

# 6 Viewing Program Maps

The maps included with **American History Explorer** are based on data provided by the U.S. Defense Mapping Agency, reflecting the latest and most accurate mapping technology. They include geographic, topographic, and event-related maps covering various periods in U.S. history. You can view and modify the maps in many ways, taking advantage of the inherent Windows functions (moving, sizing, zooming, etc.), and you can also create your own maps, using the background maps included with the program. Creating and modifying maps is discussed in Chapter 7.

## Opening an American History Explorer Map

You can open a map from a time line by just clicking on the map icon to open the map indicated. You can also open a map from the Opening Screen or another map by following the directions below.

1. From the Opening Screen, click on the Map Studio icon or, from another map, click the Open Map icon. In either case, the Select Map dialog box opens.

The dialog will list all maps included with the **American History Explorer** program, and any you've added to the program. More maps are available than can be presented in the dialog window at one time, so you'll need to use the scroll bar to view the entire list.

Initially, the Select Map dialog lists maps in alphabetical order. However, since most maps included with the program correspond to a historical time period, you can also sort them in chronological order. (Maps covering a range of dates are sorted by the first date in the date range.). To change the order, use the dialog box Sort Order option and click on the button in front of your choice: Alphabetic or Time Period. The program will sort according to the option selected in the dialog.

2. Select the desired map from the list. You can move to an item in the list quickly by typing its first few letters in the field above the list.
3. When you've located the map you want, click on it with your mouse to highlight it, then click OK to open it (or, you can simply double-click on the map name to open it). To select a map using the keyboard, use the arrow keys, **PgUp**, or **PgDn** to position the highlight on the name of the map you want to view and press **Enter**. The selected map opens on-screen.

## What is on a Map?

All maps included with the program contain a variety of information. The following is a list of the items that could display with a map:

- \* A background or geographical outline of an area that the map covers. The background includes the boundaries of map regions and may include topographical details such as mountains and valleys.
- \* Map items, such as cities, battles, or historic people, may be associated with the map. Map items can be names or symbols (for example, crossed swords are used to designate battle sites). Symbols, sometimes referred to as icons, are defined in the map legend. Double-clicking on a map item will open an associated article.
- \* A legend providing a key for the map item symbols, a distance scale, and an elevation scale. This may appear on the map when you first open it. If not, click the Legend icon on the icon bar or choose Display Legend from the Options menu.

- \* Some maps also contain graphics that illustrate historical events. For example, lines can illustrate a journey (depicting the Pony Express route, for instance).

### Map Information Available from the Map Window

Additional information may be associated with a map, but not displayed on the map. Following are a couple of examples:

- \* Overview, People, and Document articles associated with the map. See *Viewing Articles* later in this chapter for details on accessing articles from a Map window.
- \* A map slide show providing information on the map as a whole or on the people, places, and events associated with the map. Click on the Slide Show icon or choose Slide Show from the Map menu to access the slide show associated with the current map.

### A Special Note on Scrolling

Many maps are too large to display fully, even in a maximized window. Scroll bars at the bottom and right edges of the Map window provide access to areas hidden from view.

You may find, however, that scrolling on a Map window seems slower than normal. This is because only a portion of the map loads into memory when you first open the map. (This is done to conserve memory.) As you scroll, the program is loading more of the map into memory in order to display the new areas of the map, resulting in a slight delay.

Depending on the amount of memory you have available, you may notice that scrolling is faster when you scroll back to areas of the map you've already viewed. This is because these areas of the map have already loaded into memory.

You can also adjust your scrolling speed to a certain extent by modifying the Scroll Units setting in the Settings dialog box. For instructions, see page 1-9.

### Closing Maps

There are three different ways you can close a Map window. You can select Close from the Map menu, click on the Close Map icon on the icon bar, or double-click on the Control-menu box icon in the window's upper left corner.

