



Activity – Other Cartographical Traditions and Imaginations

This topic has largely (though not explicitly) considered maps that were produced in the western world. The kinds of cartographic conventions that we have met here are not necessarily universally adopted around the world.

This task requires independent research. You may be able to find some interesting examples of what is known as 'counter-mapping', a term introduced by the scholar Nancy Peluso. In a famous research article in the research journal *Antipode* in 1995 Peluso showed how some indigenous groups have used maps to represent land use in quite different ways to 'official' plans. She argues that the production of these maps, and the presentation of alternative narratives of land use, had important consequences for recognising traditional uses of, in this case, forest resources.¹

- Consider the ways in which different groups have attempted cartographically to represent themselves and their place in the world.
- Can you identify any similarities or differences in style, content or message?

Conclusions:

Many researchers in development geography have used community mapping to the kinds of questions that we have met in this topic.

Reflect on the themes of reality and geographical imagination, power and policy, and the use of technology.

Beyond Geography...

This exercise should be of interest to students interested in subjects such as development studies, anthropology and politics. It is important for us to think about the value we place on cartographic representations with which are, perhaps, less familiar.

¹ Nancy Peluso (1995) 'Whose woods are these? Counter-mapping forest territories in Kalimantan, Indonesia, *Antipode*, 27(4), 383-406