

MAKING AN ONLINE MAP USING GOOGLE MY MAPS

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DISCLAIMER

Google hasn't been promoting Google My Maps so we don't know how long it will be around.

Use at your own risk!

WHAT CAN YOU MAP?

- Anything with a location, or the answer to the question “WHERE?”
 - Latitude and longitude coordinates (e.g.: 45 degrees North, 75 degrees West)
 - Street address
 - City/town/village/neighbourhood
 - Province/state/county
 - Country
 - Location of interest (e.g.: monument, historic site, park)

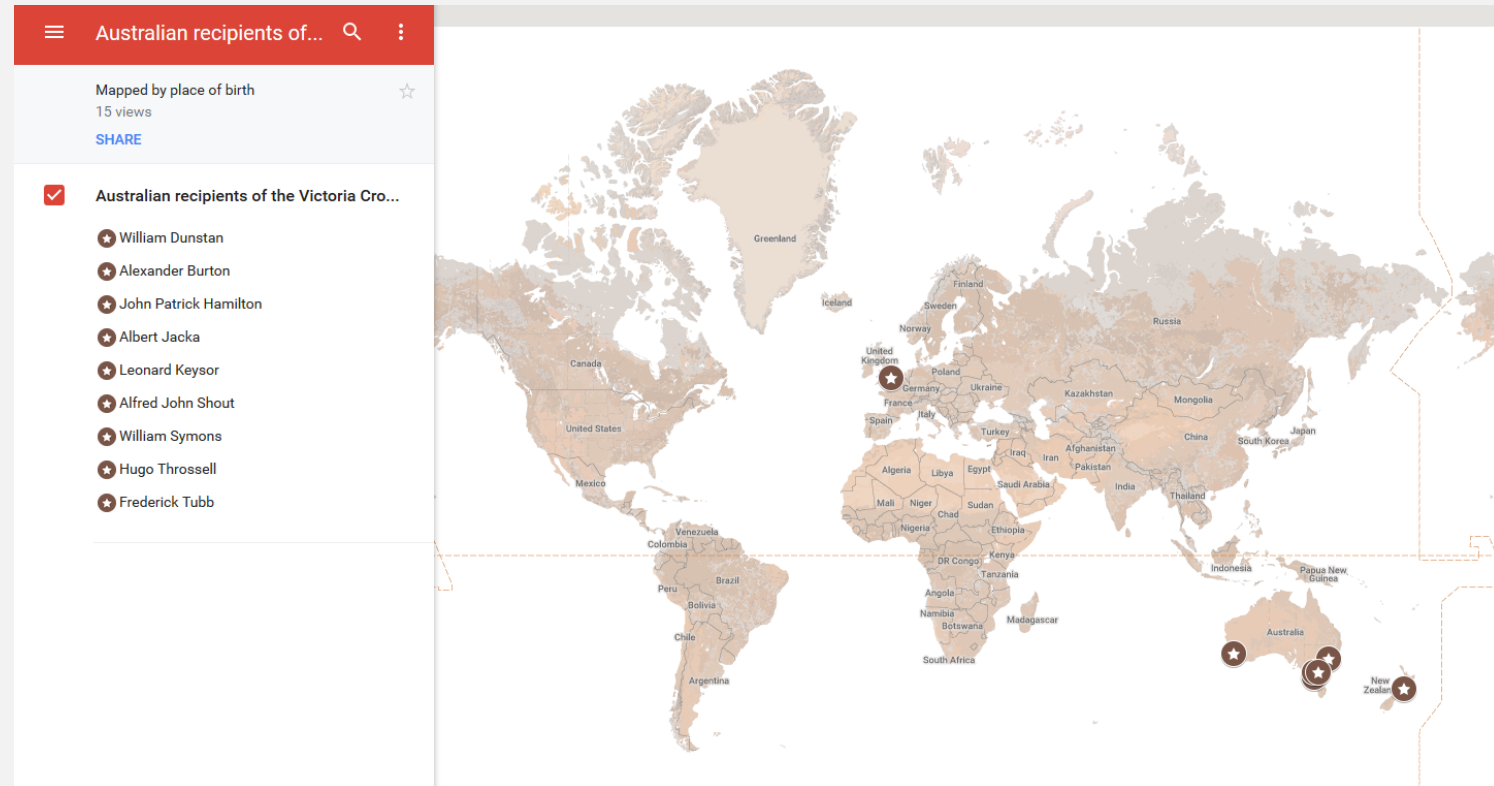
WHY GOOGLE MY MAPS?

