
Exploration: Mapping the world - Ortelius

In this activity sheet students will:

- see maps from the first world atlas
- explore the history of the first real atlas and the historical context of its production
- describe the features of its maps and compare and contrast them with a contemporary map
- gain a sense of the changing world view and consider the importance of maintaining historical texts
- explore a range of maps including a satellite map
- rescale a world map.

Answers to Question Time 1

1. It was the first atlas that brought together many maps of the known world, to give a picture of the earth as a whole.
2. Europe, North and South America, Middle East and Asia, South East Asia.
3. India, China, Japan, Indonesia.
4. *Terra Australis Incognita* or Australia.
5. Europe, because it was familiar to cartographers at the time.
6. Australia, as well as much of North and South America and the Pacific Islands.
7. These places had not been fully explored by Europeans. The maps available had been developed in relation to economic interests.
8. Detailed geographical illustrations such as mountains and forests. The maps are also decorated with animals, monsters and ships.
9. From studying Ortelius' maps we can learn more about geographical knowledge in the 16th century.

Answers to Activity 2 - Finding Ortelius

1. Antwerp.
2. Antwerp is a major city in Belgium.

Sources consulted

Binding, Paul, 2003 *Imagined Corners: Exploring the World's First Atlas*, Review, London.

Koks, Franz, *Abraham Ortelius: Theatrum Orbus Terrarum*, The Library of Congress.
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/gnrlort.html>

Notes to *Maps from the Theatrum Orbus Terrarum of Abraham Ortelius (1584)*, The Newberry Library, Chicago, 2007.
<http://www.newberry.org/smith/slidesets/ss02.html>

Image credit

Map of the world from:
<http://www.webweaver.nu/>

