# THE RATZER MAP



BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Plan of the City of New York in North America: **1770 | The Ratzer Map**

# The Ratzer Map

This map, "The Plan of the City of New York in North America," was made by British military officer Bernard Ratzer in 1766-1767 and printed in 1770. One of only four still in existence, it is one of the finest and most detailed depictions of a commercial New York City in the years before the American Revolution.

before

after

No one knows how this copy of the Ratzer Map came into the collection of Brooklyn Historical Society. When a librarian discovered the map in 2010, it was rolled up and stored with other old maps. It was fragile, torn, and difficult to read. Some pieces had broken off and were lost. Brooklyn Historical Society hired a professional **conservator** to start the difficult process of restoring the map. After 3 months of careful conservation work, the map was restored to a readable state, and stabilized for future generations to view.

As you investigate the nuances and details in Bernard Ratzer's work, an equally complex story emerges about transformations in the lives of colonial New Yorkers from all backgrounds – women and men, free and **enslaved**, merchants and laborers – on the eve of the American Revolution. During the mid-eighteenth century, these New Yorkers participated in transforming their city into the trading and military center of British North America, planting the seeds for the **commercial** and financial powerhouse that New York City continues to be today.

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All images in this curriculum, unless otherwise noted, are details from *Plan of the City of New York in North America*. Bernard Ratzer. ca 1770. nyc-1770.fl.f.ra. Brooklyn Historical Society.

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**In this guide, educators and learners will get a glimpse into eighteenth-century New York to contextualize classroom investigation of the "Plan of the City of New York" by Bernard Ratzer. High quality poster reproductions of the rare map are available to teachers for free, while supplies last.**

Contact us at:
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**Supporters:**

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**This Guide Includes:**

# Why Study the Ratzer Map?

The Ratzer Map is one of the best images we have today of an American city in the years just before the American Revolution. It shows two views of a bustling and growing city set amid fields and forests. A large map provides a birds-eye view of lower Manhattan Island, eastern New Jersey, and—across the East River—the farms of "Brookland" (Brooklyn). At the bottom of the map, Bernard Ratzer included a view of busy New York harbor as seen from Governor's Island. This **panorama** shows an incredible level of detail, including ships, buildings, and the coastline. It is so detailed that it even shows smoke rising from buildings in Manhattan.

The Ratzer Map gives us many clues about New Yorkers of 240 years ago. We see the development of city **infrastructure**, including sometimes twisting, sometimes **grid**-like roads. Clusters of buildings indicate where most people lived and worked. The names of farms and large estates tell us who owned land. The map shows important natural features, such as swamps, ponds, rivers and streams. It also shows us ways that New Yorkers changed the natural landscape by planting **pastures**, orchards, and gardens.

Today, we see maps everywhere: in public spaces, on television, in our newspapers, in our books, and on our computer screens. But in the eighteenth century, maps like the "Plan of the City of New York" were rare, expensive, and available only to society's wealthy and powerful. Only three other copies of this 1770 edition of the Ratzer Map are known to exist today: one at the British Library in London (originally owned by King George III) and two at the New-York Historical Society in Manhattan.


*Plan of the City of New York in North America.* Bernard Ratzer. ca 1770. nyc-1770.fl.f.ra. Brooklyn Historical Society.

### Maps and Mapmaking

Maps are tools that help us find our way and provide specific and detailed information about a given place. **Cartographers**, or mapmakers, draw maps after **surveying** and studying the land they want to represent. While the processes and tools employed in mapmaking have changed over time, there are several key components to look for in both historic and contemporary maps. The first component is **scale**. Cartographers must reduce large areas of land to the size of the map. In order to do so with accuracy, they calculate scale, which is the relationship between measurements on the map to measurements on the ground. For example, a line one inch long on a map might represent a distance of one mile on the ground. Then the cartographer adds **symbols**, **landmarks**, and a **compass rose**. Symbols are pictures that stand for something else. Using symbols makes maps easier to read. Key landmarks, such as mountains or rivers will indicate the geographical area shown on the map. A compass rose helps orient the user by showing which direction is north. Often the mapmaker includes a key or **legend** to explain the symbols on the map.

