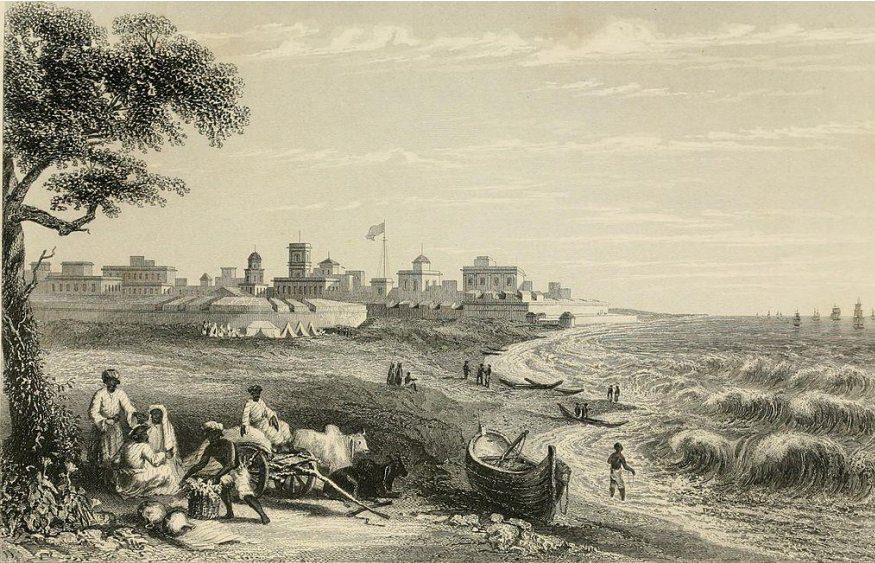


Drawing a Map

Maps are drawings of places. They share with us important information about the world around us, including locations, landmarks, distances and directions. When ancient people started to explore the world, they began drawing maps of the places they visited. Maps can be of the world, countries, regions, states, cities and neighborhoods. We even have our own [maps of the Penn Museum](#) to help guide our visitors around our building! A map of a city or neighborhood has roads, bridges, buildings, parks and rivers. They are usually drawn the way you would see a place looking out of an airplane window (from above).



This is an old picture of Fort St. George and the sea at Madras (now called Chennai.) Chennai is a port city in the South of India.

On the next page are two 18th century maps of Madras. The first map shows the early city of Madras, with the sea on one side and the settlements on the other. The second map gives a closer view of the fort that the English colonizers built, the streets, gardens and rivers around the fort.

All maps will have the following important information to look for:

Legend- Also called a key, it tells us what each symbol means on a map.

Compass Rose- This shows the four directions on the map (North, South, East, West). It looks a little like a star!

Symbols- Different symbols indicate landmarks on a map.

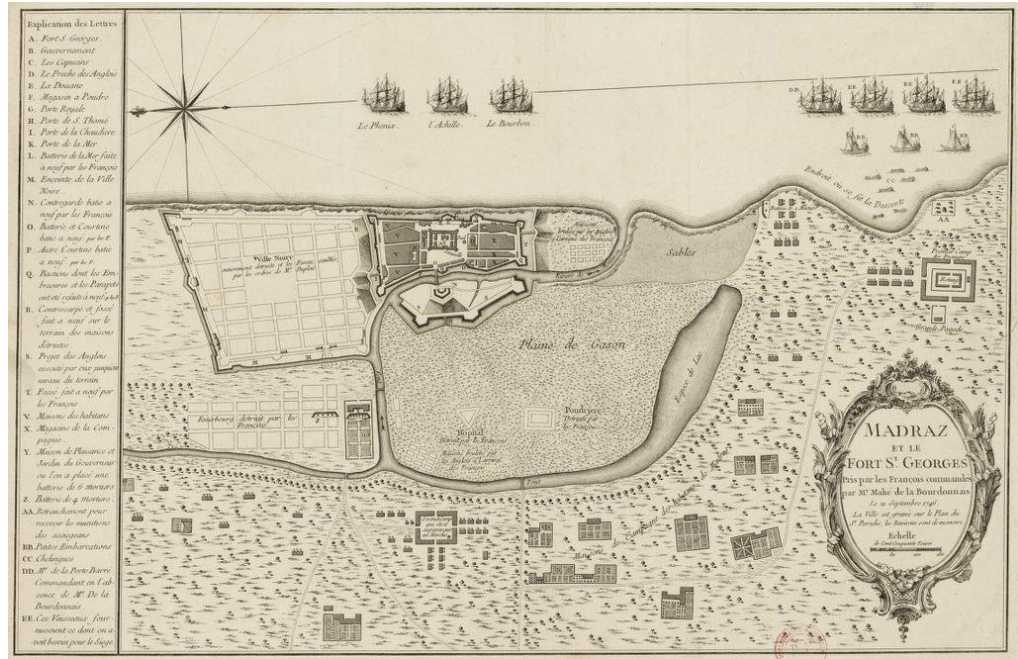
Scale- This tells you the ratio of distance on a map to actual distances between places.



