

Florida Geographic Alliance
2024 Geography Awareness Week Lesson Plan
Theme: Celebrating Milestones
Topic: Mapping Through Time

Title: Mapping Through Time: Exploring Our Community's Past and Present

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Theme: Celebrating Local Historical Milestones

Topic: Individual/Group Project with ArcGIS Story Maps

Grade Level: Middle School

Objective: Students will analyze StoryMaps using ArcGIS to compare historical and modern maps of their local community. Through this project, students will research and present significant changes over time and understand the importance of celebrating historical milestones.

Connection to the Model for Studying Place: Understanding Historical Change in Local Communities

Florida Standards:

SS.6.G.1.4: Utilize tools geographers use to study the world.

SS.6.G.2: Understand the physical and cultural characteristics of places.

SS.6.G.6: Understand how to apply geography to interpret the past and present and plan for the future.

SS.8.A.1: Use research and inquiry skills to analyze American History using primary and secondary sources.

SS.8.A.1.7: View historic events through the eyes of those who were there as shown in their art, writings, music, artifacts

National Geography Standards (Grades 6-8):

1. The World in Spatial Terms—
 - a. Map Types (topographic, navigational, thematic)
2. Places and Regions—
 - a. Physical and human characteristics of places and regions in the U.S. and the world.
 - b. Changes in places and regions over time.
 - c. How culture affects places and regions (cultural landscapes).
3. Human Systems—
 - a. Types and patterns of human settlement.

C3 Framework:

Geography—By the end of 8th grade:

D2. Geo.6.6.8—Explain how the physical and human characteristics of places and regions are connected to human identities and culture.

D2. Geo.10.6.8—Analyze the ways in which cultural and environmental characteristics vary among various regions of the world.

Materials/Resources/Technology:

- 1) [FGA ArcGis StoryMap Tutorial](#)
- 2) [Historic State Theatre Story Map](#)
- 3) Project Handout and Rubric
- 4) Pens, pencils, laptops/tablets
- 5) Access to ESRI ArcGIS and ArcGIS StoryMaps tools

Teacher Notes: Use your students' pre-existing StoryMap for this project. The goal is for students to utilize ArcGIS's swipe feature to compare past and present maps. Encourage students to focus on key events or developments that shaped their local area (e.g., construction of a landmark, changes in industry, population growth). Use the *ArcGIS Living Atlas* as well as *ArcGIS Online* to locate map templates

Vocabulary:

- 1) Geography: the study of the diverse environments, places, and spaces of Earth's surface and their interactions. It seeks to answer the questions of why things are as they are, where they are.
- 2) Geographic Information Systems (GIS): Geographic information systems, or GIS, are computer systems for managing, analyzing, and displaying geographic information and data. GIS can show many different kinds of data on one map. This enables users to more easily see, analyze, and understand geographic patterns and relationships.
- 3) ESRI ArcGIS StoryMaps: combine interactive maps with multimedia content and text to tell stories about the world.
- 4) Map(s): a flat representation of Earth's surface.
- 5) Globe(s): a spherical representation of the earth.

Lesson Steps:

Step 1: Introduction

Show the [Historic State Theatre Story Map](#) to introduce GIS Story Mapping. Focus on the importance of using the tool to understand changes over time.

Step 2: Assign Historical and Present-Day Map Comparison

Each student selects a specific area of their community to research, focusing on how this area has changed over time. Using ArcGIS StoryMaps, students will use comparison features to highlight significant changes and developments.

Step 3: Research and Create StoryMaps

Individually or in groups, students will research their chosen area to identify key historical milestones and developments. They can then compare the historical and contemporary maps to describe and analyze these changes.

Step 4: Check for Understanding

In their final project submission, students include a brief summary of what they learned about community changes.

Vocabulary terms to use: geography, GIS, ArcGIS StoryMaps, Maps, and Globes.

Step 6: Presentation of Findings (Optional)

If time allows, students can present their StoryMap and findings in a brief, informal class presentation, explaining their research process and sharing insights.