

A) Blackfoot Language:

• December is always a busy time for us all and we are happy that we have facilitated a tradition of singing traditional American Christmas song in the Blackfoot language. Songs include: Santa Clause is Coming to Town, Jingle Bells, Little Drummer Boy, Silent Knight, and We Wish You a Merry Christmas. In addition, our relatives from Siksika gave me the task to translate the song Twelve Days of Christmas in Blackfoot. It was finally translated and on December 24th it the final recording was completed and a puppet video was uploaded on to the BNAS Youtube page and the Browning Public School’s Facebook page. Here is an example of the song:

aisstsiikoōpo’ tō’ o’ nnii	On the twelfth day
nittūkkă tsiikoōkkă	My friend gave me
u’kwainiimăan	A pipe
ăkkīyimm imiitaiks	A bunch of dogs
kippiisoōpo’ksii	Ten bucks
pi’kso’i niito’yiissts	Nine tipis
năaniisittŭpiiks	Eight people
’kitsiikăamiksii	The Big Dipper (seven brothers)
no’i ăapsspiniiks	Six Canadian geese
niisiitsii pō’ nōkăamiitaiks	Five horses
niiso’im piitaiks	Four eagles
niiwksskam pii•ksiiks	Three birds
năatoōkăami pō’ssiiks	Two cats
kii pissŭtskiităan kii o’nnikii	A pastry and milk

• A list of sports terms has been put together, these include terms for: Basketball, Football, Soccer, Volleyball, Wrestling, Track, Cross Country, and Speech and Debate. The Athletic Director is excited to work with BNAD for these terms to be used for promotion on our athletics department

ăwăakoōmoōtsii	Athlete
isksskăakyăakssin	Baseball

kiitsäako' moōtsiissin	basketball
ō'ksstoōt' kittsspinnükssin	Count your reps (lifts)
iipyoōksskääsiyāa	Cross country (they run far)
āasiikūtsii	football (they hit kicking)
iitāwāakoōmoōtsiiyō'•p'	Gymnasium
tsiiksstu' p nu' kääkoōmoōtsii kiitsäako' moōtsiissin	I want to play basketball
āisiikūtsii pō'kwon	Soccer
ii•pō'•ssin kii āa' koōtsiissin	Speech and Debate (language and debate)
awaisstūmāttst' kiiyāa	Speech and Debate (they instruct)
sāpsskūpāatoōt' kittāapoōtstsinoōn	Stretch you leg muscle
sāpsskūpāatoōt' koōkūkin	Stretch your back
sāpsskūpāatoōt'	stretch!
ā•psskoōtsiissiin	track (they chase one another)
ā•pōōtsskoōtsiiyāa pō'kwōn	volleyball (they chase around a ball)
āisststsimoōtiiyāa	wrestling (they toss each other)

- The extended contract with Jake Arrowtop and Alysa Arrowtop yielded a great introductory lesson plan to usher people into understanding the writing system our department utilizes. This lesson will prove invaluable for aiding people to read the extensive language documents that our office has been developing. An example of the lesson plan:

Learning Goal: I can translate English sounds to the Blackfoot sound using the Big Bull Writing system.

Directions: The Big Bull Writing system is distinct from the English writing system you are familiar with. Students will be exposed to the Big Bull symbols through translating common English words. Take note that in some cases, the spelling changes significantly. This exercise is meant to develop a student understanding of the Big Bull writing structure as well encourage Blackfoot literacy in regard to writing.

Note: In regards to pronunciation, any word with a “c” must be changed to either a “k” or “s” and the “x” must be changed to “ks.”

Sample: NASA = nāasă

English Sound	Blackfoot Sound
1. Axe	1. Āaks
2. Mist	
3. Sky	
4. Stan	
5. Best	
6. Scone	
7. Scam	
8. Geese	
9. Goose	
10. Gwen	
11. Queen	
12. Sioux	
13. Set	
14. Dance	
15. West	
16. East	

Answer Key

Blackfoot Sound	English Sound
1. Āaks	
2. Mist	

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3.	Skīy	
4.	Stāan	
5.	Bāist	
6.	Skōn	
7.	Skāam	
8.	Kiis	
9.	Koōs	
10.	Gwāin	
11.	Kwiin	
12.	Soō	
13.	Sāit	
14.	Dāants	
15.	Wāist	
16.	list	

B) Blackfoot Geography Map:

The Blackfoot Geography Map will prove useful once we get a better grasp on how to utilize it. We were sure to prioritize using our language in our natural landscape and traditional territory of the siksikaitsiittǫpii

Interactive Blackfeet Geography Map

User Manual for Browning Public Schools Educators

Welcome to the Blackfeet Geography Interactive Map!

