

Mapping the Sephardic World

Research and add five or more Sephardic sites and objects to the world map

Subject	Geography, History, Digital Humanities
Grade level	Secondary and undergraduate
Duration	Two-week project
Skills	Geospatial literacy, source verification, curation
Tools	Sephardi world map (contributor access), database, AI research assistant

Overview

Students work as contributing curators for the Sephardi world map. Individually or in small teams, each student researches and adds at least five Sephardic items or places from around the world: a synagogue, a cemetery, a printing house, a marketplace, a neighborhood, a monument, or an object with a documented location. Every entry needs a geolocation and supporting evidence. Their entries make the map a fuller, student-built atlas of the Sephardic world.

Learning objectives

Students will be able to:

- Locate and verify Sephardic sites and objects using reliable sources.
- Write concise, well-sourced entries suitable for a public map.
- Add and geolocate at least five entries on the Sephardi world map.
- Explain how the geographic spread of sites tracks patterns of migration and settlement.

Materials and tools

- Sephardi world map (contributor or educational access).
- Sephardi Spaces database for cross-referencing people and places.
- Research sources: library databases, museum and archive websites, reputable encyclopedias.
- AI research assistant to suggest candidate sites and check for gaps in coverage.

What counts as an entry

Each of the five entries includes a name, a specific location (city and, where possible, coordinates), a category (building, cemetery, object, neighborhood, institution, or event site), a description of two to four sentences, at least one cited source, and, where relevant, a link to a related figure in the database. Entries should span at least three countries to show geographic breadth.

Project sequence (about two weeks)

Week 1, research and vet. Use the AI assistant to brainstorm candidate sites, then verify each against an independent source. Build a research log with the required fields for all five entries.

Week 2, contribute and connect. Geolocate and add the five entries to the world map. Link each to a database figure where possible, then write a short curator's note about the pattern the sites form.

Deliverables

- At least five sourced, geolocated entries added to the Sephardi world map, spanning three or more countries.
- A research log documenting sources for each entry.
- A one-paragraph curator's note interpreting the geographic pattern.

Assessment

- Rubric focus: accuracy of geolocation, quality and citation of sources, clarity of descriptions, and geographic breadth.
- Bonus: entries that connect a place to a documented person or migration route in the database.

Differentiation

- **Support:** Assign a region and provide three pre-vetted candidate sites to start from.
- **Extension:** Require an object entry with provenance, for example a ketubah, a printed book, or a ritual object, and trace its journey.
- **Team mode:** Groups build a themed layer, for example printing and books, or cemeteries, across many countries.