

A vertical collage of 18 images, including portraits of children and adults, a map of Africa, a White House report, a cartoon of a woman, a hurricane, a cartoon of a man, a Channel 15 news graphic, a quote, a beach scene, a cartoon of a woman pointing to a map of Egypt, and a cartoon of a man.

4th Grade

Comic-con is looking to expand their fan base to American history buffs. They are looking to highlight a series of animated comics of regional Civil War events at their next annual convention in San Diego, California. You are to create an animated comic on **how the events in Arizona affected the outcome of the Civil War**.

Economic, social, and cultural changes transformed the U.S. into a world power during the late 1800's to early 1900's. The Arizona governor is looking to educate his staff on the economic development of Arizona during this time period. From the point of view of one of these historical figures: *Geronimo, Manuelito, W.P. Hunt, Sharlot Hall, Charles Poston, or a Buffalo Soldier*; create a political commercial on an innovation that helped Arizona's growth and economy.

You have been hired as part of a team from Arizona's State Historical Society to film a television documentary about Arizona's transition from territory to statehood. Discuss in chronological order the events that took place for Arizona during the transitional period.

Google is looking to enhance their maps site to include short animations for each states physical and human features. Your team's task is to construct an animated map of these features to aide tourists in making decisions on which places to visit in your state. Include distances of these features from the 3 major cities in Arizona: Phoenix, Flagstaff, and Tucson along with characteristics of the features.

Human cultures, their nature, and distribution affect societies. Arizona's statewide real estate agency is looking for a way to have people relocate to the state. They find it important to reflect on the history of growth of the state as well as the cultural characteristics of Arizona's diverse population. **How did the building of transportation routes affect human settlement and economic development in major Arizona cities?**

You are part of a small team hired by The History Channel to film a historical docudrama on the effects of European exploration, trade, and colonization on other parts of the world. Your team will focus on one of the following: *sea routes to Asia, increased power of European countries, trade between Europe, Africa, and the Americas, triangular trade, or the introduction of disease to indigenous people*. Create an animation on your assigned event explaining the impact it had on the world.

Intense internal conflicts typically lead to the radical overthrow of traditional governments and with that new political and economic systems are created. The Smithsonian Institution is creating a new virtual exhibit for one of their museums in Washington D.C. Your team has been designated to create an animation comparing and contrasting the causes and outcomes of the American Revolution with the Mexican Revolution of 1910.

You are a merchant traveling the Silk Road in northern China during the Han Dynasty. Along the way you meet many interesting people and trade for goods from around the world. Document the story of your adventures in a narrative to share with generations of people to come. **What was life like along the Silk Road?**

You have been hired as part of a team to film a television documentary on the geography of ancient Egypt and the Near East. **How did geography affect daily life?** Choose to focus on one of these three ancient civilizations: Egypt, Kush, or Canaan.

You are a traveler (a merchant, a scholar, or some other interesting and realistic character) to the Songhai empire during the rule of Askia Mohammad Toure (1493 - 1538 c.e.). During this time, the empire is experiencing a golden age, a time of great prosperity and achievement. You want to describe your most exciting and interesting experiences in a travel journal. **How is the time of Askia Mohammad a golden age?**

Pretend that you lived many years ago among the Maya, Aztecs, or Incas. Become the main character in “a day in the life” story and write a narrative about a series of events that happens in one of these three civilizations. Your narrative should clearly address this question: **What was daily life like in your civilization?**



8th Grade

Strand 1: World History: Concept 8: **World at War**

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum would like to educate the public about how personal responsibility affects everyone. The museum is looking for you to create a digital story educating others on how ethical and personal choices can create a rippling impact throughout society. Your digital story should be from the viewpoint of one of the following individuals during the Holocaust: perpetrator, victim, bystander, or sympathizer.

Strand 1: World History: Concept 8: **World at War**

Global events, economic issues and political ideologies ignite tensions leading to worldwide military firestorms and diplomatic confrontations in a context of development and change. World War II helped to reshape the world and its political views during the 20th-century. CNN is looking to expand their web site with informational animations on different political structures and the impact they have on a country. Create an animation comparing and contrasting the political ideologies of Fascism and Nazism and the cause they had on WWII.

Strand 2: World History: Concept 3: **Contemporary World**

You have been hired by the Smithsonian Institution for the next installment in the US National Museum. The installment is to cover the 20th century. In order to convince the Smithsonian trustees that your choice is the best, you will create a persuasive animation for their next meeting. What events during the 20th century signaled a change in social and economic conditions for the USA?

More to Explore

Digital Storytelling

Digital storytelling can be very powerful for students, addressing various types of learning styles and modalities. Digital storytelling provides meaning to learning through the use of auditory, visual and kinesthetic skills. Students are required to use higher-order thinking skills in the creation of their stories.

Digital storytelling can be used in the classroom in a myriad of ways. Telling personal stories helps students learn about voice in a narrative form, as well as first-person perspective. Since modern communication involves "writing" with pictures and music, having students create digital stories helps them build these critical skills.

You can also use digital storytelling to address curriculum areas beyond language arts and media literacy. For example, students can retell an event from the life of a famous person they are studying to help us understand why this person acted the way they did. They can take the voice of a drop of water and show its progression through the water cycle or path through a watershed. Younger students can become an animal and discuss habitat, food, predation, and other life cycle issues. Public service announcements can be used as both a persuasive writing exercise and a way to address science content, such as health or conservation.

Language Arts: Biographies, Video Poetry, Myths and Legends

Math: Using Logic to Solve Problems, Geometry in the World around Us, Math Helps Us Do...

Science: Journey through the Life Cycle, An Animal's Perspective, Birth of an Invention

Social Studies: Eyewitness to History, Community Tours, Veteran Interviews

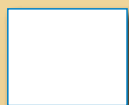
www.recipes4success.com/digitalstorytelling

Resources That Can Help



www.thecreativeeducator.com

Creative Educator magazine features articles on project-based learning, stories from educators, high-level lesson ideas, software tips, and more.



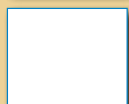
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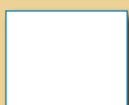
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