Printing maps in the eighteenth century was a time-consuming process done by skilled artisans and craftsmen. In the field, cartographers like Bernard Ratzer would make a series of preliminary hand-sketched maps of different areas. These field maps were redrawn together on one sheet. The mapmaker would then give the sheet to an **engraver** for printing. Maps were printed from either wood blocks or engraved copperplates, and then were hand colored. Despite the fact that he drew the map in 1766 and 1767, Bernard Ratzer's Plan of the City of New York was not printed until 1770, after his return to London.

Improved tools and technology have helped cartographers produce more precise maps. Today, most cartographers make maps with computers using specialized mapping software. Some images used in these maps are made by sensors on **satellites** circling Earth. Other common maps today, like Google Maps with Street View, include photographs taken with cameras mounted on special cars that drive through the streets capturing 360-degree "full circle" pictures of an area.

# New York and the World on the Eve of Revolution (1760s-1770s)

New York City's landscape and population have been in rapid flux since the arrival of Henry Hudson in 1609. Hudson was a British explorer working for the Dutch East India Company. His reports of the lush green island of Manhattan, its springs and ponds, and its many animals—especially beavers—attracted Dutch settlers to the area that had long been home to Lenape and other Native American Indian groups. The Dutch established the city of New Amsterdam at the southern end of Manhattan Island in 1624–1625. Then in 1664 the British took control and renamed the city "New York." Just over a century later, from 1775 to 1783, New York and other **colonies** fought for—and won— independence from Britain.

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**In 1770, New York City comprised the southern tip of Manhattan only. The other boroughs were not yet part of New York City. Brooklyn was one of several Dutch towns across the East River in Kings County, situated on Long Island. Brooklyn grew as a city in its own right through the nineteenth century until it consolidated with the rest of today's New York City in 1898.**

### The Seven Years' War and New York's Growth as a City

At the time that the Ratzer Map was made, New York was still a colony of the British Empire. From the 1680s to the 1760s, Britain was consumed with imperial wars fought with two other empires, France and Spain. Each country wanted control of **commerce** and trade from India to the Americas, Europe and the West Indies. One of these wars—called the Seven Years' War, or French and Indian War (1754–1763)—was fought in North America, especially along the Hudson River and in parts of upstate New York and Canada. New York City's location on the Hudson and its harbor on the Atlantic Ocean made it a major supply center during the Seven Years' War, bringing people and business to the growing city.

The New York City captured in the Ratzer map was very different than the New York that had existed before the Seven Years' War. During much of the early colonial period, New York was just one of several port cities in the New World, and certainly not the center of British life in North America. But by the 1760s, the city would emerge as the commercial and military center of Britain's colonial empire. "Brookland" or "Brooklyn" would facilitate New York's growth by providing foodstuffs from its farms.

Over the course of the Seven Years' War, New York's merchant class profited from their role as suppliers to the British Army. They traded in foodstuffs, alcohol, arms and ammunition, horses, uniforms, and other goods. Families like the Livingstons, the Alexanders, the Bayards, the Beekmans, and the DeLanceys, well-to-do by the city's standards before the war, became unimaginably wealthy by the 1760s. They sank their money into real estate, new businesses,

luxury goods, slaves, and other investments. Many of them also increased their wealth through **privateering**.

The wealthiest New Yorkers were not the only ones to profit from the War. Artisans and manufacturers – sailmakers, ropemakers, tanners, blacksmiths, and others – saw their businesses accelerate thanks to the war effort. A growing city population, supplemented with visiting seamen and soldiers, prompted a significant building surge that provided employment to stonemasons, bricklayers, plasterers, painters, and others, who could demand greater wages during a boom time. Such growth also meant that taverns and boarding houses were thriving. New York's economy also continued to rely on the labor of enslaved people to build the city's infrastructure – from roads and ditches to the wall for which Wall Street is named.

