

Lesson 9

Google My Maps:

Show where stories happen

Give important context by building interactive maps.



Course 1: Training Center Fundamentals

This course teaches skills every journalist needs for reporting in the digital age. You will learn a broad range of practical tools that you can use immediately.

Lesson Overview

Tell your story with a map.

Maps are an engaging way to share data and important context with your audience. But if you're on deadline and new to Maps, it can seem a little daunting. But it's actually pretty easy. Google My Maps is a free tool that lets you quickly make custom maps that you can embed on your website—no programming required.

- 3 What Maps can do for you.
- 4 Start your map.
- 5 Visualizing data with your map.
- 8 Choose the style of your map.
- 9 Sharing your map with the world.
- 11 Putting your map on your website.

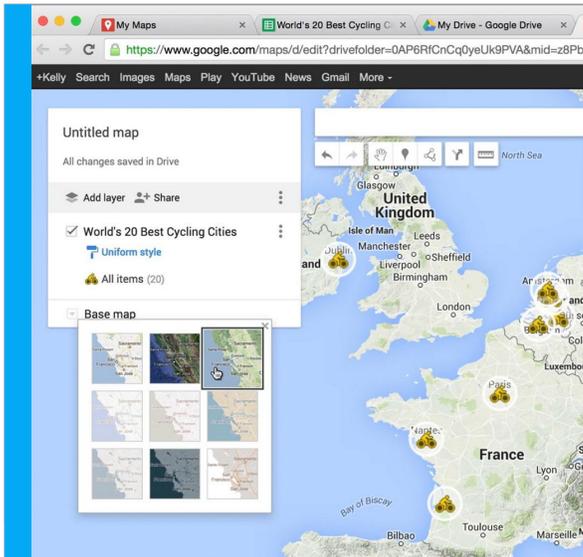
For more lessons, visit:

newsinitiative.withgoogle.com/training/course/fundamentals

Card 1

What Maps can do for you.

Whether you'd like to show the location of crimes committed in a specific neighborhood or map your readers' favorite bicycling routes, My Maps is a powerful way to show data in engaging ways.



You can:

- Draw and style points of interest, lines and shapes.
- Import data from Google Drive spreadsheets, or as CSV files, Excel files and KML files.
- Add custom icons that you create to your map.
- Choose from one of nine base map styles, including our satellite and terrain maps.
- Collaborate on your map with colleagues, just like Google Docs and Sheets, and manage your maps in Google Drive.
- Share and embed finished maps on your website.

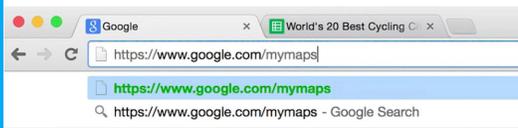
Card 2

Start your map.

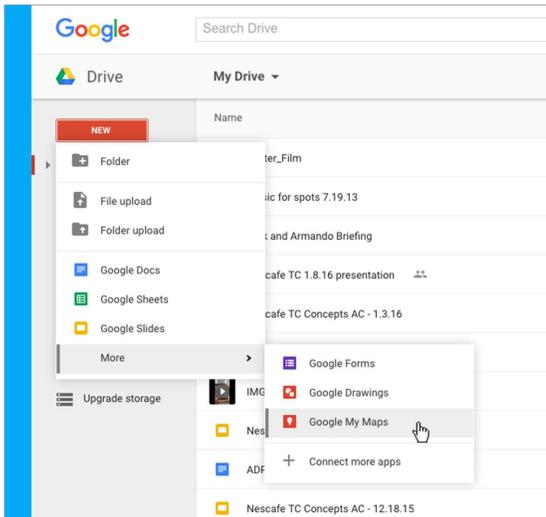
You can get started at [Google.com/mymaps](https://www.google.com/mymaps). Or go to Google Drive and click the “New” button and find the My Maps apps in the menu under “More.” This takes you to the My Maps editor, where you can start drawing and styling information on top of your map, or import a spreadsheet to quickly map bigger datasets.



To open the “My Maps” editor, visit [google.com/mymaps](https://www.google.com/mymaps).



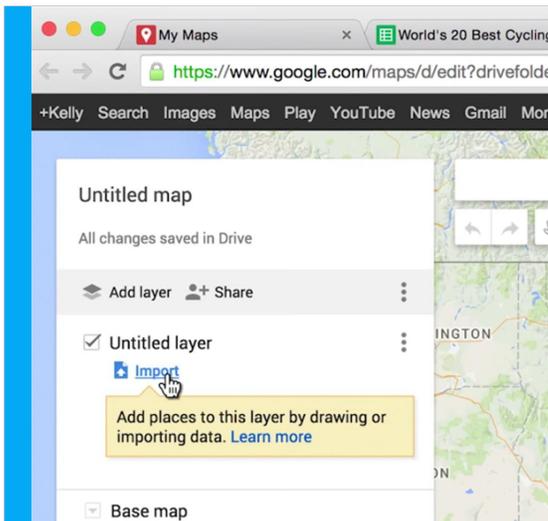
To access the “My Maps” editor from Google Drive, click the “New” button, then hover over “More” in the menu and select “Google My Maps.”



