Mapping Your World Using Google My Maps

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Google My Maps is an easy to use program that allows you to create customized maps showing where you or your ancestors lived. You can create a map to chart a research trip or family migration. You can annotate your map with icons, photos, and notes. Families can collaborate in completing a map and you can share completed maps with others.

Example maps you can create

- Migration map
- Land ownership map
- Road Trip map
- Virtual tour map
- Research analysis map
- Event map – battles, disasters
- Lifetime map
- Membership map

Why should you use Google My Maps?

- Totally Free
- Up to 10,000 lines, places, shapes
- Up to 10 layers
- Portable
- EASY
- Aids in understand where to look for records
- Helps analyze data
- Can import locations from a spreadsheet

Google My Maps

You must have a Google account. Your maps will be automatically saved in Google Drive and available on your phone, tablet or another computer. If you have a gmail account, then you have a Google account.

Getting to My Maps

1st Method – Go to Google.com/mymaps. Be sure you are signed in to your account.

Choose Create A New Map.

2nd Method – Go to Google.com and click on the nine Google Apps dots

From the dropdown menu choose Maps.
Click the stacked three line icon on the left side of the screen and choose – Your places.
Choose Create Map.

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Name and describe your map
Click on Untitled map and change the name of your map and add a description.

Layers
Google My Maps allows up to 10 layers.
Layers can be turned on and off.
Layers can be named and renamed.
Layers can be deleted.

Examples of layers
Create a layer for each genealogy research trip.
Create a layer for each member of a family or for different families.
Create a layer for various types of pins – churches, cemeteries, houses.
Create a layer for each day of a research trip.

Click on the title Untitled layer to bring up a window to rename the layer and provide a description.

Click on Individual styles under the label.
Click on Name to display titles of all objects on your map.
Click on No labels to hide labels.

Creating your map
Enter your first location.
You can search for the name of a location or enter the address.
You can click on the balloon – Add Marker – and click on the map to place a marker.
Be sure to click on save marker.

Edit your markers
Click on the marker.
Use the paint can to personalize the icon picture and color of the marker.
Use the pencil to edit the title of the marker and add a description.
Use the camera to add photos or YouTube videos
Use the arrow to add driving directions.
More editing

Click on the ruler to measure the distance between markers by clicking on the first marker and then subsequent points or markers.

Click on the draw a line icon to draw lines or polygons which can be customized just like markers.

Double click to end a line or polygon.

Click on the polygon to edit the name and description and find the area enclosed by the polygon.

View data table

Each layer has a data table attached that can be viewed by clicking on the three dots next to the title of the layer.

If you have imported a spreadsheet with multiple columns they will show up in the data table.

Base Map

There are nine options for background base maps.

Importing Spreadsheet Data

Create a spreadsheet with at least a column for title and address. Other columns may be included such as an information column or GPS column.

Add a layer or use a blank layer.
Click on Import.
Choose the spreadsheet or CSV file to be imported.
Select the column with addresses.
Select the column with labels.

Sharing your map
By default, My Maps are only viewable by the owner.
My Maps can be shared like any other document in Google Drive.
To share the base map and selected layers:
   Click on Share in the panel on the left.
   At who has access click on change
      On – Public on the web – anyone on the internet can find and access without a sign-in.
      On – Anyone with the link – no sign-in required
      Off – Only shared with specific people
   At Sharing Setting enter the email addresses of people you want to invite to share.
   Copy and share the link by email, Facebook or Twitter.
   Click on Learn more to learn about further privacy settings.

Printing
Print from the three vertical dots next to the name of your map.

Embed on your site
Your map must be public.
Copy the HTML code and paste it in the source code for your page.

Viewing your map on your iPad, tablet, or phone.
Your My Map is saved on Google Drive.

Mobil My Maps

Iphone/iPad
App: Google Maps
Click on the three horizontal lines on the left.
Choose Your places.
Scroll to the right to find Maps.

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Choose your map from the dropdown menu.

**Android Phones or tablets**

Use Google My Maps to create maps on your phone or tablet just like you can on a computer.
You can view a map on both My Maps and Maps.
Click on the three horizontal lines on the left.
Choose Your places.
Scroll to the right to find Maps.
Choose your map from the dropdown menu.

**Conclusion**

Congratulations! You now know how to:

Make a map using Google My Maps.
Create placemarks and add pictures and descriptions.
Use layers.
Draw lines and polygons on your map.
Import point data from spreadsheets.
Modify and edit your data tables.
Style your points, change icons and add labels.
Change the default basemap for your map.
Share and embed your maps on your website.
Print your maps.

The only way to learn to use Google My Maps is to practice.