Neighboring Kings County (today Brooklyn) spurred New York's growth as a city with its agricultural bounty. In the eighteenth century, the region provided wheat, rye, oats, barley, corn, and other grains, as well as produce from the county's orchards. Farmers would cart their goods to the "Brookland ferry" (indicated on the Ratzer map) and take them across the river, where they would sell the foodstuffs in outdoor markets.

Because agriculture predominated in Kings County, its residents were much more reliant on enslaved labor than were New Yorkers. On the eve of the American Revolution, 15% of New York City's population was of African origin. But across the river fully one third of Kings County residents were black, the overwhelming majority of whom were enslaved. Brooklyn's free black community would slowly grow after the Revolution; however, slavery remained a central part of the social and economic fabric of Kings County up until the state abolished the institution in 1827.

**New York in the Postwar Depression: a Time for Revolution**

With the end of the Seven Years' War came an end to the booming wartime trade that had contributed to New York's growth. As markets dried up, New York fell into a serious economic depression. Debt trickled down among New Yorkers of all classes. Suffering merchants quickly called in debts from tradesman, who demanded payment from artisans and soon the entire city was affected. The city's debtor prisons filled their rolls quickly in 1763. Those from poor and middling backgrounds fared especially badly. The extreme hardships artisans and laborers endured during the postwar depression created an environment ripe for protest.

Meanwhile, despite their victory over the French in the Seven Years' War, the British government also struggled with a staggering postwar debt. After the Treaty of Paris ended the war in 1763, the British held vast new land holdings in North America. To raise the money necessary to support their expanded empire, Parliament passed a series of taxation policies that exerted greater control over the colonies. Colonists reacted with anger and protest, not always because the new policies taxed them more heavily, but because acts like the Stamp Act, the Sugar Act, and the Tea Act tightened Parliamentary control and enforcement policies, making it difficult for colonists to avoid or bypass them. For New Yorkers, these acts, passed during the 1760s and 1770s, applied to the most important aspects of colonial economic life: shipping and commerce.

The Stamp Act proved particularly odious to New Yorkers. Passed in March 1765, it was put into enforcement in November of that year. Unlike the Sugar Act, which regulated external, multinational trade, the Stamp Act was an internal tax: it taxed things and transactions already in the colonies. The Stamp Act levied a tax on legal documents, almanacs, newspapers, and nearly every form of paper used in the colonies. Among the North American colonies, New York was particularly hard hit by the act because its commercial economy relied heavily on paper – everything from invoices to legal documents. Protests began immediately.

On October 7, 1765, delegates from several colonies met in what later became Federal Hall to hold the Stamp Act Congress, meant to coordinate colonial protest against the act. While many participating in the Stamp Act Congress were elite, New Yorkers of lower and middling classes protested in different ways. On October 24, they gathered to prevent the removal of two tons of stamped paper and vellum (to be used in enforcement of the Stamp Act) from a British ship. For the next several nights, riots occurred throughout New York protesting the Stamp Act.

In November 1765, the Sons of Liberty were established in New York (predated by the Sons of Liberty in Boston, founded earlier in the year). Most members of the Sons of Liberty came from middling classes: skilled artisans and traders. Throughout winter and spring, the Sons of Liberty and others organized parades and protests. Protest groups also broke into merchants' houses and "regulated" what they were trading, selling, buying, and what paper they were using.

In 1766, alarmed by the violent reaction of colonists, Parliament repealed the Stamp Act. New Yorkers celebrated publicly when they heard the news. Shortly after the repeal, a British engineer by the name of Bernard Ratzer spent a year surveying New York City. He began work on a map for the British crown that would detail the bustling port city New York had become during the Seven Years' War. Ratzer was able to conduct the work of surveying and drawing in a mollified city during the years between the repeal of the Stamp Act and the revolutionary protests that would resume in the 1770s.

