The Man of Commerce Map

A professional development activity
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Audience:

This "Zoom In" activity would serve as good professional development for educators (including media specialists). Reflection and follow-up discussion should focus on classroom application and adaptations for middle or high school students.

Goal / Topic / Big Idea:

The goal is to see how bias and influence can be presented to an audience through any primary source, including a map.

List of Primary Sources:

The Man of Commerce—World Digital Library.... [1889] (http://collections.lib.uwm.edu/cdm/ref/collection/agdm/id/864)

Essential / Investigative Question: (Note: This professional development activity is designed to be presented with the intention of promoting reflection on classroom practice. The questions below are samples used to promote the development of analytical and historical thinking skills.)

What message was the creator of the map attempting to portray? How do you know?

Objectives:

- Examine the map details to discover hints about what is most important, and what message the creator was trying to impart to the audience.
- Identify methods or choices made by the mapmaker and explain their influence.

Common Core State Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.7 Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.

Procedure:

- 1. Using the attached PowerPoint presentation, display a copy of the map that has been strategically "cut" into pieces.
- 2. Show only one piece of the puzzle at a time, having participants analyze and infer what the larger picture will be.
- 3. Add pieces together and once the entire picture is shown, discuss the meaning of the source as a whole.
- 4. It may be helpful to have participants use the Library of Congress Analysis Guide to scaffold their interpretations. The interactive tool can be completed as a group online or printed copies can be provided for individuals.
 - (http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/guides.html)

This professional development activity was created by a participant of TPS:BASICS, an online course conducted by the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Eastern Region Program, coordinated by Waynesburg University http://tps.waynesburg.edu/tpseasternregion.



















