Exploration Annotated Maps

How to annotate a map to show European exploration using Google Maps:

1. Go to **maps.google.com** and sign in using the account assigned to your group

2. Click on **My Places** in the top left panel.

3. Click **Create Map**. Type in a **title** for your map and a brief **description** of the topic and time period, then select the **Unlisted** option. Before saving zoom out on the map and center it so that the areas you need are on shown on the screen.

4. Add map features: Follow instructions on this and the next page.

* Picture of the explorers at the origin country.
* Names of locations traveled to with icons at each stop.
* A line to show the full route traveled with different colors representing the different explorers.
* Arrows representing direction traveled.
* Images to show positive and negative aspect of exploration with an explanation for each aspect.

 To add a placemark to your map: (Origin Country, stops along the way, and destination)

1. [Create](http://support.google.com/maps/bin/answer.py?answer=62843) or open a map and click **Edit** to enter editing mode.
2. Click the blue placemark icon . Your cursor changes into the icon with "X" crosshairs. The crosshairs indicate where the placemark will fall.
 
3. Move the cursor to the appropriate location. If you want to dismiss this placemark, press the Escape key.
4. Click to place your placemark. It should bounce into place.
5. Add a title and description.
6. You can change the icon for your placemark by clicking the icon in the top right corner of the info window. You can also add your own icon.
7. Click **OK** to save when you are finished.

To add a line to your map: (Routes traveled, lines must connect to icons)

1. [Create](http://support.google.com/maps/bin/answer.py?answer=62843) or open a map and click **Edit** to enter editing mode.
2. Click the line icon  and select 'Draw a line' from the drop-down menu. Your cursor appears as "X" crosshairs:

3. Move the cursor to the appropriate location and click to start the line. If you want to dismiss this line, press the Escape key.
4. Click at each point of your line.
5. To finish drawing your line, double click the last end point.
6. Add a title and description.
7. You can change the color by clicking the color swatch in the top right corner of the info window.
8. Click **OK** to save when you are finished.

To add images to your map: (Explorers and images for positive and negative aspects of exploration)

1. Find an image you would like to use in Google images. Open the image and right click on it. Select copy image URL.
2. Click the blue placemark icon . Then click the icon again in the small box that opens. Select add an icon. A pop up screen will appear. Delete what is in the box and paste the image URL there.

To add a shape to your map: (Arrows to show direction traveled)

1. [Create](http://support.google.com/maps/bin/answer.py?answer=62843) or open a map and click **Edit** to enter editing mode.
2. Click the line icon  and select 'Draw a shape' from the drop-down menu. Your cursor appears as "X" crosshairs:

3. Move the cursor to the appropriate location and click to start the shape. If you want to dismiss this shape, press the Escape key.
4. Click at each end point of your shape.
5. To finish drawing your shape, double click the last end point or click on the starting point to complete the shape.
6. Add a title and description.
7. You can also change the color and opacity of your shape by clicking the color swatch in the top right corner of the info window.
8. Click **OK** to save when you are finished.

Sorting items in your map

Once you have added items such as placemarks or lines to your map, you can change the order in which they appear in the left panel. To do this, click and drag any item to the appropriate place in the list at the bottom of the left panel. Learn about how to edit map features once they have been created.