

# 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 Canadian Census is looking for trends in the following cities: Montreal, Quebec City, Toronto, Ottawa, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Calgary, and Halifax. 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 Canada. 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 Canada.

### 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.

## Canadian History

### Conflict and Change

The History Channel has hired you to create a new series on the 1837 rebellions of Upper and Lower Canada. From the perspective of one of the following leaders (William Mackenzie, Louis-Joseph Papineau, Sir Francis Bond Hea, Dr. William Baldwin) discuss the reasons for their involvement in the rebellion, role played, and the results of their involvement. **Compare the conflict resolution strategies used by the historical leader and those used to resolve conflicts in school today.**

### Migration

The organization of Citizenship and Immigration Canada is filming a documentary on why individuals migrate to Canada. You are a potential immigrant to Canada and your family is trying to make a decision on whether or not to make the move from Europe. **What push and pull factors might have an impact on your family's decision on whether to stay where it is or to emigrate to Canada?**

### Government During Disasters

You are a reporter for a local news channel creating a segment on a natural disaster within a fictitious Ontario community. Describe the functions and interactions of ways in which the three levels of government might respond to this natural disaster. It is also important for individuals to know they, too, can make a difference. **How might others assist the community during this crisis?**

## 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](http://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 Canada, 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 Canadian 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 Canadian 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. CBC 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 Canadian government reflect these two foundations?**

### Constitution of Canada

In 1867 an Act of the British Parliament created the Dominion of Canada in the British North America Act. The Constitution Act of 1982 ended British legislative control of Canada, and established the country's fundamental laws and civil rights. Develop a documentary for CBC television that showcases the importance of patriation of the Constitution with the Charter of Rights in 1982.

## Resources That Can Help



[www.thecreativeeducator.com](http://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](http://connect.tech4learning.com)

Join like-minded educators from around the world to explore how a blend of technology, creativity, and curriculum can inspire 21st-century students!



[www.recipes4success.com/lessons](http://www.recipes4success.com/lessons)

The lessons at Recipes4Success include a step-by-step process for teachers and students, downloadable templates and examples, links to tutorials and references, and correlations to standards.



[tradingpost.tech4learning.com](http://tradingpost.tech4learning.com)

Want to find new ideas? Search the Trading Post for Pixie Activities, WebBlender templates, Twist designs, and more, or share your own lesson ideas!



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Pics4Learning contains over 20,000 free copyright-friendly pictures you can use in educational projects.