

Week 4:
Where Are You?

Mapping Inner and Outer Cartographies

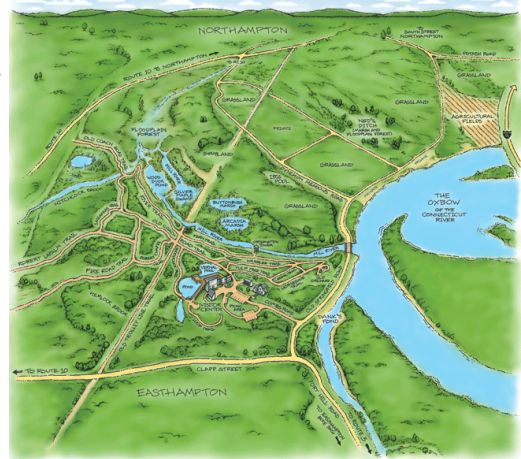
Whether we want to keep our roots in one place or move forward to new horizons, it's vital to know where we are. Cartography, the art and science of drawing maps, can help. Europeans in the early modern world saw themselves surrounded by vast oceans inscribed "Here Be Monsters." More recently, "Mind Mapping" has become a popular way to organize ideas, and figure out where you are in your own head.

As these examples show, not all maps need to be strictly accurate to convey emotional or personal truths. But there also is immense satisfaction finding yourself in geographic place using satellite imagery, GIS maps, topography, and other modern tools.

How and where do you find yourself in the world?

Materials:

- Furled Scroll of Antiqued Paper
- Compass Rose (Optional)
- Map Key/Legend (Optional)
- Map Scale (Optional)
- X to Mark the Spot



Instructions:

1. Decide whether you want to do a literal map, metaphorical map, or a mix of both.
2. Identify your "true North" and fill out your compass accordingly; what guides you? (It may very well be global North.)
3. What will the focal points of your map be; Are they buildings and roadways? Mountains and rivers? Principles and values? People and communities? All of the above? Designate a symbol for each and add them to your map key/legend.
4. Start mapping. Be as expansive and as expressive as you want. What are your landmarks, your reference points? Describe your landscape and world as you experience it!
5. As your map emerges, it often becomes clear what the distances on your map mean: maybe nothing, because lines of connection are more important. Or maybe the distances show literal miles, or illustrate metaphorical gaps between different parts of your life. Complete your map scale accordingly.
6. For an extra challenge, ask yourself where buried treasure would lie in your map. Mark it with the red X, or keep the location secret to yourself.

What Now?

Frame your map, share your map, or hide it on the backside of a painting in your house for a group of Goonies to one day discover and go hunting for your treasure. You can also ask friends to make their own, then compare and contrast your overlapping worlds!

To earn your TWO raffle tickets:

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-OR-

Send a picture to kschapiro@ewmlibrary.org with "Take and Make" in the email subject line.