

Using Primary Documents: Analyzing North Carolina Maps

A Worksheet Prepared for Use with *North Carolina Maps*: <http://www.lib.unc.edu/dc/ncmaps/>

Historical Question:

Name: _____

1. Quickly examine your map and see what jumps out at you first. Answer the following questions in a paragraph.

- What specific information, details and/or perspectives does the map provide?
- What is the subject and/or purpose of the map?
- Who was the audience of the map?

2. The map may use words or phrases that we don't use today. Think of the context of the map. Answer the following in a paragraph.

- When and where was the map produced?
- Why was the map produced?
- What was happening within the immediate and broader context at the time the map was produced?
- What information from Question 1 can place the map in time and place?

3. Take time to think about the map. What larger ideas is it telling you? For example, are there towns or features that stand out? Why? Answer the following in a paragraph.

- What is suggested by the map?
- What interpretations may be drawn from the map?
- What perspectives or points of view are indicated in the map?
- What inferences may be drawn from absences or omissions in the map?

4. We are trying to answer a historical question. Thus, more information may be needed. Look at the map. Answer the following in a paragraph.

- What additional evidence beyond the maps is necessary to answer the historical question?
- What ideas, images, or terms need further defining from the maps?
- How useful or significant is the map for its intended purpose in answering the historical question?
- What questions from the previous stages need to be revisited in order to analyze the map satisfactorily?

5. Now, let's compare what you've learned with your textbook. Look back at what you've learned from this year. Answer the following questions. This is your concluding paragraph.

- What similarities and differences between the sources exist?
- What factors could account for these similarities and differences?
- What conclusions can be drawn from the accumulated interpretations?
- What additional information or sources are necessary to answer more fully the guiding historical question?