

## **Topic: History of Charts & Maps**

**Primary Goal:** Introduce students to the history of charts and maps and how they are used today

### **Lesson Objectives:**

- Learn why charts and maps were created
- Learn the evolution of charts and maps throughout history
- Describe the different types of charts and maps
- Understand the difference between charts and maps
- Know who uses charts and maps today

### **Lesson Outline:**

- I. Why do people use charts and maps?
  - a. Determine where they are
  - b. Determine where they need to go
  - c. Determine the best way to get there
- II. How long have maps been around?
  - a. Maps have been around for thousands of years (Babylonian tablets)
  - b. Used as tools to help humans understand and navigate their way through the world
  - c. Using the information contained, you can determine the fastest (and easiest) way between two locations
  - d. Also used to determine the geography (intro: topographic map)
    - i. Why is this important? (Alexander the Great, Hannibal)
- III. What are charts?
  - a. “Road Maps” for people traveling on the water
  - b. Nautical charts describe the maritime area
    - i. Water depths (soundings)
    - ii. Aids to navigation
    - iii. Surrounding land area
- IV. History of Charts
  - a. Jefferson ordered the first survey of the US coast in 1807
  - b. Created the Office of Coast Survey (OCS)
  - c. *Show a picture of an original chart* (NOAA link to historical chart search below in “Supplemental Resources”)
- V. Who uses charts and maps today? (ask students)
  - a. Ex. Shipping companies, architects, land surveyors, Amazon, YOU, etc.
  - b. How are they used?
  - c. *Show PBS video*

**Supplemental Resources:**

<http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/psu10sci.vid.geospatial.histgis/geospatial-revolution-history-of-gis/>

<http://historicalcharts.noaa.gov/historicals/search>

**Exercises/Activities:**

Have students break up into groups and describe how they have personally used a map or chart. Have 1 person from each group share.