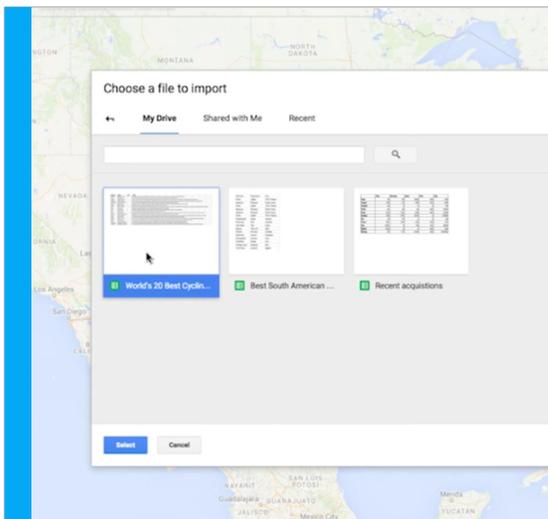
Card 3

Visualizing data with your map.

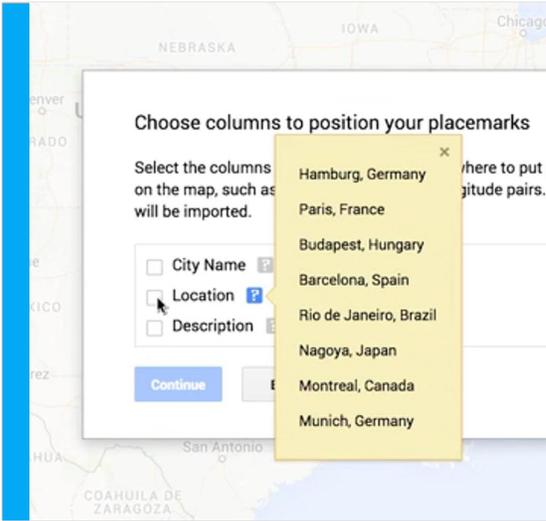
Let's say you're writing a story about the World's 20 best cycling cities and you want to visualize your data in a map.



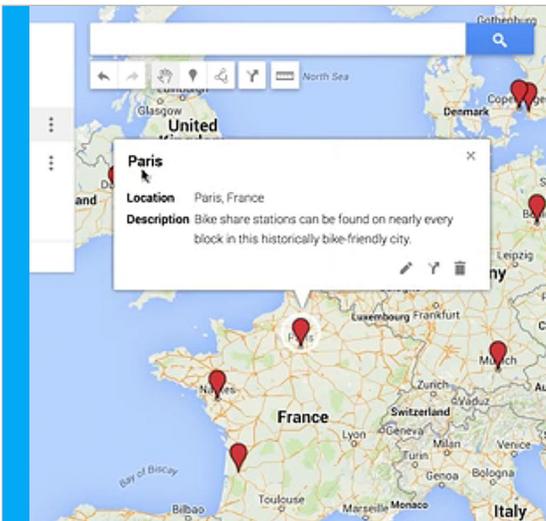
Go to the My Maps editor window and hit "import."



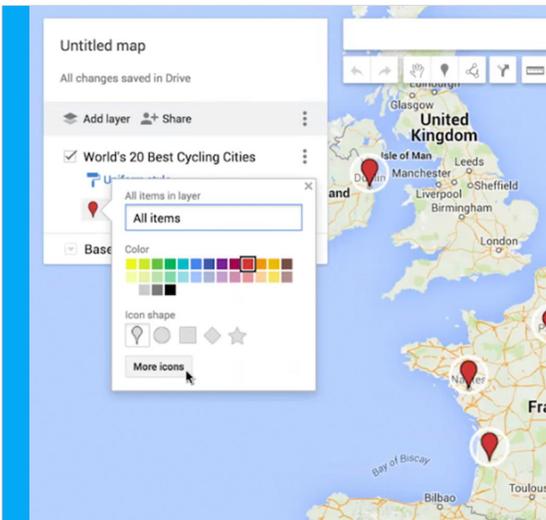
Then, select your spreadsheet.