By 1770, when the map was published, new laws and policies by the British government again moved angry American colonists toward **revolution**. The first major battle of the war, the Battle of Brooklyn, was fought on August 27, 1776, less than two months after the signing of the Declaration of Independence. By September of that year the British had captured New York City. Shortly after, a series of fires broke out in lower Manhattan, destroying about 500 buildings—over one-third of the city. Whether the fires were set intentionally by American spies or were a mere accident remains unknown. However, by the end of September 1776, New York as shown in the Ratzer Map ceased to exist.

# Exploring the Ratzer Map's Features

### Streets and Roads

In the 1760s, New York only went as far north as present-day Chambers Street on the southern tip of Manhattan. Some but not all streets were laid out in a rudimentary grid. The roadways of lower Manhattan led up to a triangle of land marked "Commons." This was a public park that is now the site of City Hall Park near the Brooklyn Bridge. On Ratzer's map, you can find Wall Street, named for a wall built by enslaved Africans under Dutch colonial rule to keep out both Native Americans and the British, and "Broad Way Street," which became today's Broadway. Across the East River, in agricultural Kings County, Ratzer recorded only a few major thoroughfares – the "Road to Flatbush," "Road to Jamaica," and "Road to Newtown."



Lower Manhattan 2012 _ Jane Barber Design



To the north of lower Manhattan you'll find a combination of fields, forests, and salt meadows, mixed with large estates and gardens. These were connected to the city by the Bowery Road running up the middle of the island and the Road to Greenwich along the Hudson. In 1766 and1767, when Ratzer studied the area, Greenwich was a separate village with large estates owned by the DeLanceys, the Bayards, the Warrens, and other old and established New York families. Today this area is known as Greenwich Village. The word "Bowery" came from the Dutch *Bouweries*, or farms. About halfway up the east side, we see the three manor houses of large farms belonging to the descendents of Peter Stuyvesant, the last Director-General of New Amsterdam before the 1664 British takeover.

The Ratzer Map provides clues about waterfront **industry** in colonial New York. Some streets, for example, were named after goods sold there: Beaver Street, named for the important trade in beaver pelts, or skins, and Pearl Street, named for New York's abundant oyster beds (like those noted on the map just off the coast of New Jersey). Murray's Wharf, at the end of Wall Street, was the site of the Meal Market, an outdoor market at which traders sold, among grains and other goods, enslaved Africans.

