

Getting students engaged in writing across different curriculum areas can be challenging. Place-based narratives enhanced with images and videos can help motivate young writers and help them learn more geography in the process.

ESRI is the market leader in geographic information system (GIS) software and mapping. They have created amazing tools and training materials that they readily share with K-12 educators. To complete this activity, you will want to set up a free organizational account for your school with ESRI so that students can save their work and return after their initial work session. Use the resources and contacts on [this page](#) to do this in advance of this lesson.

This lesson was created as a companion activity related to a series of Map Tours created during an Ocean Exploration Trust mapping expedition aboard Exploration Vessel *Nautilus*, NA143, [LuLu‘uaeaahikiikapāhāku‘iwawā](#). This expedition focused on high-resolution mapping deep water areas in the northern extent of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM) using ship-based mapping surveys.

We know that good maps are the basis for all future exploration in an area, but SCFs from this expedition, [Kim Weaver](#) and [Shannon Donovan](#), wanted a deeper understanding of why maps matter so much. So, they interviewed several members of the onboard team, the Corps of Exploration, to create this series of map tours, [Why Mapping Matters](#).

[This template](#) guides students in creating their own map tour. This tool can be useful in any curriculum area as place-based narratives can be created for all human endeavors.