

An Audio Travel Album

As more people travel the world, it is possible for students to learn about different cultures and countries from the journeys that others make. The ability for students to represent knowledge gained from an interview with images and audio allows students of a wide range of abilities to tap this rich vein of learning in our schools and communities.

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Curriculum areas: Language Arts, Social Studies, and Foreign Language

Grade level: Elementary and Middle School

Project Description

In this project, students interview someone who has recently visited a country that students are studying. They use an iPod and a voice recorder to record the interview and use iPhoto to review and organize the interviewee's photos of the trip as well as any images they collected during their research.

Project Steps

- 1 As part of a unit of study, have students conduct research on a developing country using a variety of web-based and other resources. In addition to other information, they should gain a comprehensive knowledge of the geography of the country.
- 2 Identify a teacher, staff member, or another person who has recently visited that country. Obtain photos from the trip for students to review.
- 3 In groups of two or three, have students review the photos of the country in preparation for their interview and import the images into iPhoto, using a scanner if necessary. The student groups should organize the photos.
- 4 Have the students devise questions to ask the person who will be interviewed. The interview will allow students to learn more about everyday life in the country, such as the schools, food, religion, and work.
- 5 Have the students interview the traveler and record the interview using an iPod and a voice recorder.
- 6 Have students import the audio files into iTunes on a class computer and organize them into a sequence.
- 7 The students can share the audio by using iPods. If an iPod photo is available, they can also share the photos. Alternatively, they can prepare an iPhoto slideshow using the iTunes audio files as the background. Another option is to create a documentary with the images and audio in iMovie.

Outcomes

After completing this project, students will be able to:

- Understand what life is like for people in a developing country
- Place a particular country in the world in relation to their own country
- Have a better understanding of the place of religion in other cultures
- Recognize that schools are very different in other countries

Technology Skills

After completing this project, students will be able to:

- Organize images in iPhoto
- Record interviews with an iPod and a voice recorder
- Import and organize audio with iTunes
- Synchronize audio and images in iPhoto or iMovie (optional)
- Share an audio travel album with an iPod, an audio-visual slideshow with iPod photo, or with iMovie or iPhoto
- Use a scanner to digitize photos (optional)

Assessment Suggestions

Assessment can take place at different stages in the project:

- You can carry out formative assessment during the project by observing and questioning student progress. This assessment can be communicated to the students to enhance the creative process.
- Students can perform self-assessment of their finished projects using a rubric.
- Students can assess each other's projects to give constructive feedback using a rubric.

Preparation and Duration

You should identify a recent traveler for the class to interview about the country and arrange to obtain photos from the trip.

Tools and Resources

Internet

- <http://travel.yahoo.com/p-travelguide>
Yahoo! Travel Guides, Reviews, and Maps
- <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/>
Lonely Planet guidebook publishers
- <http://education.apple.com/education/ilife/howto/>
iLife How-To guides

Tools

Macintosh computers, iPod, iPod photo (optional), iPod voice recorder, digital camera, scanner (optional), speakers (optional), iPhoto, iTunes, iMovie (optional)

Note: A voice recorder can be used with all iPod models that have a Dock Connector, except for the iPod mini. (The iPod shuffle does not have a Dock Connector.) For more information, see your iPod User's Guide.

Prerequisite Skills

Before beginning the project, students should be able to:

- Use iTunes, iPhoto, and iMovie (optional) at a basic level to arrange audio and images
- Use an iPod with a voice recorder for interviews

Facilitation Tips

- You can show students examples of documentaries that use interviews and still images or have students listen to radio interviews or documentaries.
- It's best to limit groups to not more than three students.
- Groups of mixed abilities work well. You can customize the project for different group abilities. For example, one group can produce a simple audio playlist and another an audiovisual slideshow.

Technology Tips

- If students need to edit some of the audio in the project, they can use iMovie to do so.