- It's hard to beat the Google location search if you want to make a dataset of existing locations from scratch.
 - That said, if it's a lot of locations (>50-100), see if there's a dataset that already exists.
- Most people are familiar with the Google Maps interface and have a Google account.
- You can easily add locations that aren't in the Google database, like “my favourite bench to sit on at the park” or “this water fountain actually has cold water and isn't weirdly warm.”*
- You can collaborate with colleagues to make a map.
- You can create and share an interactive online map.
- You can export the data (as KML/KMZ) to use in a GIS software later.

*the water bottle fountain on the first floor of the library is generally the warmest ☹️

GOOGLE MY MAPS

- Example: bit.ly/hist2809b



GETTING STARTED

- Help guide: <https://library.carleton.ca/guides/help/making-online-map-google-my-maps>
- My Maps help: <https://support.google.com/mymaps/?hl=en#topic>

The screenshot displays the MacOdrum Library website. The main content area features a help guide titled "Making an online map with Google My Maps". The guide text states: "This help guide outlines the process to create an interactive online map using Google My Maps, which is free to use but requires a free Google/Gmail account. The resulting map will have custom icons to click on for further information, including text, videos, or images. Google My Maps also has help documentation that you may want to consult." Below the text are sections for "How-to videos and tutorials" and "Contact" information (GIS Reference, GIS@carleton.ca, Book a GIS consultation). A search bar at the bottom asks "What kind of information do I need?".

The right sidebar, titled "Welcome to the My Maps Help Center", contains a list of navigation options:

- + Get started with My Maps
- Create your map
 - Create or open a map
 - Add places and search results
 - Add lines and shapes
 - Save directions on My Maps
 - Add photos and more to your map
 - Import info to your map
 - Style and label map content
 - Create custom icons
- + Edit and manage your map
- + Share maps and use on the go
- + My Maps for Android
- + Troubleshooting My Maps

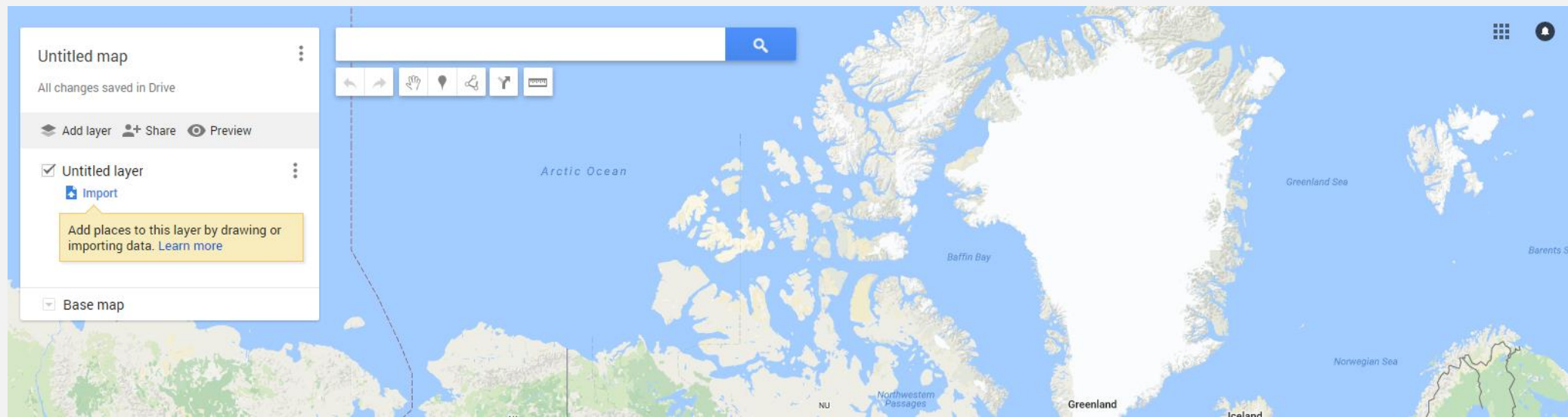
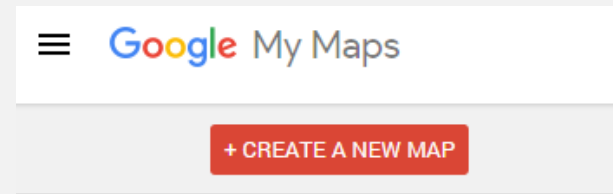
GETTING STARTED

- <https://www.google.com/maps/about/mymaps/>

- Or just Google *Google my maps*

- Login

- Click on *Create a new map*



GET TO KNOW YOUR WAY AROUND

The image shows a screenshot of the Google Maps web interface. On the left, there is a sidebar with a menu. On the right, there is a toolbar with navigation and editing icons. A world map is visible in the background.