This interactive map is designed to be a living resource for educators to teach the Blackfeet language using spatial data associated with geographic features located in Traditional Blackfeet Territory. You can explore, edit, and personalize the map to suit your teaching needs. The map is accessible to anyone with the link, and you have the ability to update descriptions, add photos, and edit features embedded in this map including: Mountain Peaks, Rivers, Hills, Lakes, and Mountain Ranges.

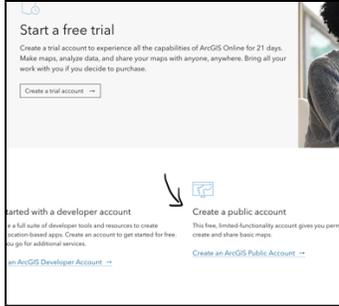
It is recommended that you create your own version of the map for personalized lessons or projects. This allows you to experiment and make edits without affecting the shared version.

Getting Started: Creating a Free ArcGIS Online Account

You'll need a free ArcGIS Online account to access and use the map. Follow these simple steps:

1. **Go to the ArcGIS Sign-Up Page:**
 - Open your internet browser and visit www.arcgis.com.
2. **Click "Create an Account":**
 - On the top right corner, click **Sign In** and then select **Create a public account**

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3. **Fill Out the Form:**

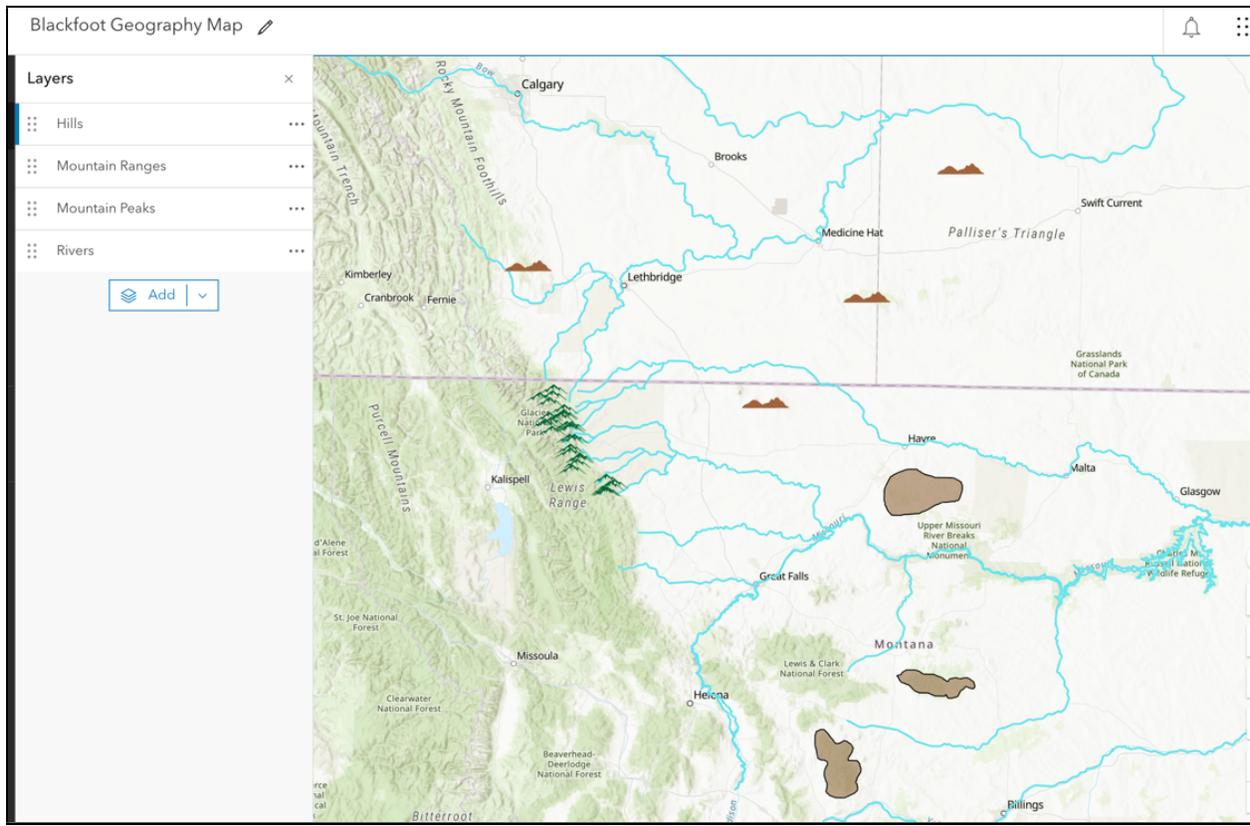
- Enter your name, email, and a username.
- Create a password that meets the security requirements.
- Agree to the terms of use and click **Create Account**.