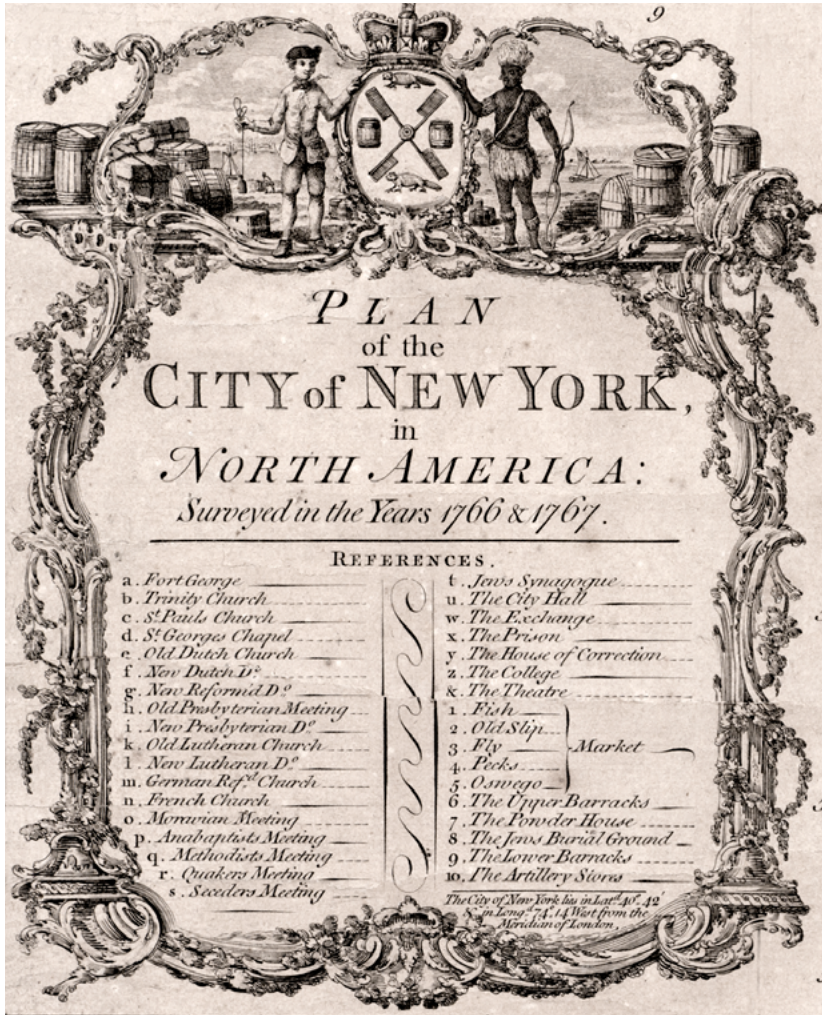
Many of the streets on the map—Essex Street, Division Street, Grand Street, Norfolk Street, and more—still exist today, while others —Pump Street and Eagle Street—do not. Some street names reflect the city's British identity: Queen Street and Crown Street can be seen on Ratzer's map, but their names were changed after the American Revolutionary War.

### The Legend and Landmarks

Bernard Ratzer included the city's most important landmarks on his map. He listed many of them in a legend, or key, at the bottom left of the map. He illustrated the legend with images of two men, one European and one Native American, and other symbols of New York City history. A windmill represents the city's Dutch origins, two beavers reflect one of the most important trade goods in early New York, and a set of barrels indicate the commercial nature of the city. The background image shows the city's waterfront, stacked with still more commercial barrels.

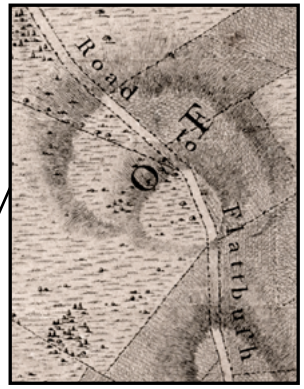
In the legend, Ratzer noted sites of special interest to the British army. These include military **barracks**, the powder house, and the artillery stores, where weapons were kept. At the southern tip of Manhattan, Ratzer drew the geometrical shape of Fort George. It was torn down in 1790 after the American Revolutionary War.

Important social, cultural, civic, and religious sites are listed in the legend as well. These sites include theaters, houses of prayer, and prisons. The number of places of worship—Quaker meeting houses, synagogues, Anabaptist meeting houses, and more—reflect the religious **diversity** of the city. One important landmark that is missing from the map, in the vicinity of the large pond labeled "Fresh Water," is the large African burial ground. From about 1712 through the 1790s, thousands of New Yorkers of African descent, most of them enslaved, were buried in this graveyard.


## Waterways and Bays

In his map, Ratzer shows many of the rivers, streams, and inlets found in and around Manhattan. The numbers in the water are called **soundings** and indicate the depth of the water. He clearly marked the "Hudson or North River" and the "East River or the Sound." His accommodation of multiple names for waterways indicates variations that were common in the 1760s, due to New York's layered colonial history. Look closely at the names of places on his map, and you'll find evidence of both Dutch and English influence in the names and spellings of places. Across the East River he showed the farms of "Brookland" (Brooklyn), which provided food for Manhattan, as well as the "Road to Flatbush" running through Brooklyn to the site of the Brooklyn Ferry.