Map info (indicated by a bracket pointing to the top of the sidebar)

Add layer, share, preview (indicated by an arrow pointing to the 'Add layer', 'Share', and 'Preview' buttons)

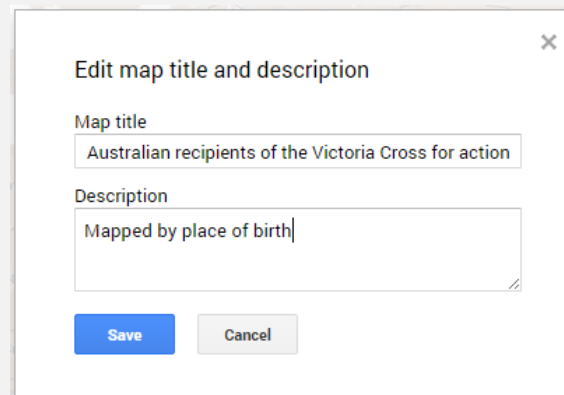
Layer details (name, symbology, etc.) (indicated by a bracket pointing to the 'Untitled layer' section)

Change base map (indicated by an arrow pointing to the 'Base map' dropdown)

Add points (markers), lines, and areas (indicated by a circle around the 'Add' icon in the toolbar)

GIVE YOUR MAP A TITLE

- Click on the *Untitled map* text in the upper left corner to change the title and description
- Your title should describe exactly what the map shows
 - My example map title is *Australian recipients of the Victoria Cross for actions at Gallipoli*
 - Description: *Mapped by place of birth*

