Indianapolis in Maps: Now and Then

A guide for replicating a group project for history and geography classes.

Activity Created by:
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In Collaboration with:
Jennifer Johnson, Digital Initiatives Coordinator, IUPUI University Library, jennajoh@iupui.edu

This kit includes:

ACTIVITY OBJECTIVES FOR PRIMARY LEARNERS
AND REQUIRED SKILLS and TECHNOLOGY

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW
General Description of the activity

INSTRUCTOR’S GUIDE
Step-by-step guide on how to accomplish this activity and an answer key.

LEARNER MATERIALS
All materials to be handed out to learners

Indianapolis in Maps: Now and Then
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Description of Primary Learners: The language and technological skill requirements of this activity are geared towards older students (upper middle school to adult) but certainly this activity will work for upper elementary school learners with some modification to the language and complexity of tasks.

✓ Upper Elementary  ✓ Young Adults
✓ Middle Schools   ✓ Adult Learners
✓ High Schools

Subject/Topical Areas of Inquiry: Indianapolis history, urban history, geography, and map navigation.

✓ Science/Technology  ✓ Arts/Humanities
✓ Social Sciences     ✓ Local Community

Library Resources/Media Formats Used: An online collection of digitized Indianapolis Sanborn Fire Insurance maps of early Indianapolis created by IUPUI University Library in collaboration with the Indiana State Library and an online map of present-day Indianapolis provided by Downtown Indianapolis Inc.

✓ Collections
✓ Databases
✓ Web Sites

Previously Acquired Skills: These are the skills that are required for this activity. These skills will be built upon but will not be taught during this session.

✓ Basic map navigation
✓ Basic web navigation
✓ Basic computer knowledge

Required Technology and Materials

✓ Computer, preferably one computer per every 3-4 students
✓ Instructor’s computer that is connected to an LCD monitor/projector for demonstration purposes
✓ Internet access
✓ Whiteboard, chalkboard, or large flip chart
Indianapolis in Maps: Now and Then

Activity Description:
This 1-2 hr. program introduces learners to the benefits of maps as tools for discovering a city’s (and its people’s) history. Using map navigation skills, participants will be provided with a list of well-known present day landmarks in Indianapolis. They will locate these sites on a current map of downtown Indianapolis and using the information found here (addresses, street crossings, site surroundings) locate the same site on the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from 1887 or 1898. Some landmarks will be the same, showing learners that many present-day landmarks in Indianapolis existed over a hundred years ago. Participants will also find that many of the same buildings still exist but that they are now used for different purposes. And finally the class will also find that some areas of downtown have completely changed their look and purpose. In addition to finding the specific landmarks listed the participants are also encouraged to explore the maps in-depth (especially the older maps) and record anything that stands out to them, is interesting.

While students will work in groups or individually on the formal worksheet activity, the class will come together at the end to share their discoveries and what these discoveries might infer about the city, its people, and its history.

Learning Objectives for the Primary Learner:

1. Participants will learn about Indianapolis history (social, economic, and urban).
2. Participants will learn how to navigate different types of maps, including online maps.
3. Participants will be able to compare and contrast some of the social and economic trends in past and present day Indianapolis.
4. Participants will recognize that information found in one research source can be used/transferred to other research sources.
Introduction to the activity and Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps 10 minutes

**Description:** You will introduce the activity in terms of its overall purpose and its benefits to the learners.

**Say:**

“Today we are going to look at how Indianapolis has changed over the course of more than 100 years. We are going to do this by comparing a present-day map of downtown Indianapolis with maps from 1887 and 1898. The older maps are called Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. They were created by the Sanborn Company and were used to determine the worth of a property for insurance purposes. They show what the buildings were made of such as brick, adobe, or wood. They show the number of floors each building had, the location of doors, windows, chimneys and elevators, and how the structure was used. For example was it a dwelling, an apartment, a hotel, or perhaps a church? Also listed are street addresses. Sometimes the maps tell the ethnicity of the people who lived and worked in the buildings. Today these maps are used by historians, geographers, preservationists, ethnic studies scholars, and archaeologists.”

