# Options for Making a Map

## 1. Google Maps

- Cost: Free
- Experience Level: Beginner
- Hardware Requirements: Mac/PC
- Can I export my map as an image file? No, but you can take a screenshot
- Best for: Producing a quick map showing locations on the contemporary landscape.
- Online Sharing + Collaboration Capabilities: Share your map via URL. Collaboration is possible with a shared account.
- Tutorial: [Create a Google Map](#)

## 2. ArcGIS

- Cost: Free for Brandeis community
- Experience Level: You will need to learn basic ArcGIS skills
- Hardware Requirements: Mac/PC
- Can I export my map as an image file? Yes
- Best for: Creating a professional-looking map. Features can be represented in a wide variety of formats (polygons, lines, points) and you can show continuous coverage features (e.g. elevation). You can also use tools to measure spatial relationships and create custom datasets; next, show them on your map.
- Online Sharing + Collaboration Capabilities: Save + share your map to the ArcGIS Online cloud environment. Also, load your map into StoryMaps. Collaboration is possible.
- Tutorial: There are two good options. The first is [Create a Map using ArcGIS Online (very basic)](#) and the second is [Getting Started with ArcGIS Online (comprehensive)](#)

## 3. ArcGIS Pro

- Cost: Free for Brandeis community
- Experience Level: You will need to learn basic ArcGIS skills. ArcGIS Pro is more powerful but generally more time-intensive.
- Hardware Requirements: PC or virtual machine on your Mac
- Can I export my map as an image file? Yes
- Best for: All of the capabilities of ArcGIS Online, plus more extensive tools for spatial analysis. Easily georeference historical scanned maps and show them in context with modern datasets.
- Online Sharing + Collaboration Capabilities: Save + share your work to the ArcGIS Online cloud environment. Collaboration is more involved but possible.

- Tutorial: [Introducing ArcGIS Pro](). On the sidebar, work through the Quick-Start tutorials in this order: Learn the Basics; Visualize; Share.