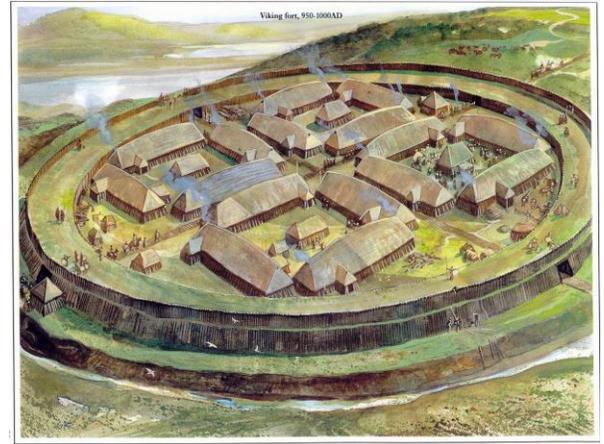## Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

We challenge you to an art activity each day of the School Closure! If you decide to complete this challenge, share it with us in the comments and on Instagram @WCMFA and use the hashtag #ARTaDayCHALLENGE

Stuff you'll need: Read through the challenge to decide…the materials you use are up to you!!
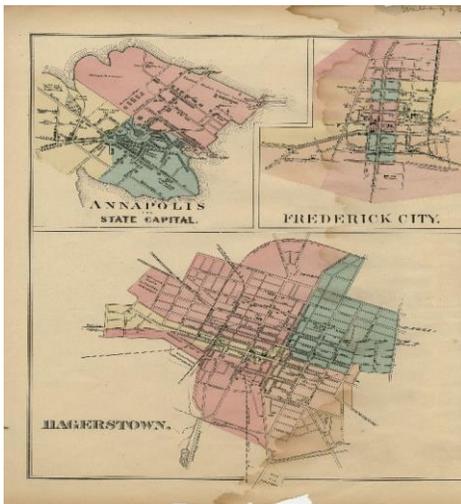
Words you need to know:

Urban development is the development or improvement of an urban area by building.

Urban planning is a technical and political process concerned with the development and design of land use and the built environment, including air, water, and the infrastructure passing into and out of urban areas, such as transportation, communications, and distribution networks (wikipedia).

Viking settlement 1000AD

Uc.davis.edu

LOOK at the early maps of the cities in Maryland. All over the country, and even the world, city maps have certain parts in common, even if the cities are very different. That is not an accident, planners look to ancient civilizations for inspiration!
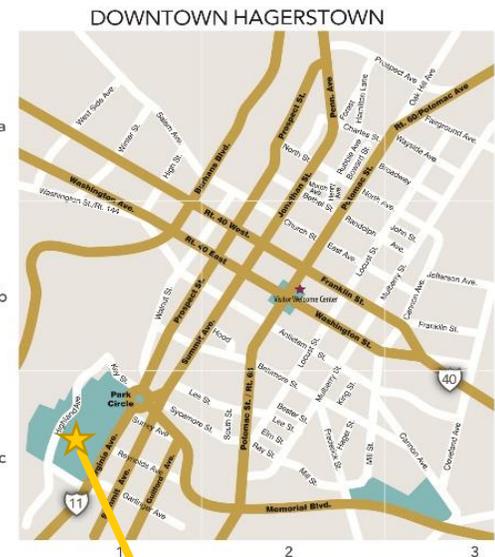
A lot of **planning** and thought is put behind town and **city development**. Before big cities were developed, people lived in small villages and settlements. They had to make sure there was a fresh water source, a place to grow food (which was really hard to do), they had to make sure they could get one place to another easily, and they had to communicate with written words and symbols. Planners also had to think hard about how the city would defend itself against other communities if they had to! Many times this meant creating really tall walls or building the city on the top of a hill for example.

More and more often people started to work near each other and grow food near each other, and trade with each other. Populations grew. Settlements and villages grew. Cities and towns were planned and created. This 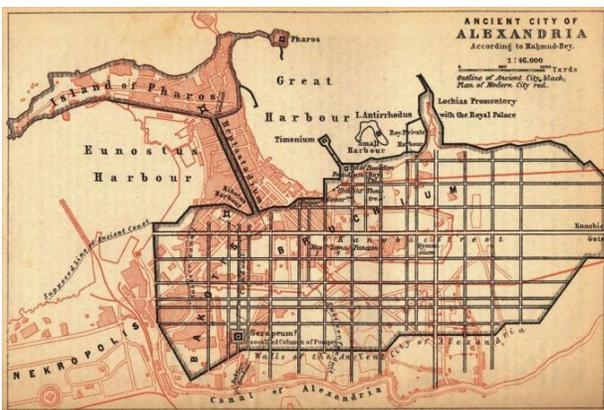took even more coordination and thought. Planners had to think about the shape of the land (hills, rivers, cliffs, etc.). Planners wanted to make sure there was access to important trade areas, like ports and waterways, and major roads of travel. They also had to think about where people would work, how and where they would travel, where they would get water, how they would move water throughout the city, how they would keep the city clean, how they would keep the people safe, and where people would live.

Early maps of Annapolis, Frederick, and Hagerstown, date unknown

DOWNTOWN HAGERSTOWN

Planners also had to think about the culture of the people. They had to keep in mind what was important to the daily lives of the people living in the city. Important buildings like city halls, government buildings, churches, and museums where often located in the center of the city. For easy navigation and travel, cities are developed in a grid. The

The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts is placed right in the middle of the beautiful City Park!

ancient city of Alexandria is one of the most famous early **urban developments**. We can see from this map that the city is set on a grid and is placed on the Mediterranean Sea. Alexandria was the cultural center of the world in its time because of its amazing library, artists, musicians, writers, and philosophers. Alexander the Great founded the city and invited the greatest minds he could find from all over the world to help him develop the city.

The city of Hagerstown borrows many planning ideas from civilizations like Alexandria. Notice the grid and main roads traveling in opposite directions. The city is also known as a cultural "hub". The nickname "Hub City" comes from the way all the railroad lines running into to Hagerstown resembled the spokes of a wagon wheel on the map. The Western Maryland, the Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) and the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) all supplied these "spokes." Railroading grew as an industry and was the main driver of the local economy well into the 20th Century. Hagerstown is near other larger cities and is influenced by many cultures that come together and share music, food, art, beliefs, and languages.

Notice the location of the Art and Entertainment district, government buildings, and the Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown. Many large churches, community centers, and schools can be found throughout the town. As people move into the area, planners have the challenge of figuring out how to make sure everyone can live comfortably and have access to all of the things that are important to them. To read more about the interesting history of Hagerstown, you should check out https://www.hagerstownmd.org/393/History.

 THINK about how your neighborhood, city, or town is arranged. What is important to your community? What seems to be placed in important areas? What do you think is successful in your area's city planning? What needs to change to grow with the community?

MAKE your own city plan! You are now an urban planner. Make a colorful map. Will it be a city in the distant future? What will be the important places of culture for the people that live there? Think about how your people will get clean water to each building (and consider what ways you will keep your city clean). How will your city stay safe? Where will people work? Where will people live? How will people travel? What buildings will be focal points for the community's best interest? What be the city's resources? How will they trade or sell to other communities? Don't forget to leave room for people, animals, and plants to coexist. What green spaces and protected areas will you keep undeveloped?

 Writing Prompt: Write about how your city was founded and describe what values and missions are important to the people of your city.

We can't wait to see your fantasy city ideas! Please share your creations with us!

TAG US!

Facebook: @WashingtonCountyMuseumofFineArts
Instagram: @WCMFA #ArtADayChallenge