“For this project we aren’t going to worry about what the buildings were made out of. Instead we are going to use the maps to find out how Indianapolis has changed over time by comparing and contrasting the same locations on both the present-day and the historic maps of Indianapolis. Let me give you an example. Who can tell me where the Colts play football? [wait for response] That’s right, they play at the RCA Dome. We are going to find the RCA Dome on the present-day map of Indianapolis. We will take a look at the address for the RCA Dome, we will look at the streets that are around the RCA Dome. With this information in hand we will then go to historic Sanborn map and find the same location. We will find the same spot where the RCA Dome is now. We will see what existed in this same location back in 1887 or 1898.”

“Are there any question so far?”
Specific Directions for the Activity  

**Learner’s Materials/Equipment Required**: Activity Packet, Computers with internet access.

**Description**: You will provide an overview of how to complete the Activity Packet.

Ask the learner’s to get in groups of 2-4 and sit at a computer workstation.

Distribute the Activity Packets.

**Read the instructions on the Activity Packet out loud, or alternatively have one of the learners read the instructions out loud.**

**Directions from Activity Packet:**

“We want to find out how downtown Indianapolis has changed over time. One way to do this is to compare and contrast a new map of Indianapolis with an old map of Indianapolis. You have been provided with 7 locations/addresses in Indianapolis. [hold up Activity Packet and show learners the pages containing the locations/addresses]

**In Small Groups**

1. Using the link provided on each worksheet* find the location/address on the current -day map of downtown Indianapolis.
2. Record information regarding the location’s surroundings on the same worksheet. What streets do you see? What other buildings or landmarks do you see?
3. Next, using the link provided on each worksheet find the same location/address on the historic Sandborn map.
4. Record what you found at this location. Is the same building that you saw on the present day map still there? Is there something entirely different there? What other buildings or landmarks do you see?

**Coming Back Together as a Class**

1. Discuss the following questions together as a class: What did you discover? What locations have changed? Which locations have stayed the same?
2. Considering the specific locations we examined as well as the other locations you discovered in looking at the maps how has our city changed?”

*There are two options here for completing the worksheets depending on the time available for this activity. You may have each group of 2-4 find only 1 location/address with sharing of information when you come back together as a class. Alternatively you may require that each group of 2-4 find all 7 of the locations/addresses. The latter option allows each group to have a more holistic experience working with the digital maps but does take more time.
Demonstrating how to Navigate the Digital Maps  10 min.

**Learner’s Materials/Equipment Required**: Activity Packet, Computer with internet access, Chalkboard/whiteboard/flipchart

**Description**: Demonstrate how to navigate the 2 online map tools.

With each group now sitting in front of a computer workstation you will walk through the steps of using each of the digital map tools.

**Say**:

“Go to the url: [http://www.indydt.com/dtmap.html](http://www.indydt.com/dtmap.html).” [you may want to write this url on a whiteboard as well]

“Notice that you have to scroll to the right and down to be able to view the whole map. If you scroll all the way to the bottom of this page you will see a listing of various locations on the map. All of these locations are indexed using grid coordinates so that you can easily find them on the map. Using this list can anyone tell me what the grid coordinates for the Phoenix Theatre are? [wait for an answer] That’s right, the coordinates are F3. Let’s go find that location on our map. Has everyone found F3? Do you see the Phoenix Theatre? So now we know how to find each of the 7 locations/addresses in our Activity Packet on this present day map.”

“Now let’s look at how to use the historic Sanborn maps. Go to this url: [http://indiamond6.ulib.iupui.edu/u/?/SanbornJP2,405](http://indiamond6.ulib.iupui.edu/u/?/SanbornJP2,405).” [you may want to write this url on a whiteboard as well]

“Notice that we have a small picture of the map in front of us. The database that we are using allows us to zoom in and out of the image so that we can see particular areas of the map better. The database also allows us to move around in the map. Do you see the pictures of the magnifying glasses with + and – signs in the upper left hand corner? This is what we will use to make a specific part of the map bigger or smaller. Let’s give it a try. Click on the + magnifying glass and zoom in on the building on the corner of N. Illinois and W. Market. What do you see? [wait for responses] That’s right we see the Wilson Block and Rink’s Coats.”