4. **Verify Your Email:**

- Check your inbox for an email from Esri (ArcGIS).
- Click the verification link to activate your account.

5. **Access the Map:**

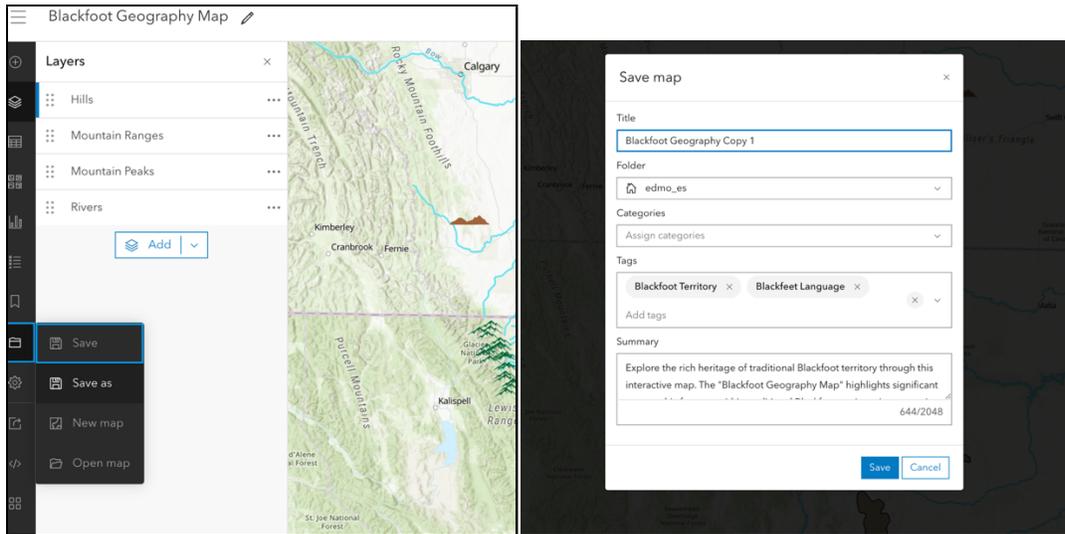
- Once your account is ready, use the shared link provided by your administrator (BNAS Director) or click on the link below to open the Blackfoot Geography Map.
- <https://sscmsu.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=54efb99474cc414ba0b80fd97be53b2a>



Making Your Own Copy of the Map

Creating your own copy of the map allows you to fully customize it for your classroom. Here's how to make your version:

- 1. Open the Shared Map:**
 - Use the link provided to access the shared map in ArcGIS Online.
 - Sign in with your ArcGIS Online account.
- 2. Save a Copy:**
 - Click the **Save As** button in the top menu (you may need to click the **Save** dropdown first).
 - Enter a new title for your map, such as "My Version of Blackfeet Studies Map."
 - Add a summary and tags (optional) to describe your version of the map.
 - Click **Save Map**.



3. **Edit Your Copy:**

- Once saved, this new copy is now your version. You can:
 - Add new layers or GIS data.
 - Edit existing features (e.g., descriptions, photos, names).
 - Customize the map's appearance (e.g., basemap, colors).

4. **Share Your Version (Optional):**

- If you want to share your version with others, click **Share** in the top menu.
- Choose your sharing settings (e.g., with specific groups, everyone with the link, or only yourself).

Editing Features in the Map

Whether you're editing the shared map or your own copy, you can update features like descriptions and photos. Here's how:

1. **Open the Map:**

- Click the shared link or your saved version of the map.
- Sign in with your ArcGIS Online account.

