

Make a Culture Map

Week 18 • Wednesday • Hands-On: Mapping the Nations

Reading Time

Historians and mapmakers create **culture maps** — special maps that show where different peoples lived and how they lived. Instead of just roads and cities, a culture map might show pictures of homes, foods, and animals in each region.

A good culture map needs a **key** — a little box that explains what each symbol means. A buffalo symbol might mean plains hunting lands. A fish might mean fishing waters. A corn plant might mean farming country.

Today YOU are the mapmaker. You will draw a map of North America's regions and fill it with symbols showing how the nations of each region lived. Grab your crayons!

Reading Questions

1. What does a culture map show?

2. What is a map key for?

3. What could a buffalo symbol mean on a culture map?

Hands-On: Build Your Culture Map

You need: a big piece of paper, crayons or markers.

Step 1: Draw a big outline shape of North America (a grown-up can help, or trace one).

Step 2: Lightly color four regions: green woodlands in the east, yellow plains in the middle, orange desert in the southwest, blue coast in the northwest.

Step 3: Add symbols: trees and deer in the woodlands, buffalo on the plains, adobe houses and corn in the desert, salmon and canoes on the coast.

Step 4: Make a key that explains every symbol!

Plan Your Symbols

Practice your four map symbols here first: a tree, a buffalo, an adobe house, and a salmon.

After Mapping

1. Which region was your favorite to draw? Why?

2. How does your map show that the nations were different from each other?

3. Which region is closest to where YOU live?

True or False

Write T for true or F for false in each circle.

- ☐ A culture map shows how peoples lived.
- ☐ A map key explains the symbols.
- ☐ The plains are in the east.
- ☐ Salmon symbols belong on the northwest coast.
- ☐ Adobe houses belong in the Southwest.
- ☐ One symbol can stand for a whole way of life.

Review

I did it!	Circle one
I drew and colored the four regions	YES / NOT YET
I added symbols for each region	YES / NOT YET
I made a key for my map	YES / NOT YET