

Upon starting my project, I chose to use a particular definition of “bone.” Bone is defined as: “the basic or essential framework of something.” I then thought about that and came to the idea that the places we have been make up a sort of framework of our lives and the memories attached to those places also make up our personal frameworks. I chose this mainly because I know that, for myself, the places I’ve been and the memories I’ve made definitely make up who I am. I wanted to expand that to include other peoples’ pasts and memories rather than just focusing on myself. Sharing a wide variety of peoples’ memories makes it easier for anyone to find something they relate to, something they can connect with. So, I decided to map out peoples’ memories using memories that they have made public on Instagram with the hashtag memories (#memories). I chose Instagram because it is an app where people share their memories more readily than on other social media platforms.

To produce my map, I started with learning more about Leaflet: “an open-source JavaScript library for mobile-friendly interactive maps.” I wanted to code my own map on Github rather than rely on a more basic software like Mapbox or Carto, so as to improve the longevity of my creation. I did not end up using the given Leaflet base map though and instead linked it to the style “Streets” in Mapbox. After linking this base map with help from tutorials, I went through the Instagram tag “memories” and picked images that were either geo-located or had a hashtag with the photo’s location in the caption/comments.

I put 15 memories on my map, placing a marker on the place the memory is attached to. When a marker is clicked a pop-up appears with all (or part of—depending on length) the Instagram photo’s caption and a link to the image on Instagram. Additionally, when a marker is clicked, the map will zoom in closer to that location.

After coding for the 15 points and making sure they worked, I made a website, using the “Agency” template from Start Bootstrap (<https://startbootstrap.com/>), to house the map. I did this so that I could put down more words on the page to explain the map, rather than having a link to just the map itself. I wanted to add some explanatory words for people who randomly come across my webpage, not knowing what it’s about. After adding these explanatory words, I decided to make my website more interactive, by giving people the ability to comment with a link to their own Instagram post that they want featured on the map.

This website is accessible to anyone and everyone with access to the internet, and I plan on sharing it on my own social media platforms to get more people aware of it. I want people to be able to connect with what I’ve done and see it as a useful, interactive tool for viewing peoples’ memories. I would say that I made this map for the people of Instagram, so that they can see each other’s #memories laid out on a map. I hope to, in future, expand the number of markers and find out what people hashtag instead of “memories” in their post if, for example, they do not speak English and/or have a different hashtag for “memories” in their own language. I think it would be great to increase the diversity of my map!