Digital Storytelling
A Powerful Tool for Learning Across Subjects and Grade Levels

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Workshop Objectives

• Provide the **knowledge** and **tools** necessary to **enhance learning** through digital storytelling

• Offer an **overview** of digital storytelling and various related **resources**

• Display **samples** of projects **created by students** in primary and elementary classrooms

• Present **steps** for teaching students to use digital storytelling to meet a variety of **learning objectives**
Why Tell Stories with Video?

- It’s a powerful emotional medium.
- It’s easily shared and draws students’ attention.
- Today’s learners have come to expect it.
- It’s FUN for them and for you!
What Is Digital Storytelling?

- Digital storytelling fuses the age-old tradition of sharing stories with cutting-edge technological tools.

- It holds the potential to enhance student engagement and learning in a variety of classroom settings, from early childhood and beyond.

- It represents a powerful means of sparking student creativity and stretching their thinking!
Why Use Digital Storytelling?

- From **infancy**, students **listen to stories told and read**.

- Students enter the classroom not only **eager to tell stories**, but also **wanting to produce** them through technology.

- The **vast and growing collection of student-generated** videos on websites such as TeacherTube **evidences** their excitement to do so.
Introduction to Digital Storytelling

• Allows students to easily organize and present knowledge in a unique format.

• Students insert images into a storyboard, which combined together in sequence compose a storyline.

• Narration, songs, sounds, or a combination of these elements can also be added to enhance the story.
Digital Storytelling in Collaborative Settings

- Digital storytelling can effectively be implemented in **collaborative settings**...
  
  - Each student can assist with **locating and/or illustrating images** to be used throughout the presentation.
  
  - Students can also **narrate** one or more segments of the story.
Classroom Applications

Potential classroom applications of digital storytelling:

• Timeline of a historical character’s life
• Narrated children’s book
• Display of student poems or short stories
• Presentation of student illustrations (with captions)
• And the list goes on and on!
Digital Storytelling Example

A Tribute to Dr. Seuss
Created by a Second Grade Class
Digital Storytelling Example

Lady Had a Tea Party
Created by a Pre-K Class
Getting Started…

1. Come up with an idea
2. Research/explore/learn
3. Create script
4. Plan with a storyboard
5. Gather and create images/audio/video
6. Put it all together
7. Share
8. Gather feedback/reflect

Digital Storytelling Process

http://samanthamorra.com/2013/06/05/edudemic-article-on-digital-storytelling/
Establishing a Roadmap

Establish a **roadmap of curricular goals** to guide the way and meaningfully address the concepts to be learned.

- In general, digital stories typically fall into one of three categories:
  1. Personal narratives
  2. Explorations of historical events
  3. Stories that inform or instruct

- Digital media can also serve as an instrument through which students "**publish and illustrate**" an original work or story.
Establishing a Roadmap

- After deciding upon specific objectives, give clear-cut directions for the project.
  - Teacher-created examples assist learners in visualizing the end result.

- For younger students, scripts may be written on paper and stored in a set location.

- Additionally, young learners will need assistance saving images within a set digital location.
Tips for Gathering Images

• Guide students in creating and/or locating images to be used...
  
  – Student-created illustrations
    • Hand-drawn illustrations (digital photos or scanned)
    • Digitally created images (via Tux Paint or another digital drawing program)
  
  – Images from the Internet or another source

• Be certain to save images in a folder reserved for the project!
Educational Uses of Digital Storytelling:

• Dedicated to providing teachers with essential tools for incorporating digital storytelling into classroom

• Presents explanations, exemplars, tools, and instructions for designing digital stories

• “Symbols of Texas”: an elementary teacher's strategy for familiarizing her students with our state symbols
Online Resources for Digital Storytelling

The Center for Digital Storytelling:

- An international non-profit organization
- Mission: “to promote the value of story as a means for compassionate community action”
- Offers case studies and examples of digital stories
- Includes specialized workshops for educators
Digital Storytelling Resources: Little Bird Tales

- **Little Bird Tales** is perfect for younger students wanting to create digital stories.
- Learners are **walked through each step** of creating a digital story.
- Students can **upload images, draw images, or record from their webcams**.
- Stories can be **written with text or narrated by students using microphones connected to their computers**.
- **Informational video:** [Little Bird Tales](#)
Digital Storytelling Resources: Storybird

- **Storybird** provides **templates and artwork** for creating digital stories.
- Students simply **select a theme** (layout).
- Next, they **drag and drop drawings** into their story.
- Then, they **add a storyline**.
- Anyone can create fabulous digital stories, regardless of drawing skills (or lack thereof)!
Digital Storytelling Resources: Picture Book Maker

- Picture Book Maker enables users to create six-page stories.
- Students drag background scenes, animals, and props onto a page and then type text.
- All of the elements can be sized and positioned.
- Completed stories are displayed with basic page-turning effects and can be printed.
Digital Storytelling Resources: Photo Story

- [Download](Photo%20Story%203) Photo Story 3 for free.

- If prompted, complete the “Genuine Windows Validation” process.

- Then, follow the steps to complete the download.
Using Photo Story: Importing Images

- Open Photo Story, and select the “Begin a New Story” option.
- Select “Import Pictures.”
- Choose pictures from the designated folder.
- Arrange them in order on the storyboard.
- Click “Next.”
Using Photo Story: Adding Titles

• Select an image.

• Type a title in the text box (if desired).

• Choose an effect from the drop-down list (if desired).

• Click “Next.”
Using Photo Story: Customizing Motion

- If desired, choose the “Customize Motion” option.
- Check the “Specify start and end position of motion” box.
- Adjust the start and end position of each chosen slide by repositioning and resizing the boxes.
- Adjust slide duration (if desired).
- Select “Preview” to view changes.
Using Photo Story: Adding Narration

- Install a **microphone** into the computer to record narration.
- For each chosen slide, select the “Record Narration” button.
- Have each student speak **approximately the same distance from the microphone** while recording.
- Prewritten **scripts** are best!
- Practice makes perfect!
Using Photo Story: Adding Background Music

- Choose the “Select Music” option to upload your own music.
- To use music available through Photo Story, choose “Create Music.”
  - This option allows you to select bands, moods, tempos, and intensity.
  - There are a variety of options available to meet specific needs.
Using Photo Story: Saving Your Story

• Select an option for saving your story.
  – For student use, it is recommended that you save the story to your computer.

• Specify the location and file name.

• Click “Next,” and choose “View your story” to enjoy the results of your students’ work!
Questions?