



south dakota

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

South Dakota State Archives

Digital Map Activities:

“Good Roads Everywhere,” 1916

[Teacher Version]

Have your students use these maps to answer the questions below.

- [“Good Roads Everywhere,” 1916](#)
- [Official State Highway Map \(Medium Resolution\)](#)

1. What states surround South Dakota?

North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Montana

2. What causes the eastern edge of South Dakota to have a curvy boundary?

Part of the boundary is determined by rivers and bodies of water.

3. Compare the names of the counties on these maps. Which county names do we not have today?

Washington, Shannon, Armstrong

4. Find where you live on both maps.

a. Is your town listed on both maps?

Answers will vary.

b. Is your town still in the same county as it was in 1916?

Answers will vary. East River counties will be unchanged, but several big changes occurred West River.

c. Has the size of your county changed? Is it bigger or smaller now?

Answers will vary. East River counties will be unchanged, but several big changes occurred West River.

5. Names of our towns can come from many sources. Take a look at some of the town names.

a. Find two towns named after a landscape feature.

Possible answers include Hot Springs, Grandview, Meadow, Coal Springs, Eagle Butte, Ree Heights, Sioux Falls, Fairview, Elm Springs, White Lake, etc.

b. Find two towns named after a person

Possible answers include Alexandria, Mitchell, Chamberlain, DeSmet, Dupree, Harding, etc.

c. Find two towns named after other cities or towns.

Possible answers include Austin, Salem, Gettysburg, Hartford, etc.

6. Why do you think they called the 1916 map “Good Roads Everywhere”? What is the purpose of this map?

Answers will vary, but here is the historical context for the map.

The “Good Roads Everywhere” map was part of a series of maps used to advocate for the Federal Aid Road Act of 1916, which facilitated the construction of national highways throughout the United States. These “good roads” would receive Federal funding and be less expensive for states to build and maintain. They would also create stronger ties between communities and shorten travel times, especially with the increasing popularity of the automobile. The Federal Aid Road Act of 1916 laid the groundwork for the Federal-aid highway system that we still use today. If you would like more information, the Federal Highway Administration has a detailed history available online (<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/highwayhistory/landmark.pdf>).