



## An Introduction to Primary Sources: The Oglethorpe Plan and Mapping Savannah

**TARGET GRADE RANGE: 6-8**

### OVERVIEW

During this program, students will engage in activities to strengthen their understanding of Savannah area history. Students will participate in a learning session about the Oglethorpe town plan and its development throughout Savannah's history, followed by a hands on session where they will be able to view related maps from the City of Savannah Municipal Archives' collections. Students will evaluate the different types of historical and geographical information that one can gather through close study of maps.

### What is a Primary Source?

A primary source is a first-hand, original account or record about a person, place, object, or an event. Oral histories, objects, photographs, artworks and documents such as newspapers, census records, diaries, and journals are primary sources. Secondary sources are accounts, records, or evidence derived from original or primary sources. Textbooks are secondary sources.

### Objectives:

After completing this learning activity, students will be able to:

- Describe the Oglethorpe Plan and its importance to Savannah's development
- Analyze the details of a map to understand the map's intended audience and use

**Time Required:** 1 hour

**Topic/s:** Social Studies, Geography, Local History

### Standards:

- SS8H2 Analyze the colonial period of Georgia's history.
- SS8G1 Describe Georgia's geography and climate
- SS8CG6 Analyze the role of local governments in the state of Georgia

### Materials:

Archival materials may be original or reproduction, at the discretion of the Archivist and Municipal Archives Director.

- "What Makes Savannah Unique: The Oglethorpe Plan," City of Savannah Municipal Archives, March 2020 (PowerPoint presentation)
- Map Analysis Worksheets (1 per student per map reviewed):
  - "Analyze a Map" handout, developed by the National Archives and Records Administration (available online at: [https://www.archives.gov/files/education/lessons/worksheets/map\\_analysis\\_worksheet.pdf](https://www.archives.gov/files/education/lessons/worksheets/map_analysis_worksheet.pdf))

- Three to five (3-5) maps from the Municipal Archives' collections. The following are recommendations (and work with the Scavenger Hunt handout), but additional maps from the City's collections are available online at <https://dlg.usg.edu/institutions/gsg>.
  - Record Series 3121-007, Engineering Department – General Maps, Item #XA-29, *The Plan of the City of Savannah*, McKinnon and Wright, 1820 (available online at: [https://dlg.usg.edu/record/gsg\\_edgm\\_edgm-xa-029](https://dlg.usg.edu/record/gsg_edgm_edgm-xa-029))
  - Record Series 3121-007, Engineering Department – General Maps, Item #XA-5, *City of Savannah base map with tythings superimposed*, 1940 (available online at: [https://dlg.usg.edu/record/gsg\\_edgm\\_edgm-xa-005](https://dlg.usg.edu/record/gsg_edgm_edgm-xa-005))
  - Record Series 3121-019, Engineering Department – Savannah Cadastral Survey Ward Maps, Item #59 *Elbert Ward*, 1939 (available online at: [https://dlg.usg.edu/record/gsg\\_scswsm\\_scswsm-3121-019-sheet-059](https://dlg.usg.edu/record/gsg_scswsm_scswsm-3121-019-sheet-059))
  - Record Series 3121-007, Engineering Department – General Maps, Item #XA-7, *City of Savannah souvenir skeleton map showing public highways of Chatham County*, 1940 (available online at: [https://dlg.usg.edu/record/gsg\\_edgm\\_edgm-xa-007-01](https://dlg.usg.edu/record/gsg_edgm_edgm-xa-007-01))
  - Record Series 3121-020, Engineering Department – Major Subdivision Maps, Item #196-A, *Eastwood Park, a subdivision of Bonaventure Tract Lots 3, 4, 5, 12, 13, and 14 and Lot 4 of the Plumb Tract, Murphy Ward, City of Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia for Chatham Investment Co. Inc.*, 1947 (available online at: [https://dlg.usg.edu/record/gsg\\_edmsm\\_edmsm-196-a](https://dlg.usg.edu/record/gsg_edmsm_edmsm-196-a))
- Scavenger Hunt handout
- Pencils and erasers

## **PROGRAM:**

### **Introduction: (20-30 minutes total)**

- Introduction to concepts of archives and archival work, and the City of Savannah Municipal Archives
- Thinking about maps discussion (why are maps important and what to look for)
  - In lieu of an in person program with City of Savannah Archivists, the following PowerPoint Presentation can be used as an introduction to the concepts of archives and maps: “Archives Alive: Mapping Savannah; *An Introduction to Archives and the World of Maps*,” City of Savannah Municipal Archives, March 2020 (PowerPoint presentation)
- “What Makes Savannah Unique: The Oglethorpe Plan,” City of Savannah Municipal Archives, March 2020 (PowerPoint presentation)

### **Rotating Stations: (30 minutes)**

- Break students into 5-10 groups (depending on the number of students – groups should be between 3-5 students) and assign them a station to start. Each station will take 10 minutes, then rotate to the next station.
- Have the Analyze a Map worksheets available at each station. Each student will get one Scavenger Hunt handout to use at all of the stations.
- Have students closely examine each map for 3 minutes and write down what they notice about the map. After the period of reflection, students will answer the questions on the Analyze a Map worksheet. The students can discuss their answers with their group and any discrepancies they uncover.
- Students will also complete the Scavenger Hunt handout at each map station, either as a solo or group activity as determined at the beginning of the session by the teacher. The Scavenger Hunt handout is designed to be used with the five maps identified by the Municipal Archives under “Materials.”
- After the allotted time, groups will rotate to the next station and repeat the activity.

### **Closing (5 minutes)**

- Review the answers to the Scavenger Hunt and award a prize to the student or team who scored the highest.