Some image sets emphasize the built environment, while others emphasize land and people.
- Encourage students to zoom into places they are familiar with, as well as those in another part of the state. Compare and contrast the regions and images.

TEACHING RESOURCE

Use these ideas to help students enrich the image maps with exploration outside the classroom.

1. Before and After

- Students use the maps to zoom in on their hometown and review the images plotted there. Alternately, the teacher brings pre-selected images to class: for example, local institutions, iconic images, representative people or landscapes, and so on. (Note: this project will work best with images for which the exact location has been identified.)
- Students select a local image of interest to them and record its location. They visit the site in person and take documentary photographs of the site, then return to class to compare the current photos with the historical image. What is still there? What disappeared? What is new? What might have contributed to these changes? What do the people look like and what are they doing? How are these peoples' activities similar or different from how we use the same space today? These questions could form the basis of a research assignment, essay, or class presentation.



2. Create a Historical Geocache

Calisphere's Local History Mapped sets can be a great way to introduce students to geocaching, which is like a community scavenger hunt. "Geocaching (pronounced geo-cashing) is a worldwide game of hiding and seeking treasure. A geocacher can place a geocache in the world, pinpoint its location using GPS technology and then share the geocache's existence and location online. Anyone with a GPS device can then try to locate the geocache." (See <http://www.geocaching.com> for more information and examples.)

For this project, students select a historical image and a corresponding location. They can use the Calisphere map, a Google map, or an atlas to determine the latitude and longitude.

Next, the students research the location and/or the image they have selected, using supporting materials on Calisphere and other resources. For example, if they have selected a civic institution, they might find information about it in the image's description, and at the institution's website or a local historical society. Secondary sources, found at the library or online, can help provide context for the era represented in the photograph or the time of the building's construction.

The students then prepare the "cache" — a small waterproof box or bag — filling it with some information about the history of the site and possibly some representative drawings or objects. They can also include a printed copy of the photograph. Make sure to provide a pen and paper so visitors to the site can record their names. Hide the cache at the selected location, post its geocoordinates on the geocaching website, and wait to see who finds it!

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