

Changing World Views

Compare what ancient and current maps show about places and power.

SS.6.G.6.2 "Compare maps of the world in ancient times with current political maps."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, underline two details about political borders or control, and circle two physical features that could appear on both ancient and current maps.

What Maps Reveal

- ① Maps are snapshots of what mapmakers knew and what they wanted to show. An ancient Greek map might place the Mediterranean Sea near the center because Greek traders traveled there. It could show Europe, Asia, and Libya, the Greek name often used for Africa, as broad land areas. Its edges might include guesses, blank spaces, or stories about distant peoples. Ancient mapmakers usually did not use satellites, precise measurements, or the borders of modern countries. Therefore, an ancient world map may look familiar in some regions but incomplete or distorted in others.
- ② A current political map has a different purpose. It divides land into countries and uses boundary lines to show where one government's territory ends and another begins. For example, modern maps label Egypt, Greece, Turkey, and Italy as separate countries. They may also label capital cities, such as Cairo or Athens. Coastlines, rivers, and mountain ranges still appear because physical features last much longer than governments. Modern mapmakers use surveys, satellite images, and agreed-upon borders, so the shapes and locations of land are usually more accurate than on many ancient maps.
- ③ Comparing the two kinds of maps helps historians ask useful questions. If an ancient map shows a large empire but a current map shows several countries in the same area, political control has changed. If both maps show a river or sea in a similar location, that physical feature has remained. Differences do not always mean an ancient mapmaker was careless. The map may have been designed for travel, trade, or showing an empire's importance. To compare fairly, look at each map's labels, boundaries, physical features, and purpose before deciding what changed and what stayed the same.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How might the labels on an ancient Greek map differ from the labels on a current political map? Use examples from the passage.

2 Why could a coastline, river, or mountain range appear on both an ancient map and a current political map?

3 An ancient map shows one large empire in an area where a current map shows several countries. What has changed?

4 Why should you consider a map's purpose before deciding that an ancient map is inaccurate?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose the Mediterranean region. Write four sentences comparing an ancient Greek map of the region with a current political map. Include one political difference, one physical feature that may remain, and a purpose for each kind of map.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

As you read, underline two details about political borders or control, and circle two physical features that could appear on both ancient and current maps. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How might the labels on an ancient Greek map differ from the labels on a current political map? Use examples from the passage.	An ancient Greek map might label broad regions such as Europe, Asia, and Libya. A current political map labels separate countries, such as Egypt, Greece, Turkey, and Italy.
2	Why could a coastline, river, or mountain range appear on both an ancient map and a current political map?	These are physical features that usually last much longer than governments and political borders.
3	An ancient map shows one large empire in an area where a current map shows several countries. What has changed?	Political control has changed. The area is no longer controlled as one large empire and is divided into several countries.
4	Why should you consider a map's purpose before deciding that an ancient map is inaccurate?	An ancient map may have been made for travel, trade, or to show an empire's importance. Its purpose could explain why it emphasizes some information or has less precise shapes and locations.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would compare an ancient Greek map of the Mediterranean with a current political map of the same region. The ancient map might label broad regions such as Europe, Asia, and Libya, while the current map labels countries such as Greece, Egypt, Turkey, and Italy. The Mediterranean Sea would likely appear on both maps because it is a physical feature. The older map may support travel or trade, while the current map shows political boundaries and countries.

Accept equivalent examples and explanations that distinguish broad ancient regions or empires from modern countries and borders. For the open response, check for all four required sentences and accurate comparison of political and physical features.