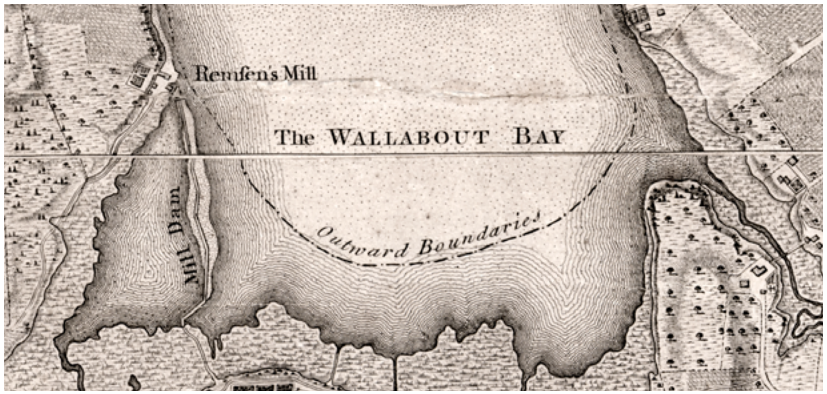



In lower Manhattan we see what was left of a sizable lake, called the "Fresh Water," (pictured on page 11) that stood near present-day Canal Street. The Fresh Water (also known as Collect Pond) had long provided New Yorkers with water for drinking and recreation. But by the time that Ratzer surveyed the area in the 1760s, the lake had been polluted through common use and industrial waste from the "tan yards" shown next to it on the map. New Yorkers could still get some fresh water by digging wells or collecting rainwater.


Along the East River on Manhattan Island, Ratzer recorded two inlets, Keps (Kip's) Bay and Turtle Bay. At Keps Bay in September 1776, the British fought against unprepared American troops and won, eventually capturing all of the island.

To the north of Turtle Bay lay the Beekman estate, which served as the British general's headquarters in New York during part of the American Revolution.

Across the river in Brooklyn is Wallabout Bay, the site of one of New York's most deadly chapters in the American Revolutionary War. In 1776, the British army anchored several prison ships in Wallabout, where prisoners were kept with little food or space. Thousands of people died there. "Remsen's Mill," shown on the map, was owned by Abraham Remsen. Survivors recalled how Remsen tried to provide food to sick prisoners on the ships.




**Governors Island**

The Ratzer Map also records areas around the island of New York, including "The Governour's or Nutten Island" (the Island of Nuts).


Today this is called Governors Island. It served as an important **fortification** during the summer of 1776, as New Yorkers prepared to defend themselves against the British navy.

At the bottom of the map, Bernard Ratzer drew the panorama from Governors Island across New York harbor to Manhattan. This view shows that the scale of New York's buildings was quite different in the late eighteenth century. Aside from a few church steeples, New York was a city of one- to three-story, stand-alone wooden houses. In this highly detailed drawing, Razter used his best artistic talents. He shows two gentlemen in conversation and two others fishing, with a woman holding a small umbrella, called a parasol, nearby.


*A fishing boat in the East River, with the "Brookland Ferry" landing in the background, observed by early New Yorkers on the shores of "The Governour's or Nutten Island."*

*Across the river from Brooklyn is seen Manhattan's rural countryside, spreading north of the city of New York.*

*Church spires and tall ship masts made up the skyline of Manhattan in 1767. The smoke rising up into the sky appears to be coming from a capsized ship off the piers.*

*Over the fortifications, known today as The Battery, note the British Union Jack flag. In the distance, the shores of New Jersey are visible on this clear day.*


**"Brookland"**

At the bottom of the Ratzer Map we see "Brookland," or Brooklyn. Brooklyn was a mostly settled, but still **rural**, town in Kings County. While Manhattan grew rapidly in the mid-eighteenth century, Brooklyn remained mostly farmland. New York relied on this nearby region for its foodstuffs. Brooklyn's farmers transported their goods along dirt roads to the "Brookland Ferry" landing and crossed the East River to sell in Manhattan's outdoor markets.