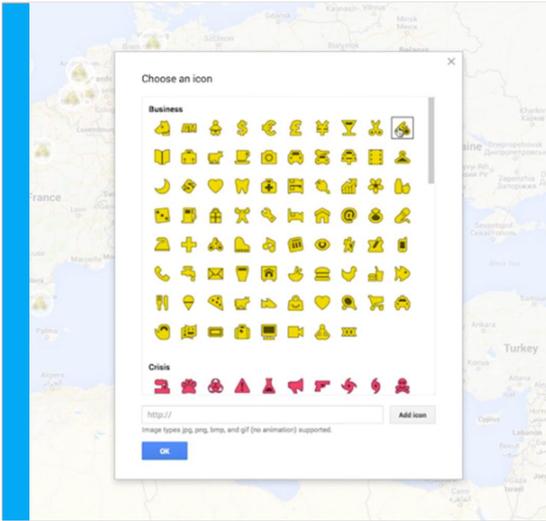
It will ask you to select the column with the location info to position your placemarks.



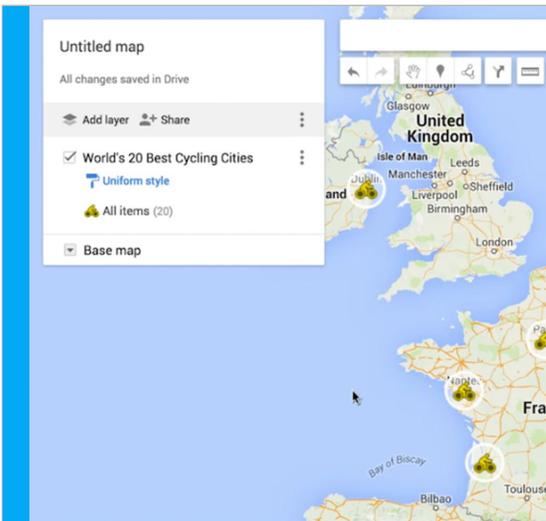
Then you have to choose a column that will title your placemarks which will be in the bold text at the top of the Info window when you click a placemark.



If you'd like to replace the red pins with a different icon, that's easy.



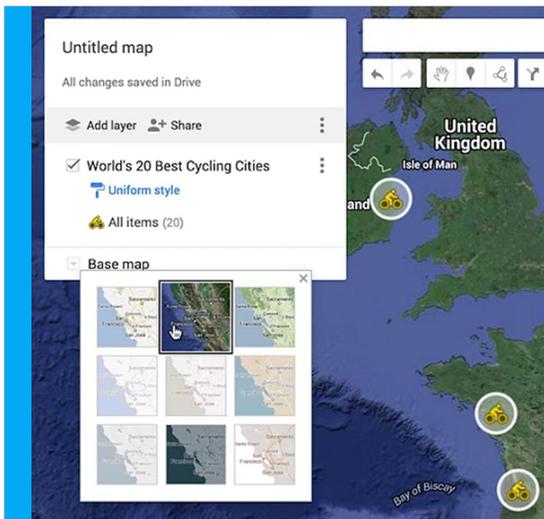
Go back to the My Maps editor and under “all items” pick “more icons.” Here you’ll be able to choose from an existing library or add your own.



Card 4

Choose the style of your map.

To make sure the appearance of your map fits your story, you can choose from nine different base map styles, including satellite and terrain maps.

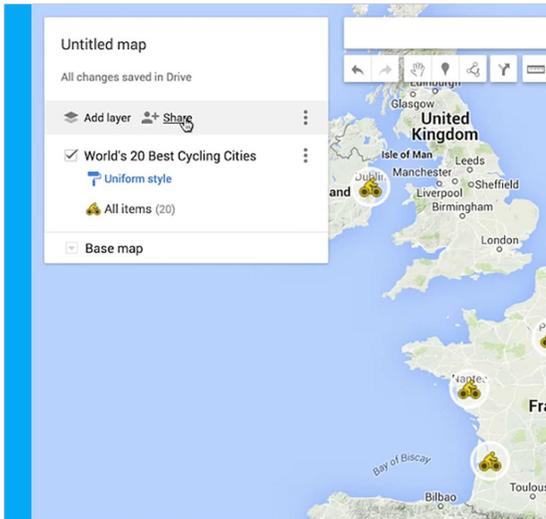


Go to the editor window and pick the one you think works best for your subject matter.

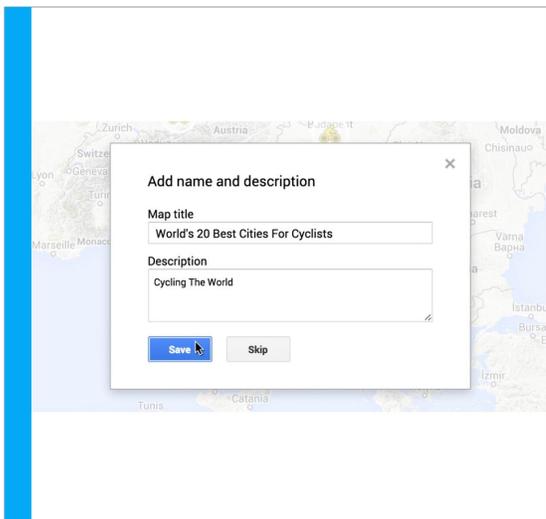
Card 5

Sharing your map with the world.