“Now let’s try moving around in the map. See the up, down, right, and left arrows directly next to the magnifying glasses? Use these arrows to move around in the map. Let’s move one arrow to the right from where we are right now. What do you see now? [wait for responses] That’s right we see Monument Circle.

“Does everyone understand how to move around in the two different kinds of maps?”

“Are there any other questions at this time?”

“Great, Let’s go ahead and get started on our group work. Remember we are going to locate our address/location on the new map first and answer some questions on our worksheet and then we will locate the same location on the historic map and answer some questions on our worksheet. I will be around to answer any questions.”
INSTRUCTOR’S GUIDE. . .Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Completing the Activity Packet</th>
<th>20 min-1 hr</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner’s Materials/Equipment Required</strong>: Activity Packet, Computer with internet access, Chalkboard/whiteboard/flipchart</td>
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</table>

**Description**: What you as the instructor will do as the learners complete the Activity Packet.

- Visit each group as they work on the Activity Packet answering any questions that may arise and helping learners navigate the online maps.
- Ask them if they’ve found anything interesting or that stood out to them.
- At the end of 20 min.- 1 hr. bring the learners back together as a group to discuss their findings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sharing Findings as a Group and Wrapping Up</th>
<th>20-30 min.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learner’s Materials/Equipment Required</strong>: Completed Activity Packet, Computer with internet access, Whiteboard/chalkboard/flipchart</td>
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**Description**: Each small group will now share their discoveries with the entire class and some broad themes about Indianapolis will be surmised.

- Go around the room and have each group share their findings for 1 (or more) of the locations/addresses. Give each group an opportunity to share.
- Record findings on the whiteboard/chalkboard/flipchart for all to see.

**Pose the following questions to the class for discussion:**
1. Did you discover anything new about Indianapolis’ history? If so, what?
2. What are some overarching trends you noticed about the current day Indianapolis and historic Indianapolis? [Examples: lots of industry along the river in historic Indianapolis, more parking lots in new Indianapolis, not as many houses in downtown Indianapolis now.]
- Record these findings as well.

**Wrap it up**: Summarizes the classes findings and encourage the class to explore the Indianapolis Sanborn Map Collection on their own.
## Indianapolis in Maps: Then and Now
### Activity Packet Answer Key

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present-day</th>
<th>Historic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home of the Indiana Pacers</td>
<td>Western Electric Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conseco Fieldhouse</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>125 Pennsylvania St.</td>
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<td>Soldiers and Sailors Monument</td>
<td>Soldiers and Sailors Monument</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Circle, Monument Place</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1 N. Meridian</td>
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<td><a href="http://indiamond6.ulib.iupui.edu/u/?SanbornJP2,405">http://indiamond6.ulib.iupui.edu/u/?SanbornJP2,405</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Indiana State House</td>
<td>Indiana State House</td>
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<tr>
<td>252 W. Washington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interim Central Library</td>
<td>City Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old Indiana State Museum</td>
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<td>204 N. Alabama</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indianapolis Zoo</td>
<td>Indianapolis Traction and Terminal Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1150 W. Washington</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home of the Indianapolis Indians</td>
<td>Someone’s house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victory Field</td>
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<tr>
<td>505 W. Maryland</td>
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<td><a href="http://indiamond6.ulib.iupui.edu/u/?SanbornJP2,643">http://indiamond6.ulib.iupui.edu/u/?SanbornJP2,643</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home of the Indianapolis Colts</td>
<td>Post. Off. =Post Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCA Dome</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>104 S. Capitol</td>
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<td><a href="http://indiamond6.ulib.iupui.edu/u/?SanbornJP2,644">http://indiamond6.ulib.iupui.edu/u/?SanbornJP2,644</a></td>
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LEARNER MATERIALS
TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE CLASS
Indianapolis in Maps: Now and Then

Background
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: Today we are going to look at how Indianapolis has changed over the course of more than 100 years. We are going to do this by comparing a present-day map of downtown Indianapolis with maps from 1887 and 1898. The older maps are called Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. They were created by the Sanborn Company and were used to determine the worth of a property for insurance purposes. They show what the buildings were made of such as brick, adobe, or wood. They show the number of floors each building had, the location of doors, windows, chimneys and elevators, and how the structure was used. For example was it a dwelling, an apartment, a hotel, or perhaps a church? Also listed are street addresses. Sometimes the maps tell the ethnicity of the people who lived and worked in the buildings. Today these maps are used by historians, geographers, preservationists, ethnic studies scholars, and archaeologists.

