

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

Use the two maps supplied by your teacher: a sourced reconstruction or reproduction of an ancient Greek world map and a current political world map, both with readable Mediterranean detail. Record each title, source and represented date on separate paper. Actually examine both. Write four sentences naming one observed political-label or boundary difference, one shared physical feature and a supported purpose for each map. Cite visible labels or symbols; identify inferred purposes as inferences.

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)

Four-sentence response structure (complete from the supplied maps): Map A shows [observed political label/boundary], while Map B shows [different observed label/boundary]. Both show [named physical feature], visible at [location clue]. Map A's [visible detail or source note] suggests its purpose is [purpose]. Map B's [visible detail or source note] suggests its purpose is [purpose].

Before teaching, obtain and display a sourced reproduction or reconstruction of an ancient Greek world map from an atlas, museum or library, plus a current political world map; enlarge the Mediterranean labels. Identify any reconstruction as later reconstruction and distinguish maker/publication date from represented period. Require actual comparison anchored to visible details and both map identities. Check the four sentences against the supplied pair; generic might/would claims from the passage are not enough. The model is an evidence structure, not invented observations. Accept reasonable purpose inferences labeled as such.