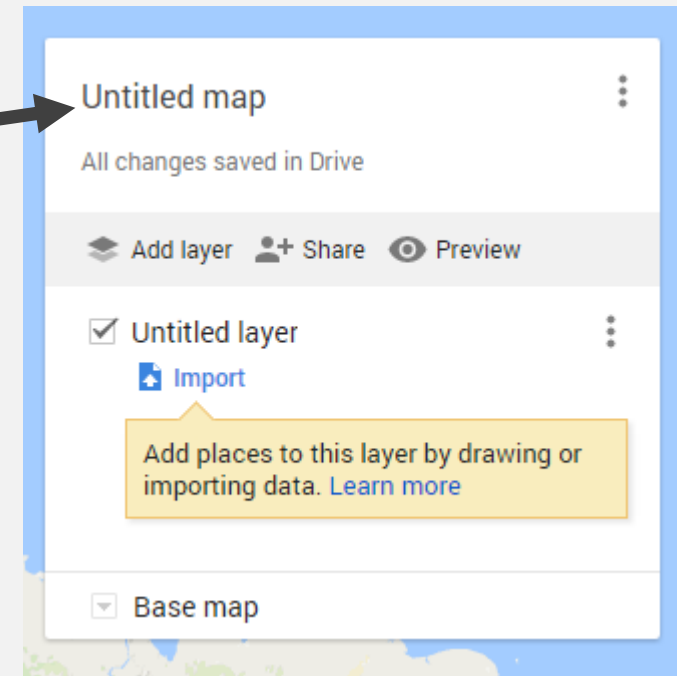


Edit map title and description

Map title
Australian recipients of the Victoria Cross for action

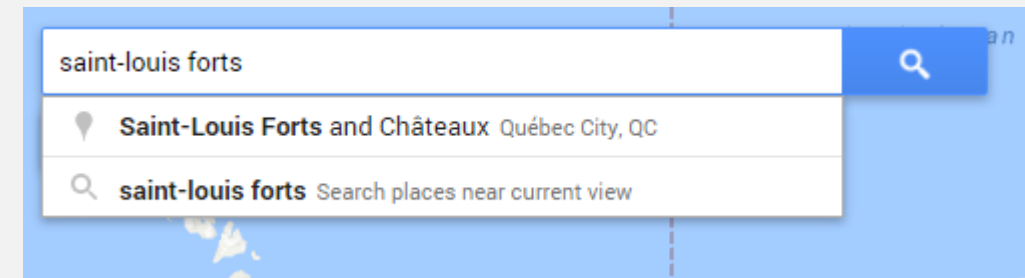
Description
Mapped by place of birth

Save Cancel

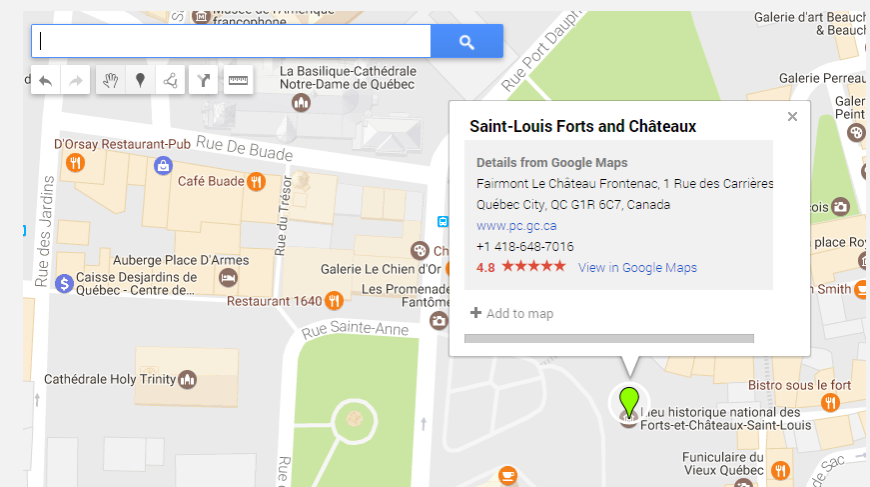


ADDING LOCATIONS TO YOUR MAP


1. Search for your location using the search box

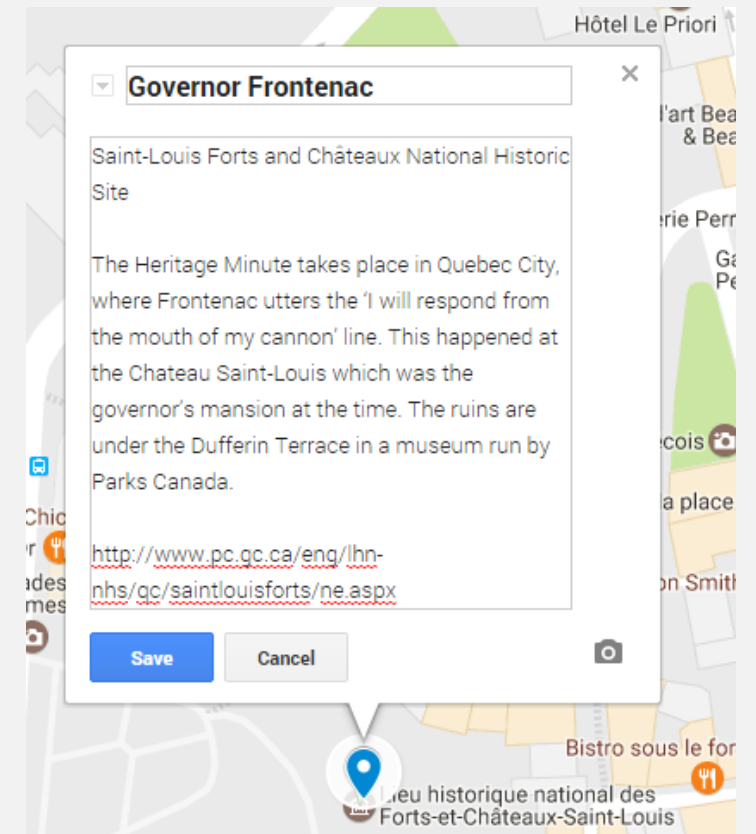


2. Click on the entry that matches what you're looking for



