

Mapping Exercise for Ancient Lives lab section

Instructor: Jeff Blossom | jblossom@cga.harvard.edu | Center for Geographic Analysis | <http://gis.harvard.edu> March 11, 2015

Objective: To gain experience searching for, using, and creating geographic data for Mesopotamia using WorldMap.

1. Search WorldMap for Mesopotamia maps and layers.

- a. Go to <http://worldmap.harvard.edu>
- b. Click View a Map.
- c. Type in Mesopotamia and click Search
- d. Click on the Mesopotamia and Fertile Crescent map, and explore it.

2. Create your own map, and add some layers to it.

- a. Click on the WorldMap logo.  WorldMap
- b. Click Sign in, and sign in with your Username and Password.
- c. Click Create a Map
- d. Click Add Layers, and choose "External Data" and click "Add another server" For the URL, enter: <http://warp.worldmap.harvard.edu/maps/wms/4212> and click Add Server
- e. Choose the "ancient Egypt Mesopotamia map 1400 BC" and click Add Layers.
- f. Adjust the transparency of this layer by right clicking it and choosing Layer Properties and Display.
- g. Another map of Mesopotamia was found [here](#), from the David Rumsey map collection. Add this to WorldMap using Add Layers > External Data > Add another server, and for the URL use: <http://warp.worldmap.harvard.edu/maps/wms/4225> and add the Mesopotamia1827 map.

3. Map your own data.

Now everyone will create a layer, and digitize information from the historic maps into their layer. Later we'll add each other's layers to one map. Let's start with the civilization polygons from the historic maps.

- a. Click Add Layers > Create Layer.
 - If you are collecting civilization boundaries**, Name the layer "MesopotamiaPracticePolygon<your name>" Choose "Polygons (Shapes)" as the Data Type
 - If you are collecting rivers**, Name the layer "MesopotamiaPracticeLines<your name>" Choose "Lines" as the Data Type
- b. Leave the Projection as is, and for Abstract, enter "Civilization mapping practice for Ancient Lives class, lab section xx" For keywords just enter Mesopotamia, practice, and civilizations.
- c. Check the box next to "I agree..."
- d. Leave the permissions set to "Anyone" and click Create
- e. For "Upload Layer, Step 2...", scroll down to the bottom, check "Boundaries" or "Rivers" (based on what you are digitizing) as the category, and click the green "Update" button . The layer will be added to your map.

- f. To digitize one of the civilization polygons into your map layer, first zoom to an extent that shows the feature to be digitized.
- g. Click your MesopotamiaPracticePolygon<your name> layer, so it is highlighted.
- h. Click Create Feature
- i. Draw a polygon/line by clicking successively to define the boundaries. Double click to finish the polygon/line.
- j. Enter a name and description for the polygon/line.
- k. Experiment with changing the transparency / opacity on the layer by Right clicking the layer > Layer Properties > Display
- l. Adjust the color of the Fill and Outline of the layer by right clicking the layer, choosing
- m. Styles > Edit. Click on the color style, and click Edit to change. Click Save, and close the Styles window.
- n. Create a Map with everyone's layers on it.
- o. Click Add Layers > WorldMap Data, and enter MesopotamiaPractice as the search term. The layers your classmates created should show up. Add these to the map. Adjust the map to the extent you want, and click Save. Give your map a Title, and Description (changing the "The Harvard World Map Project" default description). Click Save. This is now a saved map in WorldMap you can share with anyone by sending them the http:// URL from your browser.

Time permitting:

- Check out the corona satellite images from the 1960s of Mesopotamia by searching for "corona" in the WorldMap Layers.
- Embed a picture or video into one of your feature descriptions (click Help in the upper right, and go to step 4.7).
- Use Link to send a link of the exact map you made to someone, or view the code to embed the map in another website.
- Use Gazetteer to search and map different places.

More notes:

- There are loads of geographic data outside of WorldMap, in shapefile format. See the CGA's [data resources](#) page, or do a Google search for "Mesopotamia shapefiles" to see what's out there. A shapefile can be loaded into WorldMap as a layer.
- CGA teaches a 2 hour WorldMap workshop each spring and fall, see the schedule [here](#).
- The WorldMap and Map Warper users guide: http://worldmap.harvard.edu/static/docs/WorldMap_Help.pdf