



MAKING A STREETCAR MAP

This activity asks students to use their map skills to make a streetcar map. Streetcars were the main mode of transportation in the 1920s and 30s. This activity develops map skills and fosters an awareness of Birmingham's street layout, streetcar lines, and local landmarks. This activity also develops research skills, especially research using an online library database.

Activity

Create a diagram of the city's main streetcar lines. It is not necessary to show every street, only those that have a streetcar line. Indicate the most logical direction and where the main stops might be.

Also, indicate a weekly schedule for each line. When would the line need to be more active? When could it slow down? Consider such factors as factory schedules, whether or not there was a factory town, downtown business activity, and the desire for nightlife and weekend activities.

What You'll Need...

Construction paper or poster board

Scissors

Old and current maps of the city of Birmingham

Online Resources

1. Google Maps
2. In 1887, Beers Ellis & Co. completed a map of the city of Birmingham, with indications of rail and streetcar lines. It can be viewed and printed by going to www.bplonline.org. Click on "Digital Collections" and search "Birmingham Maps."