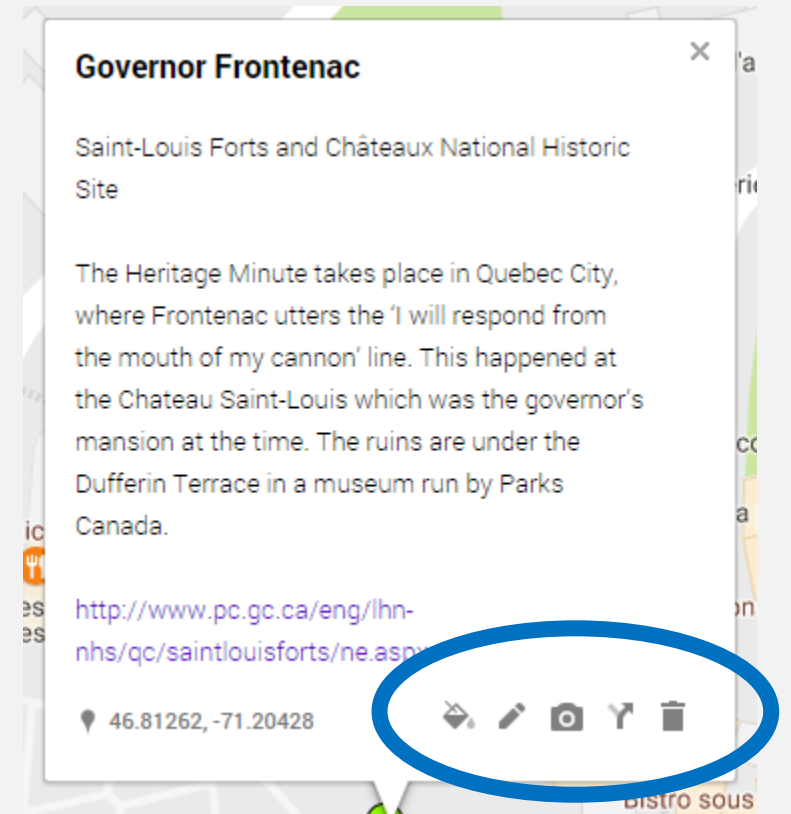
ADDING LOCATIONS TO YOUR MAP

3. Click the Add Marker button under the search bar 
4. Click on the location you want to put the marker
5. Name the point something helpful
6. Type text in the text box (Shift-Enter to add a line)
7. Click Save



ADDING LOCATIONS TO YOUR MAP

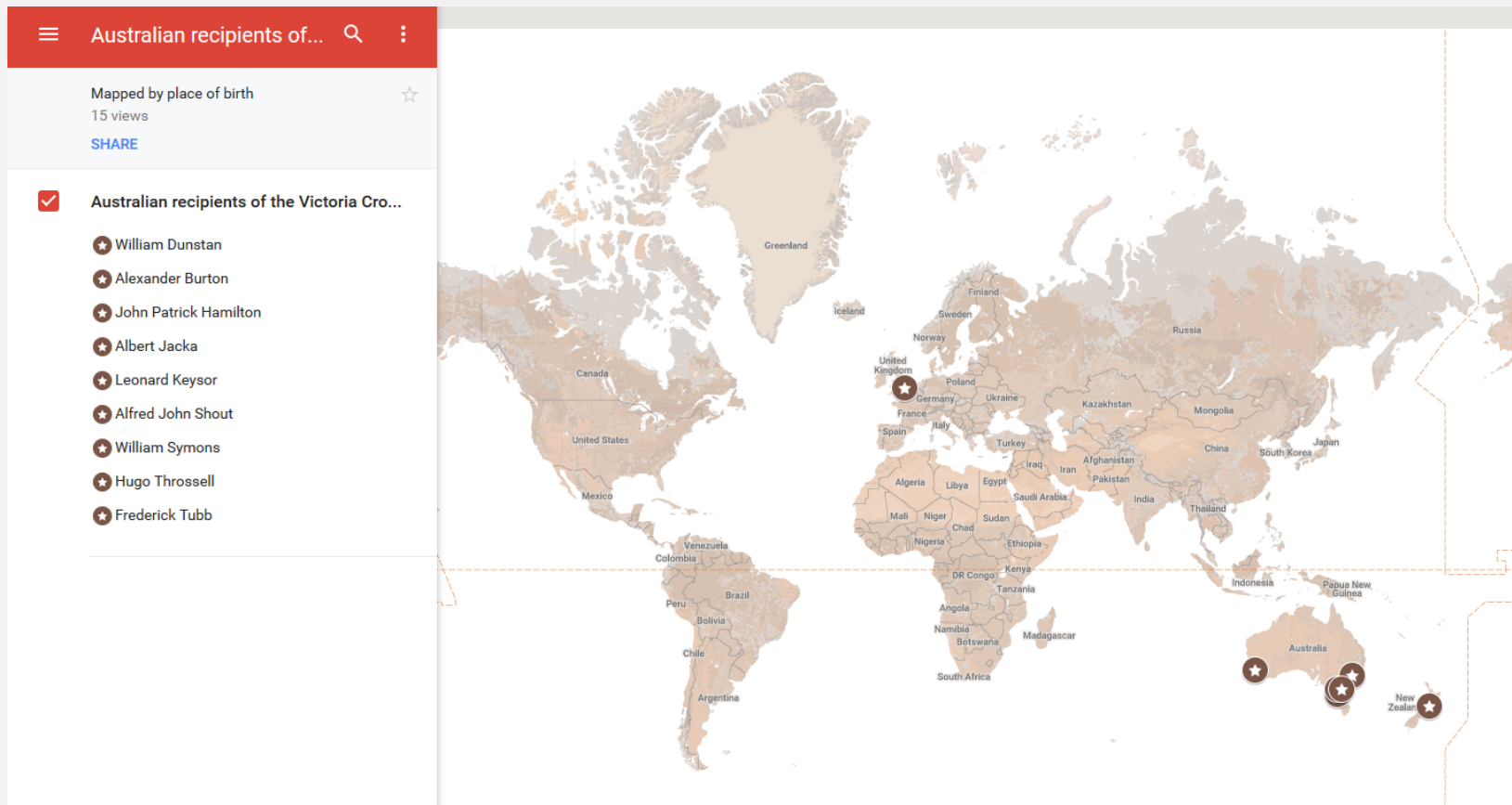
- After you've clicked Save, there will be options to edit, symbolize, delete, etc. at the bottom of the info window



