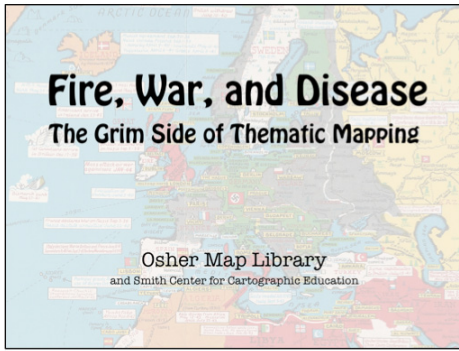


GRIM SIDE OF THEMATIC MAPPING

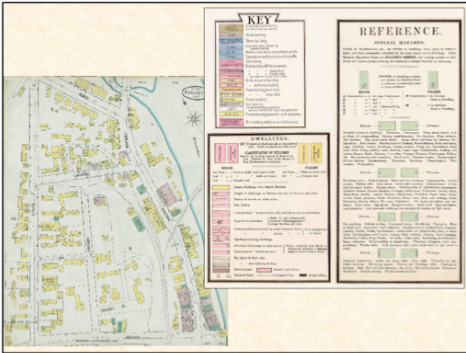
PRESENTATION SCRIPT



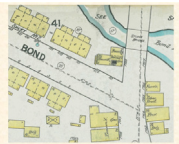
Introduction

A thematic map is a map built around a theme. If you've ever used a map showing population density or wealth per capita, you were looking at a thematic map. The earliest thematic maps, however, were often very grim in nature.

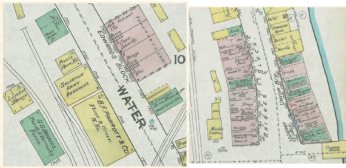
Item One



Today, we have electric heaters, lights, and stoves, but in the days of wood burning ovens and kerosene lamps and open-flame gas lighting, daily life was one constant fire hazard. The Sanborn Map Company made atlases specifically for fire insurance companies to help them analyze the risk of fire for every insurable property. This Sanborn map shows part of Augusta in 1889. As you can see from the key, a yellow building indicates that it is made of wood, a red building indicates it is brick, and a green building indicates that it is a "special hazard." Places like paper mills, stores selling fireworks, and businesses varnishing furniture would be charged significantly more money than a private dwelling or grocery store.



Let's pretend we are part of a fire insurance company, and we need to decide what to charge the properties we insure. What property would be the safest property to insure? What property would you charge the most?

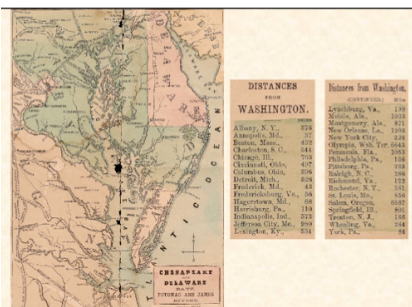


Let's do the same with these buildings. What property would be the safest property to insure? What property would you charge the most?

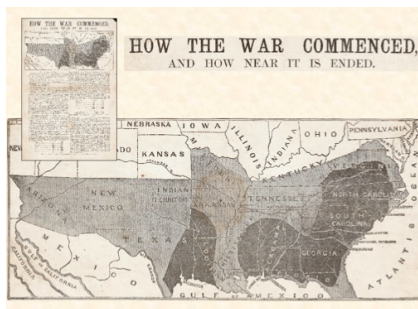
Item Two



Today, we get news about wars on the TV or internet. During World War II, the public would have stayed updated on the war through the radio or picture shows. But in the 1800s, people relied on newspapers, pamphlets, maps, and other print publications to stay informed. This map was made, as its title claims, "Expressly to Meet a Public Want During the Present War." Examine this map. What war is this depicting?



One aspect of the war that this map highlights is the distance between important cities and places. For example, find Washington D.C. and Richmond, Virginia on this map of the Chesapeake Bay. You can see from the table of distances that the two capitals are only 122 miles away! That's only a two hour drive these days! A lot of times we think of the Civil War taking place far from the Union, but the actual bloodshed came dangerously close to our capital. Fredericksburg, the site of a major battle, is only 56 miles away – that's how far away Augusta is from Portland!

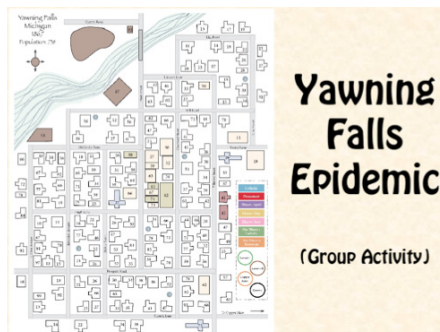
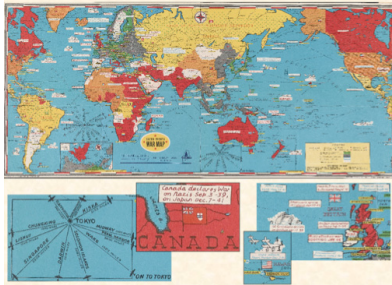


Item Three

It was during the Civil War that newspapers and publishing houses started printing affordable maps of battle sites and other military places of interest, sometimes as special issues and sometimes as part of the daily paper. This map was published by the Astor Publishing house, and would have been cheap to make and cheap to buy so the average consumer could afford it. Before this, published maps were typically expensive.

Item Four

This map was published during WWII. It shows important dates for the war effort, such as when Pearl Harbor was attacked and when Britain declares War on Germany. It gives us an interesting perspective on how the general public thought of the war and its participants while it was still going on. For example, there is something significant about this distance chart to Tokyo. What exactly is this chart showing? (Answer: It's showing the distances we would need to fly to bomb Tokyo from our different air bases). Another interesting thing about this map is that it shows important dates for countries whose involvement we don't often hear about in America. For example, Canada declared War on the Nazis on 9.3.39 and on Japan on 12.7.41. Why did Canada choose those specific days? Other notations on the map explain way. (Answer: the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor on Dec 7th, 1941 and Britain declares War on the Nazis on Sep 3rd, 1939).



Activity Transition

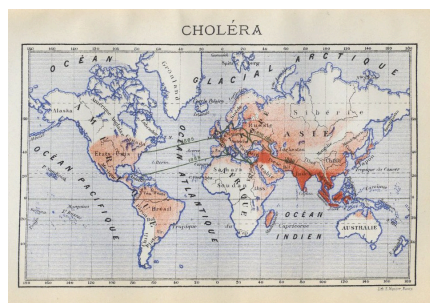
The last kind of grim thematic map we'll look at is disease maps. But first, we're going to experiment with making our own.



Item Five

John Snow was a doctor who solved the mystery of how Cholera is spread. There were a series of deadly cholera epidemics in London during the middle 1800s, but no one knew how it was being spread. John Snow figured out by mapping where the cholera victims lived that it was being spread by a contaminated water pump, known as the Broad Street pump. By mapping the sewers and cess pits (outhouse holes, essentially), he discovered that raw sewage was getting into the ground water in the area, which is how cholera is spread.

Quoted: John Snow, Communication of Cholera, 1855, p. 42
Map: John Snow, 1855 (Courtesy Wikipedia Commons)



Item Six

<http://pds.lib.harvard.edu/pds/view/6346212?n=287&printThumbnails=no>
This maps shows the prevalence of Cholera worldwide. Can you figure out where it originated from this map? (India and the Middle East and South Asia)