

## UNFOLDING MAPS, UNFOLDING NARRATIVES

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**SUMMARY:** Explore the maps of Israel we encounter daily: in news stories, social media posts, textbooks, classrooms, etc. Every map tells a story and reflects a perspective. Through analyzing maps, we'll uncover their hidden meanings, sparking curiosity and helping us better understand diverse viewpoints.

### GOALS:

1. **Develop Critical Thinking Skills:** Campers will learn to analyze maps beyond their surface appearance and recognize the diverse perspectives and narratives embedded within them. They will gain the ability to critically evaluate maps, understanding how they can convey different stories and viewpoints.
2. **Promote Appreciation for Diversity:** This session aims to foster a profound appreciation for the richness of perspectives present in everyday maps. Campers will develop a heightened awareness of the various cultural, social, and historical contexts that shape maps, leading to a greater appreciation for diversity and complexity in their surroundings.
3. **Enhance Navigation of Conflicting Narratives:** By learning to navigate conflicting narratives present in maps, participants will develop strategies for understanding and reconciling different viewpoints. They will be able to engage constructively with diverse perspectives in various contexts.

**AUDIENCE:** Entering 6th through 12th grade

**TIMING:** 75 minutes

### MATERIALS:

1. Gallery of maps (see appendix)
2. Optionally, add additional maps from recent news articles or social media
3. Painters tape to put the posters up around the space

**SET-UP:** Due to the critical analyses and conversations taking place, a quiet area where the group is able to focus and hear each person sharing their perspectives is best. An indoor space with walls to hold the maps around the circumference works well. It can be adapted to an outdoor space more easily with a smaller group.

## SESSION TIMELINE

- 00:00-00:05 - Welcome and Introduction: Session leader introduces the theme: "Every map tells a story."
- 00:05-00:10 - Opening Activity: Camp Mapping. Campers draw maps of camp individually or in pairs.
- 00:10-00:15 - Sharing and Observation: Campers briefly share their maps and observe others' creations.
- 00:15-00:20 - Summary and Discussion: Session leader summarizes key points from the mapping activity, discussing elements represented on the maps.
- 00:20-00:25 - Gallery Exploration: Campers explore the gallery of maps, standing near ones that resonate with them.
- 00:25-01:05 - Gallery Discussion: Session leader guides campers through each map, prompting reflection and deeper exploration.
- 01:05-01:10 - Final Reflection: Campers share insights gained from the session and thoughts on map choices.
- 01:10-01:15 - Optional Follow-up: Campers consider what should be on a map of Israel displayed at camp.

## SESSION OUTLINE

- 00:00-00:05 - Session leader welcomes campers and introduces the session's theme: "Every map tells a story."
- 00:05-00:10 - Opening Activity: Mapping our camp. Session leader asks campers to take just a few minutes (no more than 5) to "draw a map of camp." They may ask clarifying questions, but encourage them to interpret it as they wish. Campers may work individually or in pairs to create a map of camp
- 00:10-00:15 - Campers briefly share their maps and observe others, noting similarities and differences.
- 00:15-00:20 - Session leader summarizes key points from the mapping activity, emphasizing the subjective nature of maps and different perspectives.
  - Which parts of camp does each map represent? The main paths? The main buildings and structures?
  - How is the map oriented? Is their unit in the center of the map? If not, what is?
  - What's the perspective? Some campers may draw an aerial overview while others may draw a more photographic, local perspective.
  - Which elements represent the personal experience of the camper(s) who drew the map? (for example, did they include the waterfront kayaks because that's their favorite thing at camp?)
- 00:20-00:25 - Session leader offers the prompt to "take 5 minutes to explore the gallery around the room. Stand near a map that resonates with you. Perhaps it's a map that you like, a map that confuses you, or a map that challenges you." Session leader will know everyone is ready when the campers are standing near a map.
- 00:25-01:05 - Over the next 40 minutes, Session leader moves through the gallery. The campers can gather around each map to take a closer look. Below are some prompts to ask the campers. Encourage deeper reflection.
  - Who selected this map and why did you choose it?
  - What's "on the map"? (Ask guiding questions like "Which cities and locations are present on the map? What colors were used to represent each area, and what does that indicate to you? etc.)

# CORNERSTONE RESOURCE



- o Considering this, what is the story you think this map is sharing?
- o Who do you think the target audience is for this map?
- By spending 4 to 5 minutes on each map, it allows for multiple voices to be heard. As you move through the gallery, the Session leader can compare and contrast the maps, pointing out the different stories each is sharing, and the “dialogue” the maps may have with each other.
- 01:05-01:10 - Session leader facilitates a final reflection session, prompting campers to share insights gained from the session and thoughts on map choices.
- 01:10-01:15 - Optional follow-up question would be to ask campers to decide what should be on a map of Israel displayed at camp.

## BRINGING IT TO YOUR CAMP

If your camp has *shlichim* or staff who lived in Israel, this is a great way to incorporate their experience and stories. So that the campers have enough time to share their insights, encourage a few staff members to share their relationship with one of the maps. For example, a topographic map of Israel is an opportunity for one staff member to talk about their experiences hiking the *Shvil Yisrael*, the Israel National Trail.