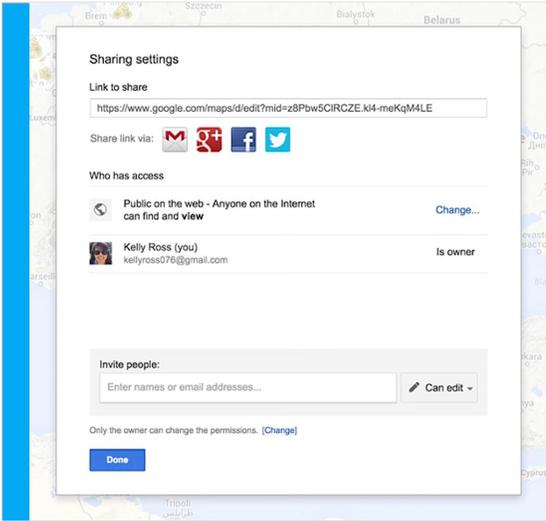
As you're building your maps they will always be private until you explicitly share them with others. When you're ready to publish your map:



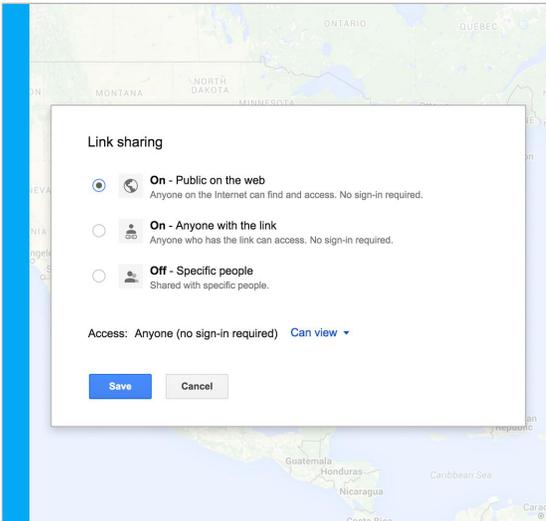
Click the Share link.



Give your map a title.



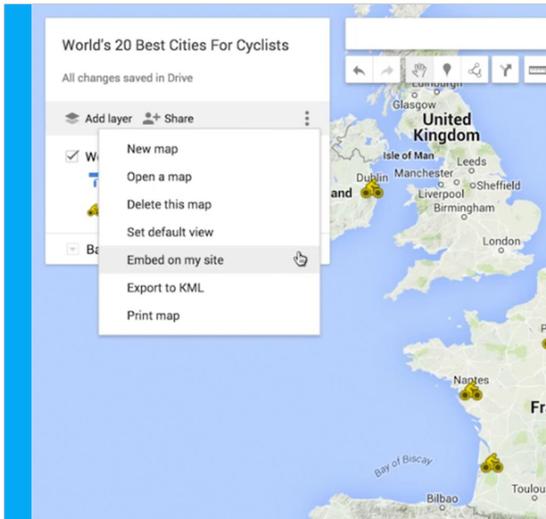
Make your map public.



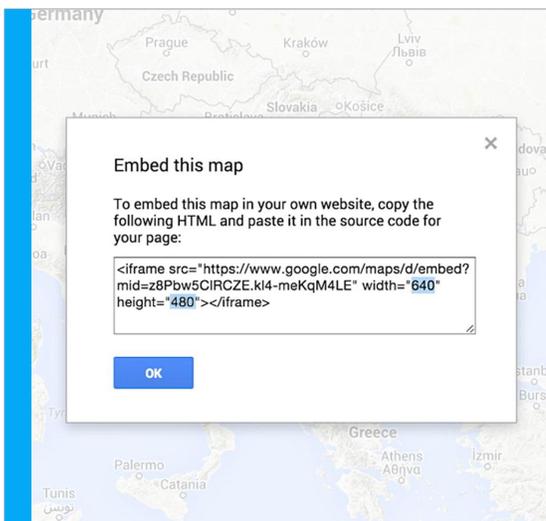
Card 6

Putting your map on your website.

To embed your map on your website, select the “Embed on my site” option in the menu.



You'll get a window with the HTML code which you can then paste into your source code.



In the code, you can dial in the right height and width for your site.

Congratulations!

You completed “Google My Maps: Show where stories happen.”

If you want to learn more tools that will help you research, report and distribute your stories, go to the Training Center website for the next lesson in the Fundamentals Course:

