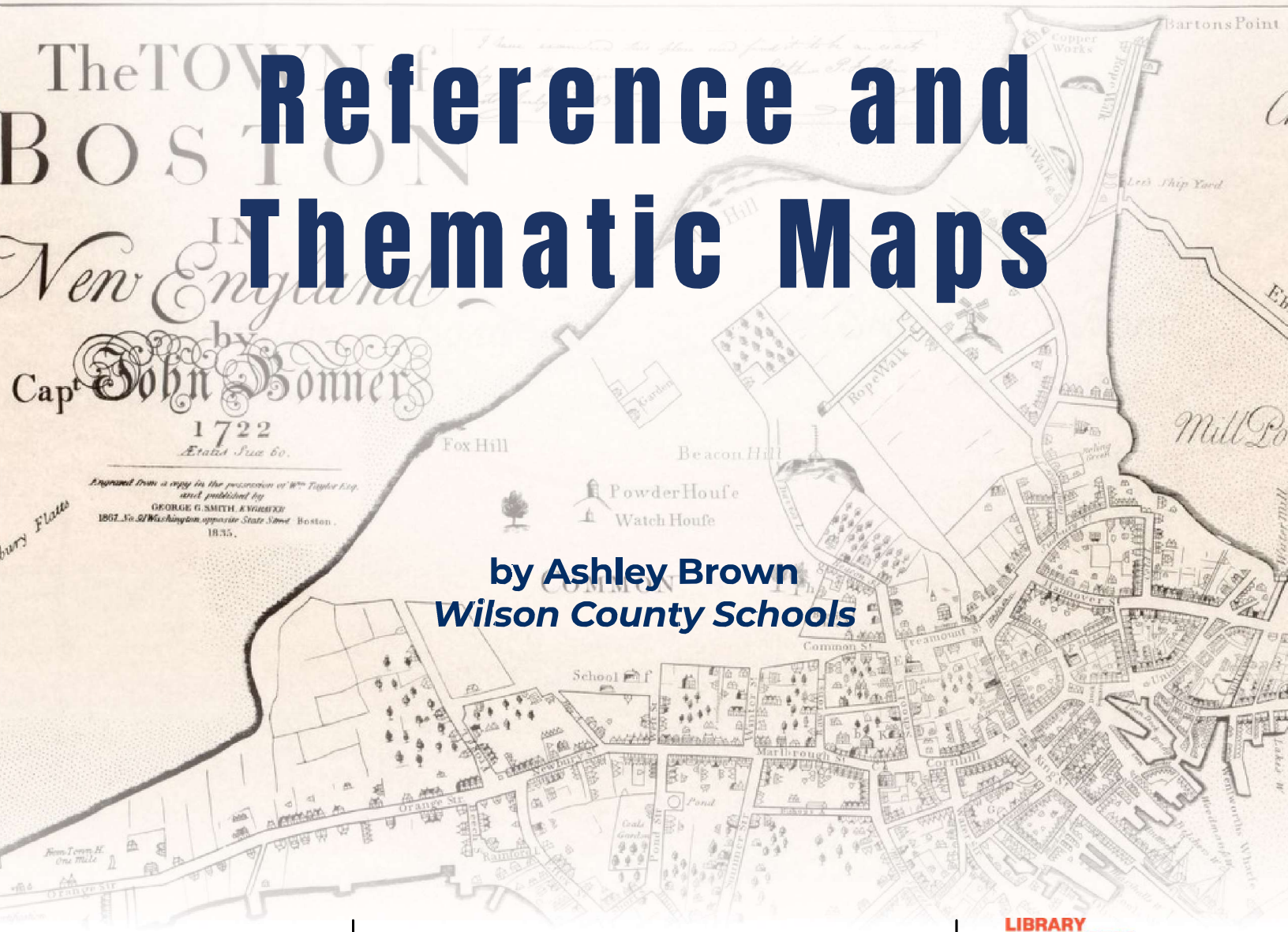
TN Standard 5.37 Social Studies

Mapping Student Possibilities: Navigating Primary Resources

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Reference and Thematic Maps

by Ashley Brown
Wilson County Schools

This is an Open Educational Resource (OER) designed to provide inquiry-based lessons aligned with Tennessee 5th grade Social Studies Standards. This project bridges the gap between the new state standards and actual classroom implementation. Each lesson will help students transition from passive readers to active geographers, fostering the critical thinking and civic literacy essential for the next generation of Tennesseans. The Tennessee Geographic Alliance, Tennessee Council for the Social Studies, and Wilson County Schools Social Studies Department were instrumental to the process.

