

DRAWN TO VICTORY TILED MAP

Maps are great exploration tools. The following map is a historical map from the First World War highlighting the landscape in south-east Belgium. It is the result of numerous aerial photographs taken in 1916. Maps played a critical role in the First World War and are seen as one of the most important tools used throughout the war.

Once you have assembled the map, use it to transport your students back in time. Have students develop their geographic skills by calculating directions, distance and elevation as well as use the legend to learn about Europe's landscape in 1916.

Below are a few activities on how this valuable primary resource can be used in your geography class.



What is a Map?

Have students understand that maps are small, flat models of real geographic features. Bring in miniatures of items like cars, trains, etc. Ask: What can we learn about cars/trains etc. by studying smaller representations? What can we learn about the Earth's surface by studying maps?

Have the students explore the tiled map and globes as miniature versions of places and the Earth. Ask: *What does the map tell us?*

Topographic Maps

Explain to students that a contour map is another name for a topographic map. These maps show the elevation of land on a flat paper surface. Ask: *How might this be useful during wartime?*

An acronym for remembering the elements contained on a topographic map is **DOGTAILS**. Explain the acronym to your students, having them use the tiled map to highlight these areas on the map:

- Date:** when the map was made
- Orientation:** direction (north arrow or compass rose)
- Grid:** lines that cross to form squares
- Scale:** map distance
- Title:** what, where, and when
- Author:** who made the map
- Index:** the part of the grid where specific information can be located
- Legend:** what the symbols mean
- Sources:** who provided information for the map

This map is courtesy of Lloyd reeds map collection, McMaster University

Reading a Contour Map

Tiled maps were produced by the British Ordnance Survey in the years just prior to the outbreak of the First World War (1912-1914). The use of contour lines was a relatively new concept to indicate elevation. They produced contour maps at large scale to be used for planning the logistics of things like supply and communication over very large areas.

Have student trace the contour lines on the map, noting the high points and the low points. Ask: *What areas would be the most challenging for trench warfare? Why?*

