



Follow the Trail of Miss Columbia!

Using the journal for clues, can your students create a world map of her 1000-day journey?

Objective: Students learn geography and mapping skills while analyzing Miss Columbia's journal and creating a map of her trip.

Background

Miss Columbia's route in 1900-02 took her around the world in a westerly direction, traveling largely by rail and by steamship. There were plenty of moments during the journey when Miss Columbia's next move was clouded by uncertainty: Would she be allowed to "board" a ship leaving the U.S. and bound for other nations? Would she ever make it out of the Philippines, where she stayed for many, many months? Would her ship be quarantined at a foreign port, making it impossible for Miss Columbia and other passengers to disembark?

It can be a fascinating exercise to think about different routes one might take to travel around the world. Eastward through Europe and Russia? Westward? Why not south through South America and back up north through Africa, or Australia? In this activity, students sit down with a world map and reconstruct Miss Columbia's original journey. They can also keep track of her current journey on the same map and compare the two.



Materials

- ◆ Copies of a world map (one is provided here on a student handout sheet on page 90, but you may want to substitute a larger one if you have it), one for each team of students
- ◆ Miss Columbia's original journal (one copy for each team or student, if possible)

Getting Started

Ask students how they would go around the world if they could. Where would they want to go? How could they see everything they want to see? How would they travel? How long would it take? Write down some of their responses on the blackboard or on an easel pad; you may want to refer back to them at the end of the activity.

Let students know that in mapping Miss Columbia's original journey, they'll be pulling clues out of her journal and expressing the trip in a different way: visually, rather than with words. While they're doing their mapping, ask them to keep in mind the original question of how they might have chosen to travel around the world. Will they change their mind after exploring in detail the route Miss Columbia took?

**FOLLOW THE TRAIL****Procedures**

1. Divide the class into teams of three students each. Each team will be composed of three specialists: a geographer, a travel expert, and a keeper of the log.
2. Pass around a copy of Miss Columbia's journal to each team, along with a copy of the world map. Ask them to use the journal to trace Miss Columbia's original journey. They should make their map of the journey as complete as possible. That means they may want to come up with color-codes or other ways of communicating the following items:
 - ◆ How long did Miss Columbia take between points along her journey?
 - ◆ How did she travel along different legs of the trip?
 - ◆ How long did she stay in each destination?
3. All three team members can examine the journal together for clues. To ensure active participation from each member, special assignments can be given to each one during the "analysis": the geographer watches especially closely for clues as to Miss Columbia's direction and location; the travel expert reads for clues as to her mode of transport; and the keeper of the log keeps track of elapsed time. Each expert can come up with his or her code to signify on the map Miss Columbia's westward progress.
4. Once all teams are done with their mapping, have them compare maps with each other. Do they all match up? Where do the differences lie? Are the differences due to mistakes, or to inconsistencies in the journal?
5. Now ask each team to consider how it might circle the world today. How would they do it differently from Miss Columbia? Ask them to create a trail for their proposed journey, using the same codes and signals that they invented for Miss Columbia's.

Tracking Miss Columbia's Current Journey

You and your class can follow Miss Columbia's progress on her website (www.wenhammuseum.org). Consider posting a world map with the original journey displayed on it, and with weekly or monthly updates added to show Miss Columbia's progress around the world on her centennial voyage.



FOLLOW THE TRAIL
WORLD MAP