SYMBOLOLOGY

- The colour and shape/design of points on the map
 - You can choose the colour, thickness, and transparency of lines and polygons/shapes
- Try to balance **helpful organization** with **messy / confusing**
 - This is a challenge!
 - What may work for some viewers won't work for others
- You can make all the symbols Uniform, but if you won't have too many points in your map/layer, I'd recommend **Individual styles** because it makes the final map a bit easier to navigate

UNIFORM SYMBOLOGY



INDIVIDUAL STYLES

This screenshot shows the OTTR Discovery Tool interface. The top navigation bar includes a menu icon, a search icon, and the text "OTTR Discovery Tool Archives & Special Collections ASC". A notification banner at the top of the map area states "This map was created by a user. Learn how to create your own." The left sidebar contains a description: "Click on pins for selected OTTR resources/Addresses may be best guess/Colour pins=neighbourhoods*Doesn't include OMNI" with 3,757 views and a "SHARE" button. Below this is a filter section titled "Address" with a checked checkbox, listing several address-based filters such as "[11 1st Ave] 1 entry (Our Lady of the Miraculous...)", "[3rd Line & Century Rd] 2 entries (CBO and CBO...", "[2718 8th Line Rd] 1 entry (St Catherine of Siena...", and "[461 Rte 105] 1 entry (Prentiss House) QUEBE...", along with a "... 3191 more" link. The main map area displays a geographical map of a region in Quebec, Canada, with numerous house-shaped pins overlaid. The pins are color-coded by neighborhood, showing a dense cluster of pins in the central-eastern part of the map, with colors ranging from blue and purple to red and orange. The map includes labels for various towns and roads, such as "Lac-Sainte-Marie", "Val-des-Bois", "Lac-des-Loups", and "Perkins".

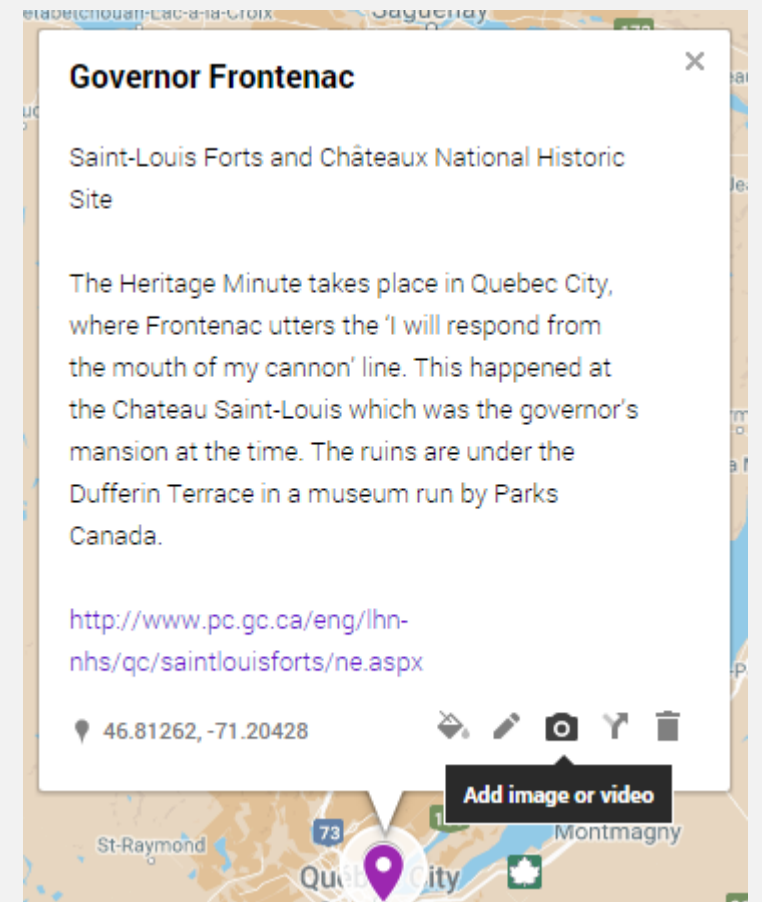
ADDING IMAGES

- Click on Add image or video at the bottom of the info window
- Add link to image, add image file, etc.

