

Frames Project Ideas—Secondary Social Studies

Creating illustrated animations, movies, and digital stories engages students in the curriculum, encourages problem solving, promotes creativity, and helps students develop 21st-century skills. Students can use Frames to create animated news broadcasts, digital stories, video biographies, and more to explore the social studies curriculum.

Geography

Interpreting Data

The ebb and flow of people into and out of urban centers can reveal some interesting cultural and economic trends. The U.S. Census is looking for trends in the following cities: New York, San Francisco, Dallas, Atlanta, Seattle, Denver, Los Angeles, and Detroit. Create an animation on how the trends you cover may influence your decision on where to move after 12th grade.

Diversity

Since the 16th century, immigration has played a major role in the United States. The mayor of your town is looking to celebrate the diversity of the citizens and wants to share their stories through the local cable channel. He has hired you to create a digital story based on an interview with a local individual who has migrated to the United States.

Sites of Interest

The online travel resource Travelocity is looking to add digital guidebooks to their site. Visitors will download the animations to handheld devices and phones to use when traveling to a chosen destination. Create an animation, in the form of a visitor's guidebook, highlighting your region's unique physical and human characteristics.

American History

Declaration of Independence

You're a teacher during colonial America. During this time the colonists are striving for independence from Britain. The youth sometimes get caught up in the turmoil, and many do not understand what's going on. You decide to create an animated children's version of the Declaration of Independence. **What should colonial youth know about the Declaration of Independence?**

Jacksonian Era

You're a member of one of the following groups: common people, states' rights supporters, rich and well-born, or Native Americans. During this time of change in America, you have been asked to document what your group's life was like during the Jacksonian Era. Create a video journal assessing Jackson's presidency from the perspective of your group. **What was life like during Jackson's presidency?**

Immigration

It is the dawn of the 20th century. You're an Italian, Jewish, Chinese, or Mexican immigrant leaving your country to start a new life in America. The American government has chosen to implement a new program for all incoming immigrants titled "Journey into America". You will be asked to create a digital scrapbook documenting your experiences as an immigrant to preserve your story for future generations. **What was your experience as an immigrant like in America at this time?**

Medieval History

Africa

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. Describe your most exciting and interesting experiences through a travel journal. **How is the time of Askia Mohammad a golden age?**

Japan

You are a daimyo, a warrior-lord in 14th-century Japan. Create an animated handbook to instruct new samurai who come to fight for you. **What must a samurai know in order to be successful?**

Europe

You have been asked to write a narrative about the European Age of Exploration (1418 - 1620) as a children's book. Create an animation about the voyage of one ship across the Atlantic Ocean to the "New World." **What successes and challenges did European explorers face?**

Ancient Civilizations

Silk Road

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. Create a digital story of your adventures to share with generations of people to come. **What was life like along the Silk Road?**

Roman Empire

You are a scholar traveling around what used to be the Roman Empire in the year 500 c.e. The empire has fallen and you are writing an eulogy to commemorate the achievements of the Romans. Create a digital story for your eulogy. **What are the lasting contributions of the Roman Empire?**

Indus Valley

You have been hired to complete a news segment for *Archaeology Today* TV that highlights the archaeological discoveries made at Harappa and Mohenjodaro. **What was daily life like in the Indus Valley civilization?** Describe and analyze artifacts found at both Harappa and Mohenjodaro. Some examples might include jewelry, games, statues, or buildings.





Economics

Choropleth Maps

Gross Domestic Product (GDP), a basic measure of economic output, is the total market value of all final goods and services produced in an economy in a given year. Geographers apply a spatial perspective to economic and social data using choropleth maps. A choropleth map shows differences between areas. The web site economist.com has hired you to create a choropleth map animating the components of Gross Domestic Product, using the flow of product approach. **How can a nation increase its GDP?**

Government's Role in Economy

In order to ensure and support economic and political freedom, the founders of our nation envisioned a very limited role for the government in economic affairs. Citizens, interest groups, and political leaders often disagree about how involved the government should be in economic activities. A local outreach group is looking to educate their community on the role the government plays. Create an informational video to broadcast on the local cable channel about the role you think the government should play in the economy.

Industrial Revolution

The Industrial Revolution marked a major turning point in human history, influencing nearly every aspect of daily life. The History Channel has hired you to create a segment for their latest documentary on the Industrial Revolution. **Why was the concept of division of labor utilized during the Industrial Revolution?**

Civics/Government

Bill of Rights

As citizens of the United States, we have an obligation to champion the ideas put forth in the Constitution and Bill of Rights. While we may not necessarily agree with all components of government in its ideal or current form, we are still responsible for the upkeep and improvement of modern society. The U.S. government is looking to post a video on Youtube around the idea of citizenship and responsibility. Create an animation about the responsibilities we have as U.S. citizens in regards to these rights.

Democracy vs. Republic

The Roman Republic and the Athenian (Greek) Democracy are the foundations for most modern government structures. CNN news has hired you to create a newscast to educate individuals unsure of the difference between the two. Compare and contrast a Republic government with a Democratic government. **How does the structure of the United States government reflect these two foundations?**

Natural Rights

Most people in the American colonies believed that everyone had a right to life, liberty, and property. These rights were called **natural rights**. (Sometimes these are now called basic rights or fundamental rights.) The Founders of our country used these ideas when they developed our government. Your local news station is looking to have a special feature next month on civil liberties and would like for you to create a news segment on natural rights. **What might life be like in a state of nature?**

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.



connect.tech4learning.com

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