Ratzer's map showed the diverse **ecology** and land use in Brooklyn. Many large land plots are indicated, and show evidence of crops or orchards. In the eighteenth century, Kings County provided wheat, rye, oats, barley, corn, and other grains, as well as fruit from orchards. To the south, Ratzer recorded a marshy area near Red Hook.

Brooklyn had few residents in the 1760s. Most were farmers of Dutch origin. In fact, Dutch was often the language used in business, church, and trade. The most important properties shown in Brooklyn lay along the waterfront, closest to Manhattan. Philip Livingston's large manor home, for example, is listed. Because so much of Brooklyn was farms and orchards, its residents depended on enslaved laborers more than other New Yorkers did.

Ratzer recorded fewer roads in Brooklyn than in Manhattan. Only a few major **thoroughfares** are shown on the map: the Road to Flatbush, the Road to Jamaica, and the Road to Newtown. Each of these would have been rough dirt roads. Areas that we know today as Williamsburg, Greenpoint, and Queens showed almost no signs of settlement.

# Highlights in the Development of New York City, 1600 – 1900

**Pre-1600s: The Lenape Indians live in the area that is now known as New York City**

1600s: Settlement of the region grows under the Dutch, who transport thousands of African slaves to labor in the colony. By the late 17th century, 40 percent of the population were enslaved Africans.

**1600**

**1609** — Henry Hudson, a British explorer working for the Dutch East India Company, sails his ship, the *Half Moon*, into New York Bay.

**1624** — New Amsterdam is founded by the Dutch West India Company.

**1664** — Peter Stuyvesant, the Director-General of New Amsterdam, hands over control of the city to England. It is renamed New York, after James, Duke of York.

**1700**

**1754 –1763** — The Seven Years' War, or French and Indian War, is fought between British and French forces in North America. New York City's population and wealth grow.

**1765** — Parliament passes the Stamp Act. After ongoing protests by colonists, it is repealed in 1766.

**1766 –1767** — Bernard Ratzer, a British military engineer, surveys New York City. His map would become the most detailed image of a city in colonial America.

**1770** — Ratzer's Plan of the City of New York is printed in London.

**1775** — The first clashes of the Revolutionary War in Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts

**1776** — The first major battle of the war, the Battle of Brooklyn, also known as the Battle of Long Island, is fought throughout Brooklyn. Soon after, the British capture New York City.

**1783** — Britain and America sign the Peace of Paris, ending the American Revolutionary War. In November, New Yorkers celebrate Evacuation Day as the last British forces leave America.

**1800**

**1827** — Enslaved people in New York are legally emancipated. Some newly freed Africans leave the Dutch farming community of Kings County, but others remain as paid agricultural workers.

**1834** — Brooklyn becomes a city.

**1898** — The 5 boroughs (Brooklyn, the Bronx, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island) are consolidated into Greater New York.

**1900**

# Tips for Reading Historic Maps

Looking closely at maps like the Ratzer Map can help us to draw conclusions about the past. As you look, be sure to draw conclusions based on evidence. Point out details you see or read in the map (or any other object, image, or document) that support your thinking. Words and phrases like "It seems…," "Maybe…" and "I think…" show that the conclusion is based on the evidence presented.

**Keys to drawing clear conclusions**

**Be thorough** in your observations. Look longer, observe more.

**Distinguish** between fact and opinion.

**Detect point of view**—your own and that of the evidence you examine.

**Be explicit** about how you arrived at your conclusions, including the sources of your information.

**Review the parts of the map**

**Key** or **Legend** / **Compass Rose** / **Scale**

What seems to be the focus or center of the map?

**Looking further**

**When** and **where** was this map made?

**Who** made it?

**Research** the year/decade this map was made.
What factors may be important to note about this time?

**From Map to Image**

Imagine you are walking along the streets and landmarks indicated on the map.

What would it **look** like?

What would it **smell** like? **sound** like?