Activity
Directions: We want to find out how downtown Indianapolis has changed over time. One way to do this is to compare and contrast a new map of Indianapolis with an old map of Indianapolis. You have been provided with 7 locations/addresses in Indianapolis.

In Small Groups
1. Using the link provided on each worksheet find the location/address on the current day map of downtown Indianapolis.
2. Record information regarding the location’s surroundings on the same worksheet. What streets do you see? What other buildings or landmarks do you see?
3. Next, using the link provided on each worksheet find the same location/address on the historic Sanborn map.
4. Record what you found at this location. Is the same building that you saw on the present-day map still there? Is there something entirely different there? What other buildings or landmarks do you see?

Coming Back Together as a Class
1. What did you discover? What locations have changed? Which locations have stayed the same?
2. Considering the specific location we examined as well as the other locations you discovered in looking at the maps how has our city changed?

Location 1

Home of the Indiana Pacers
Conseco Fieldhouse
125 S. Pennsylvania St.

- Locate Conseco Fieldhouse on the present day map

What are some of the main streets surrounding Conseco? What other buildings or landmarks do you see?

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

- Now locate the same address on the Historic Sanborn maps

What did you find in this location?
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

What other buildings or landmarks do you find around this location?
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
Location 2

Soldiers and Sailors Monument
The Circle, Monument Place
1 N. Meridian

- Locate the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on the present day map
  http://www.indydt.com/dtmap.html

What are some of the main streets surrounding the Soldiers and Sailors Monument?
What other buildings or landmarks to you see?

- Now locate the same address on the Historic Sanborn map
  http://indiamond6.ulib.iupui.edu/u/?SanbornJP2,405

What did you find in this location?

What other buildings or landmarks do you find around this location?
Location 3

Indiana State House
252 W. Washington

- Locate the Indiana State House on the present day map http://www.indydt.com/dtmap.html

What are some of the main streets surrounding the Indiana State House? What other buildings or landmarks do you see?

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

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- Now locate the same address on the Historic Sanborn map http://indiamond6.ulib.iupui.edu/u/?SanbornJP2.404

What did you find in this location?

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

What other buildings or landmarks do you find around this location?

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________
Location 4

Central Library (Interim)
204 N. Alabama

- Locate the Interim Central Library on the present day map
  http://www.indydt.com/dtmap.html

What are some of the main streets surrounding the Interim Central Library? What other buildings or landmarks do you see?
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

- Now locate the same address on the Historic Sanborn map
  http://indiamond6.ulib.iupui.edu/u/?SanbornJP2.484

What did you find in this location?
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

What other buildings or landmarks do you find around this location?
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
Location 5

Indianapolis Zoo
1150 W. Washington

- Locate the Indianapolis Zoo on the present day map http://www.indydt.com/dtmap.html

What are some of the main streets surrounding Indianapolis Zoo? What other buildings or landmarks do you see?
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________

- Now locate the same address on the Historic Sanborn map http://indiamond6.ulib.iupui.edu/u/?SanbornJP2.459

What did you find in this location?
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________

What other buildings or landmarks do you find around this location?
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______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
Location 6

Home of the Indianapolis Indians
Victory Field
505 W. Maryland

- Locate Victory Field on the present day map http://www.indydt.com/dtmap.html

What are some of the main streets surrounding Victory Field? What other buildings or landmarks do you see?

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

- Now locate the same address on the Historic Sanborn map http://indiamond6.ulib.iupui.edu/u/?SanbornJP2.643

What did you find in this location?

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

What other buildings or landmarks do you find around this location?

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________
Location 7

Home of the Indianapolis Colts
RCA Dome
104 S. Capitol

- Locate the RCA Dome on the present day map
  http://www.indydt.com/dtmap.html

What are some of the main streets surrounding the RCA Dome? What other buildings or landmarks do you see?

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

- Now locate the same address on the Historic Sanborn map

What did you find in this location?
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________

What other buildings or landmarks do you find around this location?
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