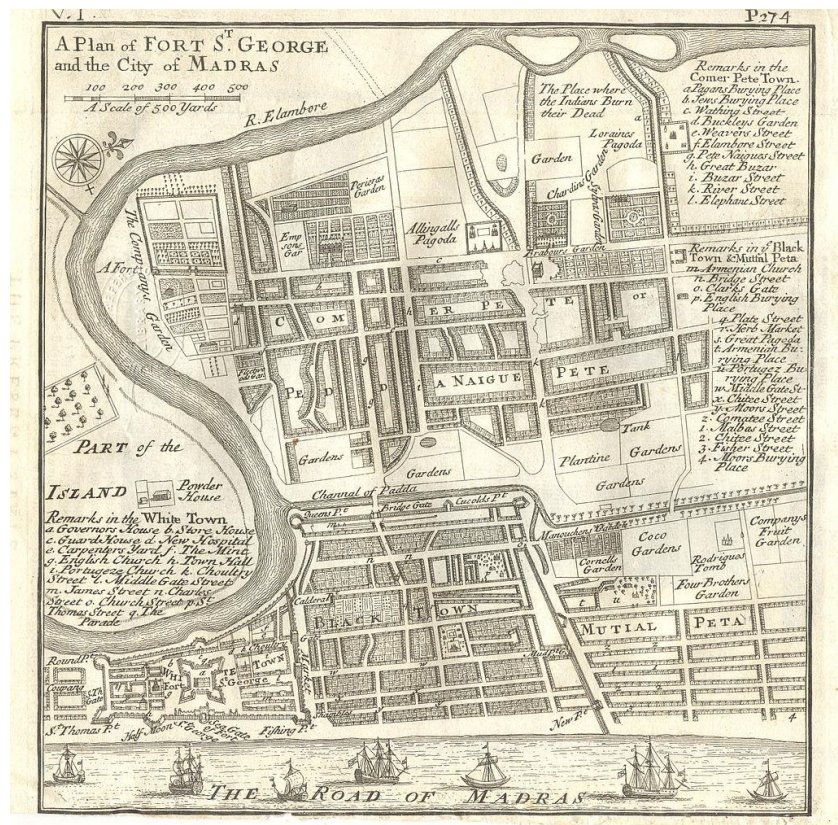
Take out your magnifying glass, look closely at the maps on the next page. Can you find the **legend**, **compass rose**, **symbols** and **scale** on each of the two maps?

Drawing a Map

MAP #1



MAP #2



Look closely at [Map 2](#):

1. Can you find the Fort St. George in this map? This Fort was the first English settlement in Madras.
2. Can you see the Elambore River? This river was an important source of inland transportation.
3. Can you see the streets, buildings and gardens?

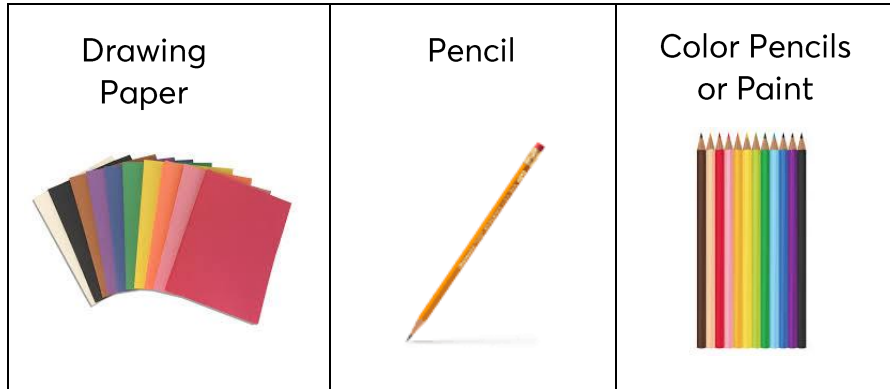


Drawing a Map

ACTIVITY: Drawing your Neighborhood

Can you draw a map of your neighborhood from memory? Let's try!

MATERIALS:



DIRECTIONS:

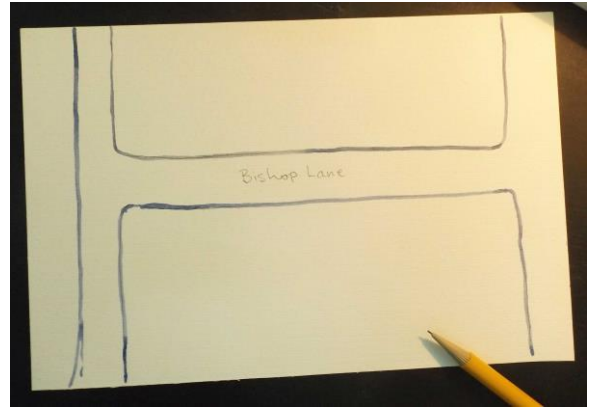
STEP ONE: Start by thinking about these questions that might help you remember your neighborhood.

- What is the name of your street?
- Do you know your neighbors and how their houses look?
- Is there a park near your house?
- Is there a traffic signal near your house?
- What is the most important landmark near your house?
- Do you have any shops near your house?



Drawing a Map

STEP TWO: Once you have answered most of these questions, try to remember your neighborhood and draw it. You can start by drawing your street.



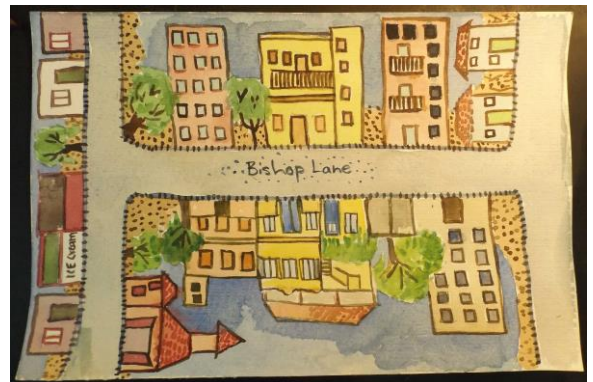
STEP THREE: Then, draw where you live.



STEP FOUR: Next, draw where your neighbor lives.



STEP FIVE: Draw any important landmarks near where you live. Add any details you remember.



Now you are a [cartographer](#)! As an added challenge, share your map with the people you live with, or better yet, encourage them to make their own map and compare. How are they the same? How are they different?