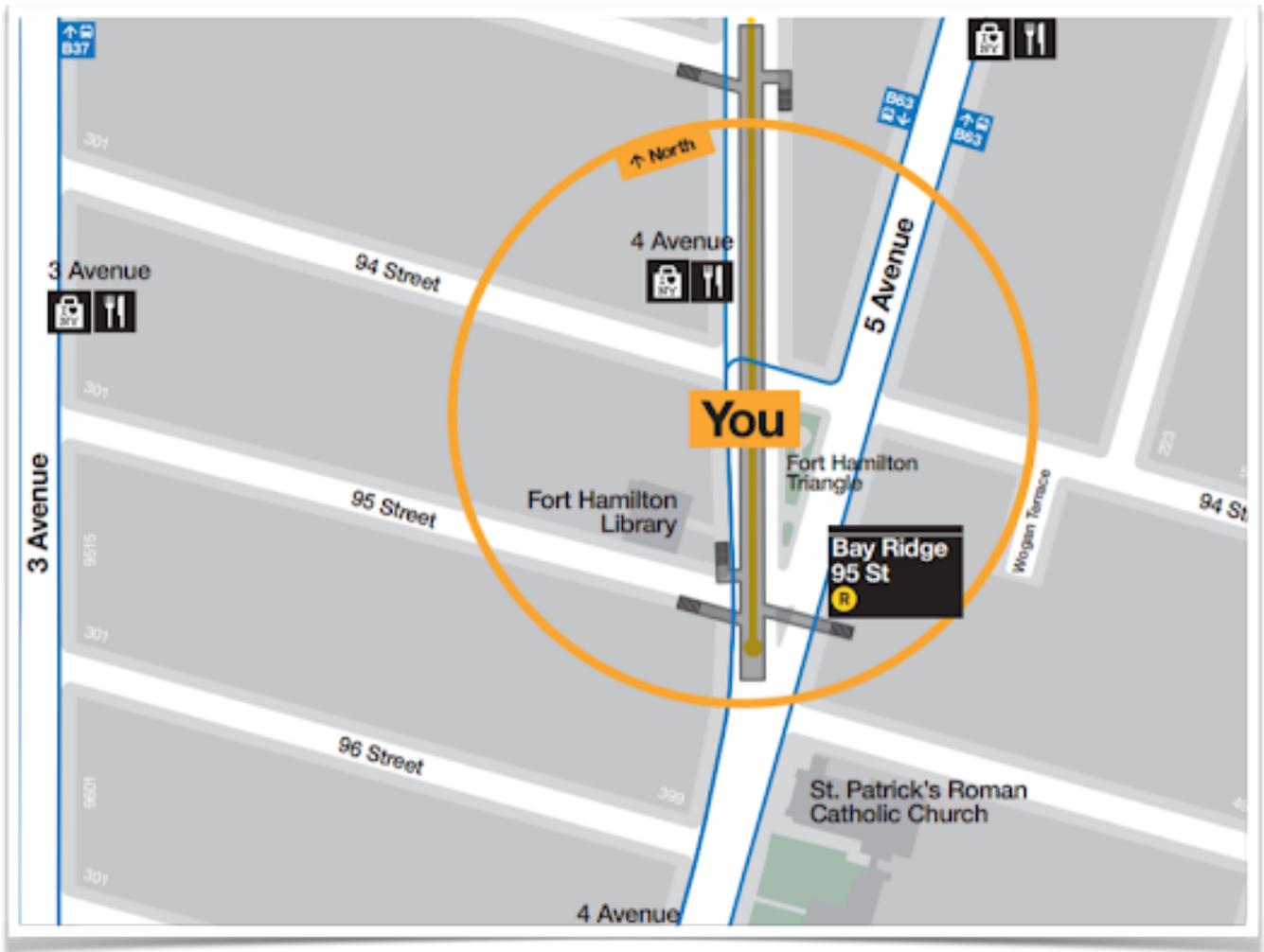


Family Workshop: Mapping Your Community



The Map, 1998. Michael Hertz Associates/ Metropolitan Transportation Authority,
New York Transit Museum

Maps can help us get from one place to another and show us where things are. There are maps of countries, parks, cities, and even museums. This map of the subway system shows us where train service begins and ends, and the stations along the train lines. It also shows landmarks like Central Park and the New York Transit Museum. This map helps us navigate New York City.



Bay Ridge 95th St Neighborhood Map detail, Metropolitan Transportation Authority

LOOK

Take a moment to look closely at all of the details in this picture. What do you notice?

THINK and SHARE

- What do you think the word “You” stands for on this map?
- What landmarks, or special locations, are on this map?
- What colors do you see on this map? How do those colors help the reader understand it?

DISCOVER

There are different kinds of **maps** we can use to get around New York City. There are subway maps, maps for the bus, walking tour maps, and maps showing bike paths. It takes great attention to detail and careful planning to be a **cartographer**, or a person who makes maps.

ACTIVITY

Now it's your turn to be a cartographer. You can make a map of your own neighborhood, or even design a new neighborhood.

Materials:

Paper, pencils, markers/crayons/colored pencils.

Step 1:

Make a list of the places you want to include on your map.

Here are some ideas: school, library, park, playground, restaurant, grocery store.

Step 2:

Design your map.

Draw the streets, and then fill in the blocks with symbols, or pictures, to represent different locations. A book might represent the library, and a cat might represent the vet's office. You can be creative and come up with whatever symbols you like.

Step 3:

Create a map key.

A map key is one of the most important parts of a map. It tells readers what the symbols or pictures on your map mean. You can use any symbols or pictures you want on your map.

Tip: You can put your map key on the same sheet of paper or a separate sheet of paper if you need more space.

Step 4:

Include transit options in the neighborhood.

Think about how people get around in the neighborhood. Is there a subway nearby? A bus stop? Bike lanes? Don't forget to include these on your map!

Share photos of your community map using #nytransitmuseum