



## MINNESOTA BIRDSEYE MAPS

Content Area/Topic: Minnesota Studies

Grade/Grade band: 6

Tech Needs: Projector and Internet access, individual devices with Internet

Estimated Time: 30-40 minutes

### Essential Question:

What is a birdseye map?

### Materials

- ☐ Projector and Internet access or individual devices with Internet access
- ☐ *Northern Lights* textbook or *Northern Lights Interactive eBook*

### Lesson Sequence

1. Tell the class that today's lesson will cover birdseye maps. Brainstorm what a birdseye map is.
2. Open the Minnesota Birdseye Maps Primary Source Set: [mnhs.org/iium/sets/birdseye](https://mnhs.org/iium/sets/birdseye). Scroll through the images and note the various locations featured. Write the 11 cities featured in the maps on a whiteboard or other visible place in the classroom.
3. As a class, address these questions:
  - a. Do you recognize any of these Minnesota locations?
  - b. Have these place names appeared in your *Northern Lights* book?
4. Students, individually or in small groups, choose one birdseye map and search for that location in *Northern Lights* (hint: look in the index and on the maps at the back of the book). What can students learn about their location from *Northern Lights*?
5. Students then open the map from their devices (click on the map link on the Primary Source Set page). Zoom into the map and note what they see, think, and wonder about their map.
6. When students take a closer look at the map, what can they learn about the location that they didn't learn from *Northern Lights*? What can they learn about what the birdseye mapmakers thought it was important to include?
7. Have students find the location on Google Maps for a current-day view. After they study the historic hand-drawn birdseye map and the modern satellite image map, have them create a Venn diagram that identifies unique features of each map and similarities between the two.

### Extensions/Adaptations

If your city, or a city near you, is not represented in this primary source set, search the Library of Congress map collection for other historic birdseye maps: [loc.gov/maps](https://loc.gov/maps). In the search box, type "bird's eye." When the results appear, scroll down to Location, in the left hand column. Click on "More Locations," and choose Minnesota from the list. Compare two maps of the same place over time. How did that place change or stay the same over time?

This activity was last updated on 1/21/2022. If you have questions about this activity, please contact the MNHS Teacher Education and Curriculum Development team: [ted@mnhs.org](mailto:ted@mnhs.org).

[education.mnhs.org](https://education.mnhs.org)

## Resources

- Primary Source Sets, MNHS Inquiry in the Upper Midwest Project website (project funding from the Library of Congress): [mnhs.org/ium/sets](https://mnhs.org/ium/sets)