2. **Enable Editing:**

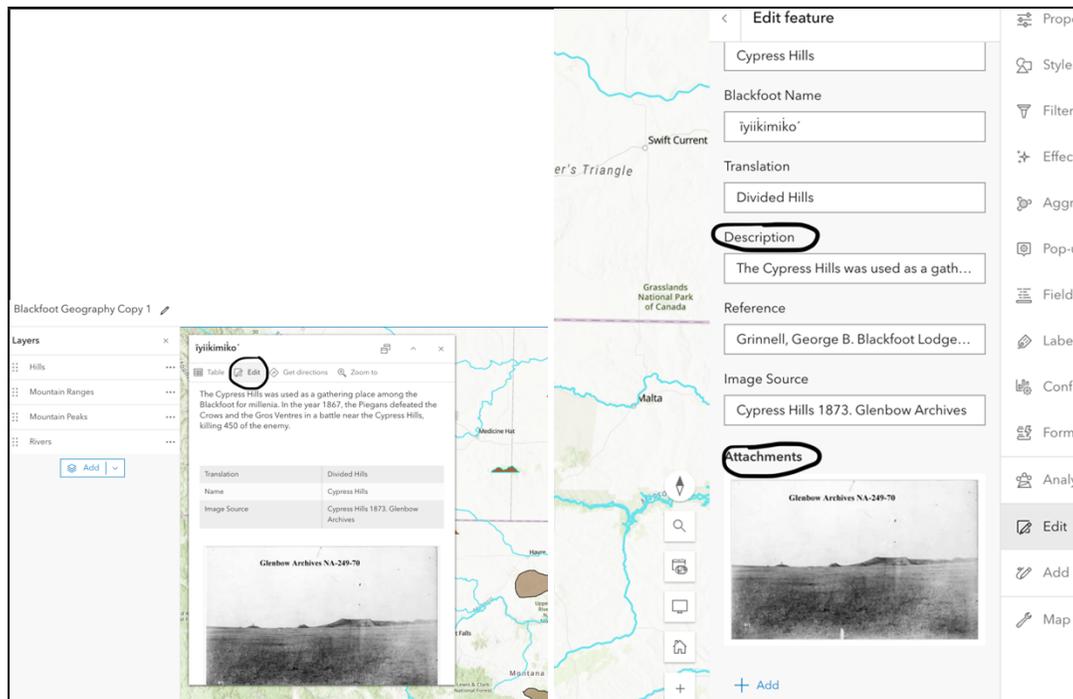
- Click on a layer such as **Mountain Peaks, Rivers, Hills, or Mountain Ranges**.
- Select the feature you'd like to edit (e.g., a specific river or mountain).

3. **Update Descriptions:**

- After selecting a feature, click the pencil icon or **Edit** button.
- In the description box, add or update historical facts, language terms, or any other relevant details.

4. **Add or Update Photos:**

- Click the photo section in the feature's details.
- Upload new images or replace existing ones by selecting a file from your computer.



5. **Save Your Changes:**

- Once you're done editing, click **Save** to ensure your updates are visible in the map.

Ideas for Using the Map in Your Curriculum

The map can be a versatile tool for teaching language, geography, and history. Here are some ways to incorporate it into your lessons:

1. **Blackfeet Language Activities:**
 - Use the map's features to teach Blackfeet names for mountains, rivers, and other landmarks.
 - Assign students to research and add Blackfeet terms for geographic features.
2. **History Exploration:**
 - Discuss the significance of specific landmarks in Blackfeet history and culture.
 - Have students write or update descriptions of features, adding historical events or oral stories tied to the locations.
3. **Creative Projects:**
 - Encourage students to add photos of landscapes or places they have visited.
 - Have students create a "story map" by linking the geographic features to traditional Blackfeet stories.
4. **Geography Lessons:**
 - Teach students about geological processes using the map's rivers, hills, and mountains.
 - Have them identify and label additional features in the surrounding areas.
5. **Science and Technology Integration:**
 - Introduce students to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as a tool for exploring and analyzing the natural world. Explain that GIS allows us to collect, visualize, and analyze data about Earth's features.
 - Discuss how scientists use GIS to track changes in the environment, study wildlife patterns, and monitor weather events.
 - Assign students to analyze patterns or relationships, such as how rivers connect to hills and mountains or the significance of certain landmarks to ecosystems.

Step-by-Step Guide: Creating a Story Map with the Blackfoot Geography Map

This guide will help educators create an engaging Story Map using ArcGIS Online and embed the Blackfoot Geography Map into their story.

Story Maps transform learning into an engaging learning experience, encouraging collaboration and deeper understanding. By pairing the map with a meaningful story--such as the cultural and ecological importance of geographic features--students can explore the material in a more immersive way. The storytelling format provides context for GIS (Geographic Information

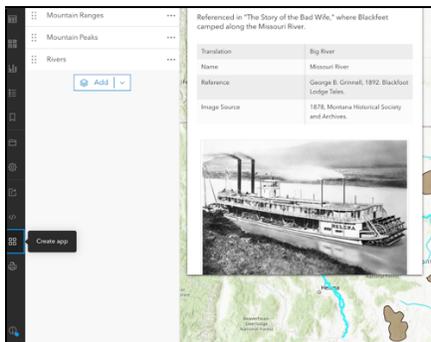
Systems) data, enabling students to analyze information, share insights, and discuss the cultural and ecological relevance of Blackfoot geography. Teachers can design assignments that promote group discussions and projects centered on the Story Map, fostering teamwork, critical thinking, and a greater connection to the subject matter.

Step 1: Sign In to ArcGIS Online

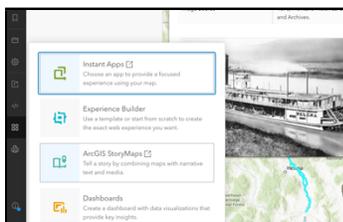
1. Open [ArcGIS Online](#) in your web browser.
 2. Log in to your free ArcGIS Online account. (Refer to the manual for creating a free account if you don't have one yet.)
-

Step 2: Start a New Story Map

1. From the **Home** page, click **Apps** in the side menu.
2. Select **ArcGIS Story Maps** to open the StoryMaps builder.



3. Click **Create New Story** to begin.



Step 3: Add a Title and Description

1. Enter a **title** for your Story Map, such as *Exploring Blackfoot Geography and Culture*.
 2. Write a **brief introduction** in the description box explaining the purpose of the story (e.g., "This Story Map explores Blackfoot geography, culture, and history through interactive maps and multimedia content.").
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Step 4: Embed the Blackfoot Geography Map

1. **Add a Map Block:**
 - In the Story Map builder, click the + button to add a new content block.
 - Select **Map** from the options.
 2. **Find and Embed the Map:**
 - Use the search bar or go to **My Content** to locate the Blackfoot Geography Map.
 - Select the map and click **Place Map**.
 - Adjust the size and zoom level of the map as needed.
 3. Add a **caption** or description below the map to explain what it represents and how students can interact with it.
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Step 5: Add Supporting Content

1. **Text Blocks:**
 - Add sections to explain the significance of Blackfoot landmarks, history, or culture.
2. **Images and Videos:**
 - Upload historical photos, illustrations, or video clips related to Blackfoot geography.
3. **Sidecar Feature:**
 - Use the Sidecar option to display multimedia content alongside the map for a more interactive experience.

Step 6: Customize the Story Map

1. **Themes:**
 - Choose a design theme to match your Story Map's tone and topic.

 2. **Navigation:**
 - Add navigation headings to help users move through the sections of your Story Map easily.
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Step 7: Publish the Story Map

1. **Click Publish:**

Review your Story Map for accuracy and completeness.

 - Select your sharing settings (e.g., share with a group, organization, or the public).

 2. **Copy the Link:**
 - Share the link with students or other educators.
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Step 8: Integrate the Story Map into the Classroom

- Use the Story Map as a teaching tool for geography, history, or cultural studies.
- Encourage students to interact with the map and create their own stories using what they've learned.

C) BNAS Assessment:

To support our BNAS instructional coach, Lea Whitford, in assessing Blackfoot language proficiency, we contracted Lea 'Lori' Tatsey and Seirra Heptner to administer the assessments. This year, rather than evaluating every BNAS student, we focused on community progress and overall proficiency. A randomized selection of five students per Immersion Class and twelve students per grade level were assessed. This sample size balances efficiency with accuracy, ensuring a representative reflection of student proficiency while minimizing assessment time.

All our immersion teachers, BNAS teachers, and Principals (along with their building and staff) were very cooperative and happy to work with us in assessing the students. At the end of the assessments, we can look back and see the roadblocks in administering them, they are: assessment proves to be long and loses the focus of younger students, which exacerbates the distractions of peers and everyday sounds of a school. Results from the assessments will be calculated and shared in February.