

Make a Native American Map

Native Americans provided a lot of help to the Corps of Discovery as they made their way through unfamiliar territory. One way that Native Americans helped the expedition was by providing maps.

Lewis and Clark were very impressed by the Native American maps they saw. They were very accurate, but very different from European maps. They often showed distance in days and marked places by events (like battles) or people (tribal villages). Many times these maps were drawn in the dirt or sand and Clark copied them down in his journals. These maps were very complex, and the Native Americans drew them from memory. Can you do that?



Make your own Native American map! Without looking at another map, draw an outline of the United States and put in major rivers and mountain ranges. You can also try it with your state or neighborhood. It's not as easy as it sounds. For added fun, try tracing it in the dirt, using rocks for mountains and hills and digging holes for big lakes. What other items from nature can you use to represent things?