Choose an image or a video ×

Upload Web camera **Image URL** | Your photos Google Drive Google Image Search YouTube Search YouTube URL

Paste an image URL here:



Governor Frontenac ×

Saint-Louis Forts and Châteaux National Historic Site

The Heritage Minute takes place in Quebec City, where Frontenac utters the 'I will respond from the mouth of my cannon' line. This happened at the Chateau Saint-Louis which was the governor's mansion at the time. The ruins are under the Dufferin Terrace in a museum run by Parks Canada.

<http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/lhn-nhs/qc/saintlouisforts/ne.aspx>

📍 46.81262, -71.20428

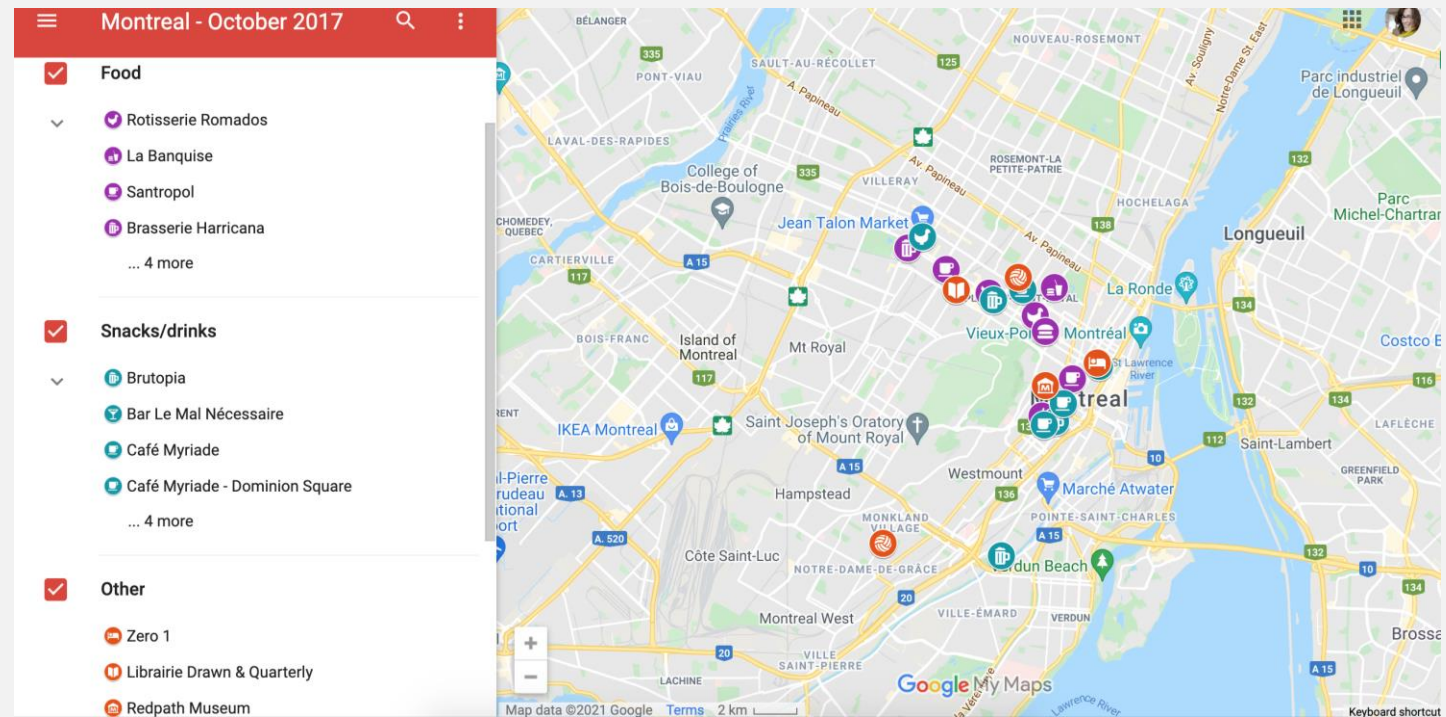
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Add image or video

St-Raymond 73 Québec City Montmagny

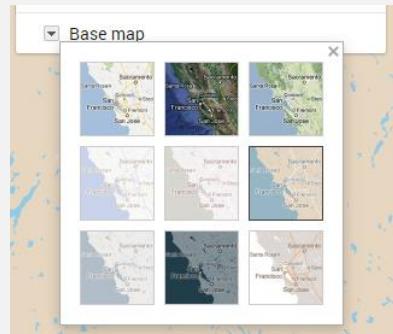
LAYERS

- Layers are one way of categorizing locations
- If you will be exporting the data to use in another GIS software, each layer will be a different KML file
- In this example of a Google My Map for a trip to Montreal, there are layers for food, snacks/drinks, and other

