

Minnesota Writing Project

--- Demonstration Lesson Template ---

Title of lesson: JS-Story Map Creator: Using Online tools to create and assess student learning

Suggest Grade: Grades 5 to adult

Approximate time for lesson: 2 to 6 class periods

Learning Objectives and significance of lesson:

MN Social Studies Standard: 8.3.3.5.3

Describe the locations of human populations and cultural characteristics of Europe and Russia...

Students are asked to:

You will choose **6** places to visit in Europe:

- You will create a paragraph on each destination describing the destination and why you want to go there.
- You will put this information into the Story Map
- You will find a picture of each place; **and give credit to your source**
- You will upload this into an online discussion in schoology

Example:

Choose a destination:

I want to go see: _____

This is is (city, Country) _____

The coordinates of this location is: _____

This place is cool because: _____

When at this destination I will be able to **see/do/create/learn/experience:**

This project is worth: 75 Points

0 = No work has been done

5= You chose a destination but there is little to no description for the location

8= You describe the destination; as a reader I have an idea about why you want to go there and what I can expect at the destination

10= You describe the destination using specific examples and vivid details.

Destination 1: _____ 10 points
Destination 2: _____ 10 points
Destination 3: _____ 10 points
Destination 4: _____ 10 points
Destination 5: _____ 10 points
Destination 6: _____ 10 points
Overall Quality, spelling _____ 10 points
Completed on time _____ 5 points

Total: _____ /75

Brief Summary/Outline of lesson:

Students are supported through a 5 day project. This project was designed as a capstone for the Europe Unit. Students are asked to visit 6 different places in Europe, and then creating a paragraph of what the places is and why they want to go there. Students will put this information to an online format using JS-Story Map creator. I scaffolded student learning by creating 3 online videos, using screencast-o-matic. These videos were delivered to students via schoology our district's learning management system. These videos guide students step-by-step on how to create their very own story-map.

Related Resources:

- screencast-o-matic (website)
 - http://www.screencast-o-matic.com/screen_recorder
- JS Story Map (website)
 - <https://storymap.knightlab.com/>
- Schoology (Learning management system)
 - <https://schoology.com/>

Possible extensions or adaptations for different purposes/students needs:

Any time students are introduced to a place in the world they could create a story map describing the place. By combining original student work and pictures, students can make these places come alive using their own voice.

When I started exploring what to do in my classroom, I was really interested in app-smashing (using two online resources or apps) to create a whole new experience. I also realized that I needed a way how to get all of my student's awesome work turned into me via an online format. So I started looking for resources and tools that easily worked with our LMS. I also found it helpful when the online tools synced automatically with google accounts; it makes logging in and work management easier for students. Thus this project was created. My advice, is try new things, play around and don't be afraid. Students are curious and are willing to give things a try, as long as you are there to help them through the process and learn with them. Positivity can triumph.

Some have asked about this project and how to get students to collaborate on it. Unfortunately JS Story Map creator can only have one person editing it at a time. However, just like other projects [I'm thinking traditional poster projects] only one person can really be drawing/creating/editing at a time. I suggest that you as the teacher set up the parameters of the project and introduce the Story Map. Students can edit, create, and collaborate using Google Docs or other collaboration tools and once students are finalizing the project they can upload all of their text and pictures into JS Story Map. Much like students working on a poster project and once everything is finalized they glue and position everything on the poster.

Project Ideas:

- creating a story map for first week of school/community building, students can introduce who they are and where they have gone and where they want to go
- create a story map for a specific location in a book, explore a different country
- create a story map for a character as they go on a journey
- create a story map for a science class; where in the world are these plants, animals, etc found
- create a story map based on historical events
- create a story map based on a memoir or nonfiction research project

The possibilities are truly endless!!

For additional information, contact:

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