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A Journey Through New Amsterdam to New York (lesson plan)

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Lesson incorporating use of Google Maps and NYPL Digital Collection, Summer 2010

Lesson Title: A Journey Through New Amsterdam to New York

Skills and Strategies: research, summarizing, use of technology to display and share information; developing a virtual tour

Content: Three Worlds Meet, Growth of Lower Manhattan

Materials:

- various primary sources, including map of lower Manhattan modern streets and 1609 shoreline
- ◆ Google Maps http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&tab=wl
- NYPL Digital Gallery http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/index.cfm
- ◆ Timeline of New Amsterdam to New York
- ♦ Template for Google Maps markers

Mini-Lesson

- ♦ When Europeans arrived in current-day lower Manhattan, native peoples already inhabited the area. Africans in the area, along with the Europeans and natives all developed the area over time. Lower Manhattan was affected by its inhabitants and their interactions with the landscape as well as with each other.
- Few places are still physically present, but some locations and happenings are marked by plaques or have names that tell about themselves. Others are not marked, but we can learn still learn about what happened in the past and consider how the people who inhabited the area and influenced it.

Independent Work Time

In partners or small groups, students will visit a variety of primary and secondary sources in order to research locations in downtown New York. They will use the template in order to organize information.

Suggested sites:

- ♦ Pearl Street
- ♦ Exchange Place
- ♦ Federal Hall
- ♦ Bowling Green

- ♦ African Burial Ground
- ♦ City Hall Park
- **♦** Trinity Church
- ♦ Stone Street

Share/Assessment

- ♦ Students will summarize what they learn from their research and mark their location on the Google Map. Entries will include images and links to other applicable resources.
- Entries should address: locations over time and multiple populations' interactions with the location.

Extension

♦ Students can use the Google Map they created in order to visit lower Manhattan and take their tour. Students can update their entries after their visit if desired.

Additional References/Resources

- Gotham: A History of New York City to 1808 by E.G. Burrows and M. Wallace
- ◆ Thomas Jefferson in New York http://wiki.monticello.org/mediawiki/index.php/New_York_City
- ◆ Sample Google Map with Information on labor history (including some sites from the 18th Century) http://www.nyu.edu/library/bobst/research/tam/googlemap.html
- ♦ Information on the history of lower Manhattan from the years 1609 to 1909, including images of artifacts, sites and markers http://www.oldworldnyc.com/index.html