Mapping the Meuse-Argonne Offensive Student Directions and Worksheet

1. Navigate to the following address: http://arcg.is/1Tb12re for the map "It's Now or Never: the Battle of the Meuse-Argonne."

2. Important features on the map are:

   - **Meuse-Argonne Images:** Images and primary sources from the Meuse-Argonne Offensive
   - **Primary Focus:** Hyperlink to General John J. Pershing's remarks during the dedication of Montfaucon American Monument
   - **Day One:** American advancement lines during day one of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive
   - **Phase One:** American advancement lines September 26 – October 3
   - **Phase Two:** American advancement lines October 4 – 7
   - **Phase Three:** American advancement lines October 8 – 31
   - **Phase Four:** American advancement lines November 1 – 11
   - **Important Towns:** Towns of particular interest during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive
   - **Towns:** Other towns in the region of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive
   - **Farms:** Major farms located within the Meuse-Argonne battlefield
   - **Hills:** Major hills of the Meuse-Argonne battlefield
   - **Bois (Woods):** Wooded sections of the battlefield
   - **Railroads:** Railroads that ran through or near the battlefield
   - **Rivers:** Two major rivers that were part of this battlefield
   - **German Lines:** Major German defensive lines
   - **Hindenburg Line:** Strongest of the German defensive lines
   - **Important Heights:** Major heights of the Meuse-Argonne battlefield
   - **Meuse-Argonne Area:** Battlefield area

THE BATTLEFIELD

   - Select the Measurement Bookmark and use the measure tool to calculate total square mileage of the battlefield. Click on the measure tool, choose the area feature, and change the units to miles. Click, drag, and click to draw a box around the battlefield and answer Q1.

   Q1: How large was the area that the AEF aimed to capture?

DAY ONE

- Select the Day One Bookmark.

- Turn on Day One (September 26, 1918) and Meuse-Argonne Images layers. Look at the distribution of advancement lines and then click on and open at least seven images located near Day One advancement lines. Turn on German Lines and Important Heights layers to help answer Q2 – Q4. Turn off layers when you are done and ready to move onto the next phase of the battle.

Q2: Describe the geography and landscape of Day One using the map and images provided.

Q3: Look at the advancement lines and describe any patterns you see. Are they close together or spread out? Many lines together suggest that the area met a lot of resistance or encountered fighting. Which areas appear most contested during Day One?

PATTERNS	
CONTESTED AREAS	

Q4: What feature(s) on the map appears to have been the AEF's objective on Day One?

- Use the Measure Tool to find out how much land Americans gained during the first day of battle. To do this, click on the Measure Tool, choose the area feature, and change the units to miles. Click, drag, and click to draw a box around Day One advancement lines and answer Q5.

Q5: How much ground did the AEF gain during Day One?

PHASE ONE

- Select the Phase One Bookmark.

- Turn on Phase One layer (September 26 – October 3) and keep Meuse-Argonne Images layer visible. Look at the distribution of this phase's advancement lines and click on and open at least five of the images located in the vicinity. Turn on German Lines and Important Heights layers to help answer Q6 - Q8. Turn these layers off when you are done.

Q6: Describe the geography and landscape of Phase One using the map and images provided.

Q7: Look at the advancement lines and describe any patterns you see. Are they close together or spread out? Many lines together suggest that the area met a lot of resistance or encountered fighting. Which areas appear most contested during Phase One?

PATTERNS	
CONTESTED AREAS	

Q8: What feature(s) on the map appears to have been the AEF's objective during Phase One?

- Use the Measure Tool to find out how much land Americans gained during Phase One of the battle. To do this click on the Measure Tool, choose the area feature, and change the units to miles. Click, drag, and click to draw a box around Phase One advancement lines and answer Q9.

Q9: How much ground did the AEF gain during Phase One?

PHASE TWO

- Select the Phase Two Bookmark.

- Turn on Phase Two layer (October 4 – October 7) and keep Meuse-Argonne images visible. Look at the distribution of advancement lines and click on and open at least five of the images in the vicinity. Turn on German Lines and Important Heights layers to help answer Q10 - Q12. Turn these layers off when you are done.

Q10: Describe the geography and landscape of Phase Two using the map and images provided.

Q11: Look at the advancement lines and describe any patterns you see. Are they close together or spread out? Many lines together suggest that the area met a lot of resistance or encountered fighting. Which areas appear most contested during Phase Two?

PATTERNS	
CONTESTED AREAS	

Q12: What feature(s) on the map appears to have been the AEF's objective during Phase Two?

Use the measure tool to find out how much land the Americans gained during Phase Two of the battle. Answer Q13.

Q13: How much ground did the AEF gain during Phase Two?

PHASE THREE

- Select Phase Three Bookmark.

- Turn on Phase Three layer (October 8 – October 31) and keep Meuse-Argonne Images visible. Look at the distribution of advancement lines and open at least five of the images in the vicinity. Turn on and Important Heights layers to help answer Q14 - Q16. Turn these layers off when you are done.

Q14: Describe the geography and landscape of Phase Three using the map and images provided.

Q15: Look at the advancement lines and describe any patterns you see. Are they close together or spread out? Many lines together suggest that the area met a lot of resistance or encountered fighting. Which areas appear most contested during Phase Three?

PATTERNS	
CONTESTED AREAS	

Q16: What feature(s) on the map appears to have been the AEF's objective during Phase Three?

- Use the measure tool to find out how much land the Americans gained during Phase Three of the battle. Answer Q17.

Q17: How much ground did the AEF gain during Phase Three?

PHASE FOUR

- Choose Phase Four Bookmark.

- Turn on Phase Four layer (November 1 – November 11) and keep Meuse-Argonne images visible. Look at the distribution of advancement lines and click on at least five of the images in the vicinity. Turn on German Lines and Important Heights layers to help answer Q18 – Q20. Turn these layers off when you are done.

Q18: Describe the geography and landscape of Phase Four using the map and images provided.

Q19: Look at the advancement lines and describe any patterns you see. Are they close together or spread out? Many lines together suggest that the area met a lot of resistance or encountered fighting. Which areas appear most contested during Phase Four?

PATTERNS	
CONTESTED AREAS	

Q20: What feature(s) on the map appears to have been the AEF's objective during Phase Four?

- Use the Measure Tool to find out how much land Americans gained during Phase Four of the battle. Answer Q21.

Q21: How much ground did the AEF gain during Phase Four?

- Look at the Phase Four layer and answer these reflection questions. Answer Q22 - Q23.

Q22: What were the German Army's options during Phase Four?

Q23: What were the American Army's options during Phase Four?

PRIMARY FOCUS

- Choose Primary Focus Bookmark.
- Turn on Primary Focus layer.
- Click on the place mark and open the image. Read General Pershing's dedication to the ABMC Montfaucon American Monument. Answer Q24 - Q25.

Q24: What does General Pershing note about the weather during the battle? Why do you think he chose to make note of this in his remarks?

Q25: Pershing's remarks include the following statements: "The Meuse Argonne Battle presented numerous difficulties seemingly insurmountable"; and "one of the greatest achievements in the history of American Arms?" From what you have seen in the maps and images from the battle, identify at least three reasons Pershing would make these statements about the Meuse-Argonne Offensive's place in American history.