

Group 1: USGS Topo Maps

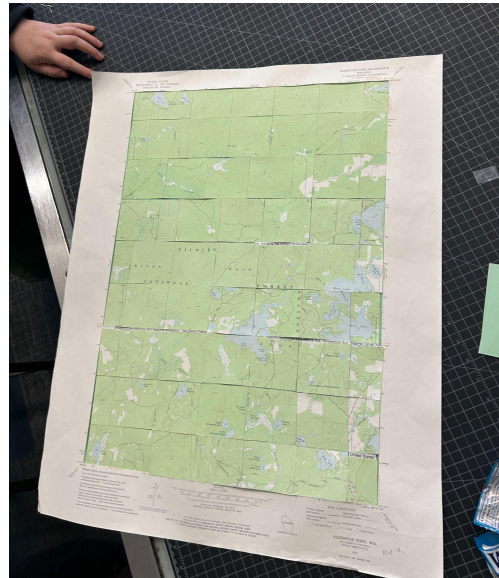
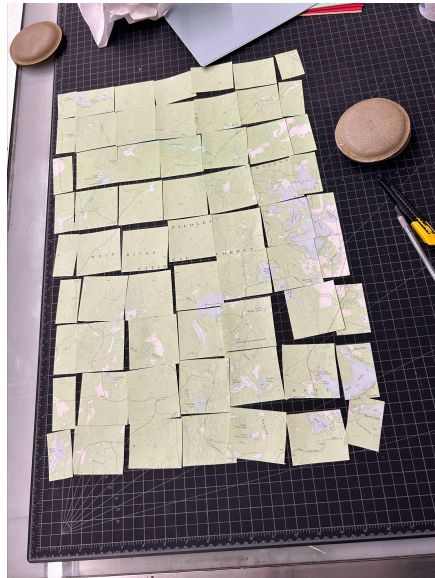
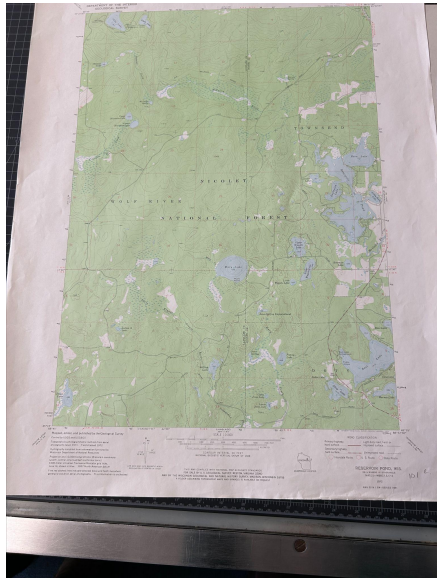
This group deconstructed USGS Topographical Maps (topo maps) in three creative ways. Topo Maps of western states include section boundaries of the Public Land Survey System—a grid laid across the landscape, measuring and subdividing it so it could be transformed into private property. To point out the arbitrary nature of surveying, and the ways in which it flattens the landscape, they cut up a topo map into individual section squares, rearranging them arbitrarily. From a distance, the map almost looks correct, but becomes disorienting upon closer inspection. Next, they used a topo map that included the Lac Coutes Oreilles reservation, and removed every section of the map outside the reservation and a natural gas pipeline. In doing so, they emphasize Tribal land, and the ways in which defined Tribal lands are at risk of unwanted natural resource exploitation. By leaving most of the map completely blank, they reverse the processes of surveying, which left Tribal lands blank until they could be acquired—through coercive treaty—by the U.S. government. For their last idea, the group cut a topo map into the shape of two hands, one of which held a pen. These “cartographer’s hands” expose the role of cartographers and surveyors in producing a settler colonial landscape.

Group #3: USGS Topos

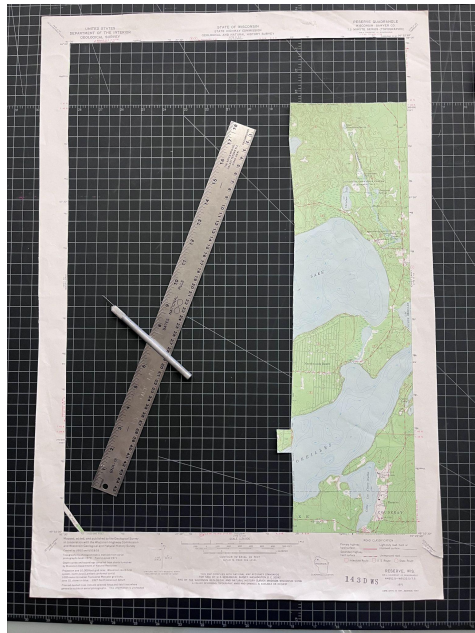
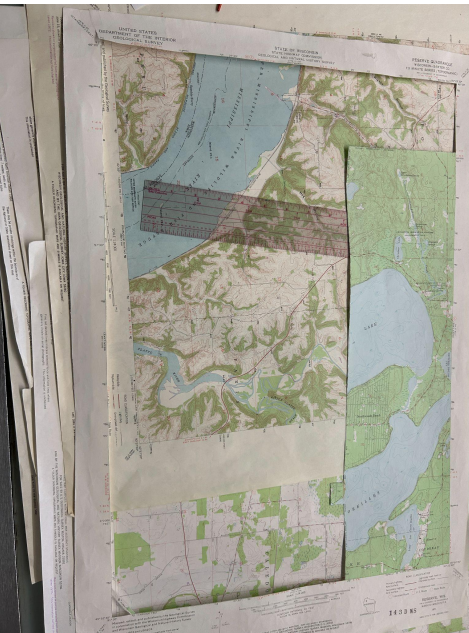


Anya, Marco, Natalie, Sophia

Map 1



Map 2



Map 3