## Measuring Distance

**American History Explorer** has a distance measurement feature you can use to calculate the distance between two or more points on a map.

### Measuring Distance Between Map Locations

To measure a distance,

1. Activate the arrow cursor by clicking on it on the icon bar.
2. Position the cursor at the desired starting point.
3. Click and hold the left mouse button as you drag the cursor to any other location on the map. Or, you can hold the Ctrl key down as you click on various map items to display the

distance between all of the selected items.

The distance continuously updates and displays on the status bar. A line from your starting point to the current position of the mouse cursor helps you track your movements. When you release the mouse button, the line disappears and the distance from your starting point to the last location remains displayed on the status bar until you select another item.

### Measuring Distance to a Hidden Location

You can also measure distances to map locations not initially displayed on the screen. Click the first location, hold down the left mouse button, and drag the cursor in the direction of the hidden location. When you reach the edge of the map, let the mouse cursor gently "bump" the edge of the Map window until the desired location is visible. Continue on until the cursor is positioned on the end location and release.

### Measuring Distance with the Place/Names Dialog

You can also measure the distance between two places in the Place/Names dialog. To do so:

1. Open the Place/Names dialog by clicking the Search icon (or choose Find/Select items from the Search menu).
2. Highlight two or more items on the dialog by clicking on the first item, then pressing the Ctrl button while clicking on other items. The cumulative distance will be displayed on the status bar of the Map window.

## Zooming In and Out

**American History Explorer** allows you to zoom in on a smaller area of the map or zoom out to view more, or all, of the map from a greater distance. Zooming out can reduce the need to scroll. Zoom works with all **American History Explorer** maps.

To zoom, either in or out,

1. Choose Zoom Map from the Options menu or click the Zoom icon on the icon bar.

The Zoom Map dialog opens on screen. The current zoom level displays on a scroll bar near the right center of the box.

2. Adjust the zoom level by typing a value directly into the Set Level field or by using the Zoom In/Zoom Out scroll bar on the left side of the box.

You can set values from 0.25 (zoomed out to reveal the largest area of the map) to 1.5 (zoomed in to show the smallest area).

3. When you're satisfied with the setting, click OK.

Depending upon your computer system and the degree of change, the modification may take several moments to implement.

**NOTE:** If you zoom your map out to such a degree that any text on it would be impossible to read, the text may not display at all. Do not be concerned. The information has not been deleted and will

reappear when you zoom back in.

### Zooming a Selected Map Area

**American History Explorer** also allows you to zoom in on a specific area of a map, rather than the whole map. For instructions, see Chapter 7.

### Viewing a Map Legend

**American History Explorer** has a map legend feature you can use to clarify the information contained on a map. You can display the legend even with new maps. (In Chapter 7, you'll learn how to edit a legend.)

To display a legend for the currently active map, choose Display Legend from the Options menu. A small window opens on the map. You can move the legend (click and drag its title bar) anywhere on the map to improve your map view. If you scroll through the map so that its legend is no longer visible, choose the Display Legend option again once or twice to reposition the legend in the lower corner of the map.

A map legend can illustrate the following:

**Map events**--Historical events depicted on a map. (These can be edited from the Map Legend dialog box, accessed by selecting Edit Legend from the Edit menu. See *Editing Map Legends* in Chapter 7 for details on changing these.)

**Distance scale**--The scale factor for the map's background. The increments on the distance scale will vary depending on the map's background and the zoom level you currently have selected.

**Elevation scale**--A key for the elevation scheme used on a map (the scale is preset for you, and it only appears on topographic maps).

To close a legend, click the Legend icon on the icon bar, double-click the Close-box icon in the upper left corner of the legend window, or select Display Legend from the Options menu.

### Viewing Articles from a Map Window

**American History Explorer** contains numerous articles on topics related to the maps. These articles can be accessed and viewed in different ways. You can also create articles of your own and link them to a map (see Chapter 5 for details).