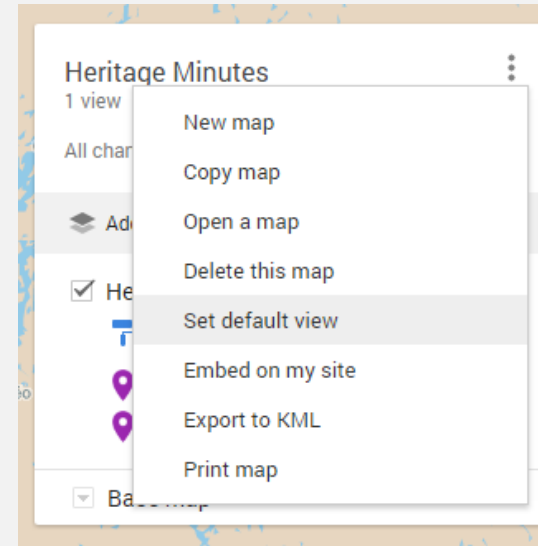
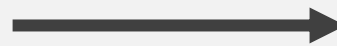


POLISHING THE MAP! YOU CAN...

- Change the base map




- Set the Default View (zoom level)



- Preview  Preview

- Definitely do this! The map you share has a different layout than in the editing mode you're in


IF YOU WANT TO SHARE YOUR MAP


- Click Share  Share
- Set your privacy to either *On – Anyone with the link* or *On – Public on the web*
- Copy and submit the link provided


Link to share

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fMg57bFQxUPkFqnE9OFFeEK0BM&usp=sharing>

Link sharing

 **On - Public on the web**
Anyone on the Internet can find and access. No sign-in required.

 **On - Anyone with the link**
Anyone who has the link can access. No sign-in required.

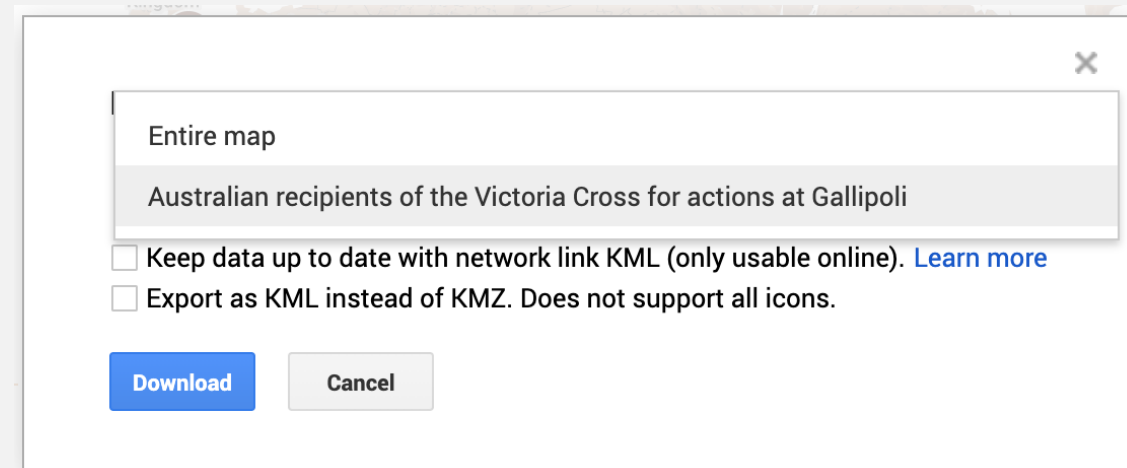
 **Off - Specific people**
Shared with specific people.

Access: Anyone (no sign-in required) [Can view](#) ▼

[Save](#) [Cancel](#)

IF YOU WANT TO EXPORT THE DATA

- Click on the three dots beside your map title
- Select *Export to KML/KMZ*
- Select which layer or the entire map
- Select the export format
 - KMZ keeps icon/symbol details
 - Export as KML if you'll be using the data in another software
- Download



NEED MORE HELP?

- Consult our help guide: <https://library.carleton.ca/help/making-online-map-google-my-maps>
 - Takes you step by step through what we just demonstrated, plus more
- Have a look at Google My Maps help: <https://support.google.com/mymaps#topic=3024924>
 - It's well done and will answer most questions
- Email us: gis@carleton.ca