

Resources needed:

[Archive map of Beijing](#)

This activity focuses on analysing an archive map of Beijing and draws student's attention to their local area through a map drawing activity.

Begin this activity by asking students why people draw maps and why they are important. By the end of this introductory discussion students should come to understand that:

- Maps show you where things are.
- They show you how to get from one place to another.
- Distances between different places are represented using a scale. Distance on a map can be measured and converted to actual distance on land using the scale.
- Maps show different things - some show the whole world whereas others show smaller areas such as cities, and all the streets and important buildings that make them.
- No map can show everything.

The Society has approximately 1 million maps in its collections, many of these maps are over 500 years old and have been collected from all over the world. They are an important record telling us how people viewed the world around them.

Activity

- Using the archive map supplied, explain to students that this is a map of a city in China and was published 100 years ago.
- Provide students with photocopies of the map so that they can analyse the mapping conventions used through answering the questions below. Answers have been provided for teacher reference.
- Which city does this map show? **Peking**
- What is the city known as today? **Beijing**
- When was the map produced? **1903**
- Use the map key to identify and colour the following features on the map:
 - The railway**
 - The city wall**
 - The city cemetery**
 - The marble railings**
 - A pagoda** (A pagoda is a Buddhist tower or temple shaped like a pyramid. There are a number of pagodas on the map, so students can select one).

Students should be encouraged to look at modern atlases or online maps such as Google Earth and the use of symbols and colour within them. They should begin to understand that a key enables a map to be read more easily and highlights important human and geographical features. They should begin to understand that signs and symbols are used in modern maps to enable everybody to understand them.

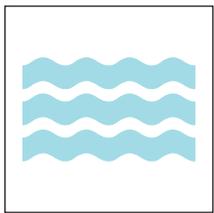
Activity

The following activity will help students to draw a map of their local area. The instructions below can be written up onto a whiteboard.

- **Most addresses have a house number, street name and are within a village, town or city. The area around your home is known as your local area.**
- **Make a list of all the important places or landmarks in your local area.**
- **Decide which of these are most important and should go onto your map.**
- **Decide which symbols/pictures to use to represent the places you have selected.**
- **Make a rough sketch of your map. Draw the roads first and then the buildings. Make sure roads, buildings and all the other features of your map are in the right place (you can ask a friend to look at your map to help spot any mistakes).**
- **Remember to consider the distance between places when you draw your map, this is known as scale and helps people looking at your map to judge how far one place is from another.**
- **After you have completed your rough sketch create your final map using colour. This map must have a map key to explain the symbols and any colours you have used.**

Once maps have been completed students can compare the maps they have produced. An example of a key is provided below, students can use the symbols shown in the example or develop their own symbols. Map keys should be extended for any additional features added to the student's maps.

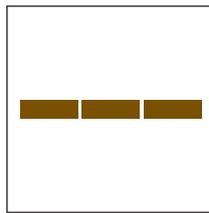
Sample map key:



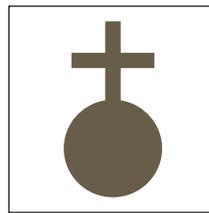
Lake



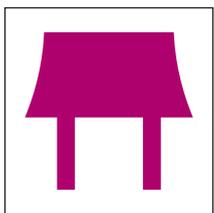
Ocean



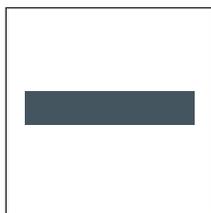
Railway



Church



Temple



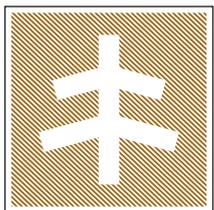
Road



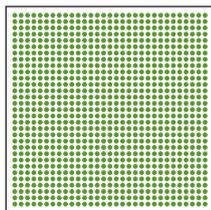
Shops



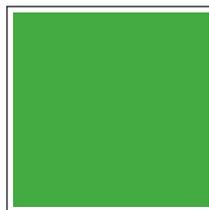
Post Office



Woods



Park



Fields