To access the article for a specific item on a map, simply double-click on the item. An Article window opens, displaying information relating to that item. When you're done, close the article by clicking the Close Article icon or double-clicking the control-menu box in the upper left corner of the Article window.

The program also contains many articles that are related to the subject or theme of any given map but are not necessarily connected to a single item. You can access these other articles for a map by selecting the Articles menu and choosing the Overview, People, or Documents option (or by clicking on the corresponding icons on the icon bar). The Overview option will open an article containing general information about the current map; the People and Document options will open articles on important people and documents associated with the current map. See Chapter 5 for complete details on working with articles.

### A Word About Links

Some words within an article appear in another color. These are "links" to other articles contained within the program. Links are ties between one article and another article that contains related information. To review

the information for a particular word or phrase, double-click on the colored text. The new article replaces the previous one within the Article window. The picture symbol (icon) in an article indicates a link to a picture. Double-click on the picture icon to open the picture. For details on linking, see Chapter 5.

### Performing a Map Search

Using a Map window's Search menu, you can look for cities, states, regions, events, famous people, geographical features, text, and other miscellaneous items on a map. Any map item included with the American History Explorer program (and those you add yourself) can be the object of your search.

#### Searching for a Map Item

To search for a map item in **American History Explorer**,

1. Open the map you want to search (or any map if you don't know where the item is located).
2. Select Find/Select Items from the Search menu (or click the Search icon on the icon bar). The Place/Names dialog box opens.
3. Click the Items on Current Map option (if the item you're looking for is on the open map) .
4. Highlight any item and click the Find button. The program will automatically pinpoint the location of the item on the open map by drawing a box around it.

#### More on the Place/Names Dialog Box

You can also use the Place/Names dialog box to access a list of items NOT on the current map. Use this list to add a selected item to the current map or click the Map Item List to locate a map that already displays the selected item. To select which list you want to see, click on Items On Current Map or Items In Database But NOT On Current Map, as is appropriate.

From the Place/Names dialog box you can:

- \* Review a list of items on the current map.
- \* Review a list of items NOT on the current map.
- \* Add items to the current map. (See Chapter 7 for details.)
- \* Find an item on the current map.
- \* Access a list of maps containing a selected place or name.
- \* Permanently delete places and names from the **American History Explorer** database (if you're using the Read/Write installation option).

#### Limiting Categories

You can limit the items that appear in the map item list by marking general categories of items to include in the box shown in the lower right corner of the dialog. Map items are divided into categories: Cities, States, Regions, Events, Geo (geographical features), People, and Misc. Initially, all categories are selected.

To limit the categories,

1. Unmark (or mark) a category by clicking on the box preceding the desired option.
2. Make all the selections that you want.
3. The map item list in the lower left corner of the dialog will change to display the items that match the categories you've marked. A category icon in front of each item indicates its category (for example, a skyline denotes a city).

### Using the Map List Button

At some time you may wish to locate a map that has a specific item. For example, you may wish to find maps that include the Alamo. The Map List button in the Place/Names dialog box will help you locate all the relevant maps.

To view a list of maps where a specific item is displayed,

1. Click the Search icon or select Find/Select Items from the Search menu of any Map window. This opens the Place/Names dialog box.
2. Select the item from the list in the Place/Names dialog box.
3. Click on the Map List button. A Select Map dialog appears listing all of the maps that include the item you've selected.
4. Highlight a map and click OK to open it.

### Selecting Untitled Maps

The Select Map dialog list (see step 3 above) also contains an **\*\*\*Untitled Map\*\*\*** option you can use to open a new map (based on one of the backgrounds) with the selected item appropriately placed on the map. Simply highlight this option and click OK. Other map items can be added to the untitled map by selecting items from the map item list and clicking the Add button.

If you use the Map List button again to locate another item and choose **\*\*\*Untitled Map\*\*\***, the next item will be added to a new untitled map, after prompting you to save the previous untitled map.