How could you get from one place on the map to another?
What kinds of **transportation** do you think you'd need?

Be sure to tie your comments back to the evidence or clues you can find on the map!

# Glossary of Terms

**barracks**
a building or group of buildings used to house soldiers

**cartographer**
a person who makes maps

**colony**
a territory ruled by a distant power

**commerce/commercial**
the buying and selling of goods

**compass rose**
a design on a map that shows directions

**conservator**
a person who protects or preserves things, especially works of art

**diversity**
the condition of being made up of different elements or qualities

**ecology**
the relationship between living things and their environment

**engraving**
image or text formed by carving or cutting into a block or surface for printing

**enslavement/slavery**
the act of holding people in servitude as property of others

**fortification**
a construction built for defense

**grid**
a pattern of horizontal and vertical lines forming squares on a map

**industry**
a branch of a craft, art, or business

**infrastructure**
the basic facilities and services needed for a city to function

**landmark**
a prominent feature of a landscape

**legend**
a key that explains the symbols on a map

**panorama**
an unlimited view over a wide area

**pasture**
a piece of land where animals graze

**privateering**
an armed private ship permitted by its government to make war on ships of an enemy country

**revolution**
a sudden political change or rebellion

**rural**
relating to the country, as opposed to the city

**satellite**
a manmade object orbiting a planet or other body in space

**scale**
an indication of the relationship between the distances on a map and the corresponding actual distances

**sounding**
a measured depth of water

**survey**
to find out the size, shape, and position of (as an area of land)

**symbol**
something, often a picture of sign, that represents something else

**thoroughfare**
a public road or passage

Some entries provided by Merriam-Webster.

# 3 Activities Using the Ratzer Map

**1.** One of the most important functions of a map is to name the things we see so that we have a common point of reference. The Ratzer Map includes many names that we still recognize today. Look closely at the map for street names in Manhattan and Brooklyn and compare with a contemporary map of lower Manhattan and Brooklyn http://mappery.com/map-of/New-York-City-Bike-Map. Which street names are familiar to you?

Many streets are named for people, places, trades, and goods that were important in their communities. This is especially true in the oldest parts of New York City. What clues do street names on the Ratzer Map give us about life in earlier times? Now look at a map of your school's neighborhood. (If you need a map, try typing your school's address into Google: maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&tab=wl ) What are the street names near your school? Can you find where those names come from?

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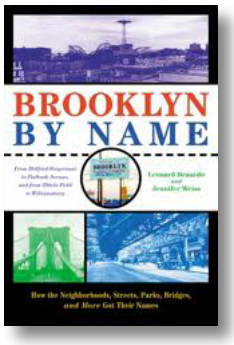


Check out ***Brooklyn By Name***, by Leonard Benardo and Jennifer Weiss, which indexes many Brooklyn streets by name. Available at the Brooklyn Public Library or for purchase:

astore.amazon.com/brookhistosoc-20/detail/0814799469

**2.** Most maps use symbols to represent important sites or features. Often the symbols are explained in a legend, or key. The Ratzer Map includes a legend at the lower left that uses letters as symbols. Using this legend, see how many of the sites and features listed you can find on the map. Now look at a map of another city. What symbols does the legend include?

Draw a map of your home/school/neighborhood. You may also start with a printed google map and add your lines, symbols, and descriptions on top of it. Or go on a walking tour and sketch the map as you walk in small groups. What are the landmarks you would use to make a map of this place? Create a legend for this place. What symbols will you include?

**3.** Bernard Ratzer's 1770 map includes many images. Some are symbols representing New York City history. He also created a panorama illustrating the view as someone would see it, similar to a photograph. Imagine you are sending an illustration of New York City today to someone living far away. What images and symbols would you choose to represent life in the city today? Think of a scene, like Ratzer's harbor panorama, that represents some real activities a visitor would see in your favorite place in New York City. Draw your own panorama, and be sure to include many details, just as Ratzer did.