TGA

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Reference and Thematic Maps	
Grade Level:	5th
Duration Time:	60 minutes (two 30-minute lessons)

Brief Lesson Overview
Students will recall information from Standard 5.34 regarding maps. They will learn the definition of reference maps and thematic maps by analyzing one of each type with a partner as well as by observing clues to assist them in differentiating between the types.

Standard:List the full standard including standard number
5.37 Use different types of reference and thematic maps (e.g., political, physical, population, resource, climate), graphs, and charts to interpret geographic information.
Success Criteria: I will know I am successful when I can...
• Define *reference map* and *thematic map* • Differentiate between examples of both types of maps

Assessment : Formative and Summative
Day 1 Formative: Completion of the Venn Diagram comparing two maps of Boston: one from 1772 and one from present day. Students should include specific details about each map. **Day 2** Summative: Completion of "Map Detectives." Each student is responsible for identifying 5 maps based on clues they see on each. Their paper must have the map type and a justification to prove their answer is correct. *Example: This is a thematic map because on the map there is shading of colors to depict population in the country.*

Resource Materials:
Day 1: • 1772 Boston Map (LOC) • Boston Present Day (Britannica)

Day 2:

- Maps posted around the room
    - Thematic map examples: maps 1-3
    - Reference map examples: maps 4-6

Other Materials:

Day 1 pdf files:
1772 Boston Map (LOC)
Boston Present Day (Britannica)

Day 2:
Paper, pencil
Maps to post around the room/give to groups (Map Detectives!)

Cognitive Interest Cue: 8-10 minutes

Day 1
Retrieval Relay: Get into groups of 2-3. Each person needs a Retrieval Relay handout (½ sheet). There will be 3 rounds of retrieving information. Only new information can be written: no repeats! You'll have about 45 seconds to jot your thoughts.

Round 1: In box one, you will list one way we can effectively communicate geographic information. (*possible answers: map, graph/diagram, aerial photo,* or *GPS)*
Round 2: In box 2, write a real-life situation that uses that way of communicating. (*possible answer: map - going for a hike)*
Round 3: In box 3, write a real-life situation that uses that way of communicating. (*possible answer: map - tourists exploring a new city)*

Day 2:
Define *reference map* and *thematic map* on a post-it.

Instruction: 20 minutes each day

Day 1:

- Differentiate between *reference map* and *thematic map.*
    - Reference: used to locate features (finding *where* things are)
    - Thematic: used to display specific data or topics like climate, population, or resources (showing *what* is happening there)
- Let's look at our lesson from Standard 5.34: Are any of these Reference Maps? Could one of them be a Thematic Map?
    - Maps, Aerial Photographs, GPS, Graphs/Diagrams
    - *Answer: reference map - Maps; thematic map - Graphs/Diagrams*
- With a partner, analyze the two maps: 1772 Boston Map & Boston Present Day.

- Complete a Venn Diagram based on your observations.
- Exit Ticket: What is the difference between a reference map and a thematic map? Which did you analyze today? Justify your answer with evidence from the map.

Day 2:

- With a small group (3-4 students), complete the activity: Map Detectives!
- The group will go to each map posted around the room and identify it as a *reference map* or a *thematic map*.
- Responses must include which type of map it is as well as a justification based on clues observed on the maps that prove which type it is..
- Be sure responses are complete sentences.
- Good luck solving the map mystery, Map Detectives!

Suggested Scaffolds

Recall & Identification

- If you wanted to find out which regions of the United States get the most rainfall each year, which type of map would you look at: a reference map or a thematic map?

Application & Comprehension

- Look at a resource map of the United States. Identify two areas that produce coal, agricultural crops, or timber. How does the map key/legend help you find this information?
- You are looking at a population density map and a physical map side by side. Notice where the largest cities (highest population) are located. Are they mostly located near physical features like major rivers/coasts or high mountain peaks?

Strategic Thinking & Analysis

- Imagine a company wants to open a new outdoor snow-skiing resort. Which two types of maps (e.g., *physical, climate, political, population, resource*) should they layer together to make their decision? Explain how combining these maps helps them pick the best location.
- Examine a climate map and a population map of a region. What pattern do you notice between areas with extreme climates (e.g., hot deserts or freezing tundra) and their population sizes? Draw a conclusion based on the geographic data.

Extension or Cross-Curricular Opportunities

Science: Read this informational article about Mapping Oceans (LOC) and discuss weather patterns and Scientific inventions that helped these discoveries be possible.
ELA: Write an informational essay on how maps can assist people other than for directions from one place to another.