

Creating the Biased Image of the American Indian

A Lesson Plan Prepared for Use with *North Carolina Maps*:

<http://www.lib.unc.edu/dc/ncmaps/>

Maps with Native American Drawings

(http://www.lib.unc.edu/dc/ncmaps/browse_date.html)

- *Americae pars, Nunc Virginia* (1590) <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/u/?ncmaps,117>
- *Virginiae item et Floridae Americae Provinciarum, nova descriptio* (1636) <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/u/?ncmaps,707>
- *Virginia partis australis, et Floridae partis orientalis, interjacentiumque regionum Nova Descriptio* (1640) <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/u/?ncmaps,1106>
- *Virginiae partis australis et Floridae partis orientalis interjacentiumq[ue] regionum nova descriptio* (ca. 1644-1658) <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/u/?ncmaps,349>
- *A new discription of Carolina by the order of the Lords Proprietors* (ca. 1671) <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/u/?ncmaps,498>
- *Insulae Americanae in oceano septentrionali cum terris adiacentibus* (1671) <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/u/?ncmaps,55>
- *Pas Kaart Van de Kust von Carolina* (1690) <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/u/?ncmaps,1100>
- *Virginia, Marylandia et Carolina: in America septentrionali Britannorum industria excultae* (ca. 1700) <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/u/?ncmaps,56>
- *[Part of North America]* (1709) <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/u/?ncmaps,112>
- *Partie meridionale de la Virginie et la partie orientale de la Floride dans l'Amerique Septentrionale suivant les memoires les plus exacts de ceux qui les ont decouvertes de nouveau mises en lumiere* (1729) <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/u/?ncmaps,36>
- *An accurate map of the West Indies: drawn from the best authorities, assisted by the most approved modern maps and charts, and regulated by astronomical observations* (ca.1750) <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/u/?ncmaps,991>
- *A Map of the British American Plantations extending from Boston in New England to Georgia, including all the back Settlements in the respective Provinces, as far as the Mississippi.* (1754) <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/u/?ncmaps,1115>
- *An accurate map of North America: describing and distinguishing the British, Spanish, and French dominions on this great continent, exhibiting the present seat of war, and the French encroachments, also all the West India Islands belonging to, and possessed by the several European princes and states, the whole laid down according to the latest and most authentick improvements* (1755) <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/u/?ncmaps,146>
- *Amerique Septentrionale* (1756) <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/u/?ncmaps,1224>
- *Amplissimae regionis Mississippi seu provinciae Ludoviciana a R.P. Ludovico Hennepin Fransisc [sic] miss in America Septentrionali anno 1687, detectae, nunc gallorum coloniis et actionum negotiis toto orbe celeberrimæ, nova tabula* (1759) <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/u/?ncmaps,625>
- *A Compleat map of North-Carolina from an actual survey* (1770) <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/u/?ncmaps,467>

- Partie méridionale des possessions Anglaise en Amérique: pour servir d'intelligence à la guerre présente entre les Anglois et leurs colonies dressée sur les meilleurs cartes du pays traduite de l'Anglois (1778) <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/u/?ncmaps,674>
- Amérique septentrionale dressée sur les relations les plus modernes: des voyageurs et navigateurs ou se remarquent les États Unis (1783) <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/u/?ncmaps,137>

Sources from *Documenting the American South*

- Thomas Hariot, 1560-1621, John White, fl. 1585-1593, illustrated by, and Richard Hakluyt, 1552?-1616, translated by
“A Briefe and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia”
<http://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/hariot/hariot.html>
- John Lawson, 1674-1711
“A New Voyage to Carolina”
<http://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/lawson/lawson.html>
- William Bartram, 1739-1823
“Travels Through North & South Carolina, Georgia, East & West Florida”
<http://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/bartram/bartram.html>

Questions to be answered in paragraph form:

1. According to the drawings that you have used in your collage, what did Colonial-era Europeans believe that Native Americans looked like? What did they do for occupations? Were they light skinned? Dark? What did they wear? Include as much detail as possible.
2. Write a summary of the descriptions you have read from *Documenting the American South*. What are the authors' impressions of the American Indians? How do they describe them? Quote directly in places to strengthen your summary.
3. The definition of *bias* is “an adverse opinion or leaning formed without just grounds or before sufficient knowledge” (Merriam Webster). What *bias* do you see in the descriptions and drawings that you have found? Where may this bias have come from? (Think critically!) Do the Native Americans speak the same language as the writers? What do the Colonialists value as opposed to the Native Americans? How do you think the writers/artists gather their knowledge? (Remember, many cartographers had never seen a Native American.)
4. Which biases about Native Americans from these times carried through to today's way of thinking? What can we do to correct these biases? What should we do to avoid bias in the future when it comes to judging anything? Be specific!
5. Cite all of your sources! Go to this site to learn how to cite a DocSouth page:
<http://docsouth.unc.edu/support/citing/>

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