

Filmmaker: Reasons for European Exploration

Adventure Description:

In this adventure, you will think like an filmmaker and create a cartoon video that explains why Europeans wanted to explore America.

Activity

Teacher note:

- Students will first draw out different scenes in their cartoon. Afterwards, students can design their cartoon using a simple animation program. If you want students to design their cartoons using technology, you will need an account set up on Animaker. See [Handout: Teacher Set Up](#). It should take no more than 10 minutes to set up an account.

Step 1: Background on European Exploration (5 minutes)

- Show [Video: European Exploration](#).
- As a class, discuss reasons why Europeans wanted to come to America. Show [Handout: Exploring America](#) and review three reasons why Europeans came to America.
- Extra Time? Go to <https://arcg.is/fqL84> and have students look at the map of routes that Europeans took.

Step 2: Activity Set Up (5-10 minutes)

- Explain to students that they will create a plan for a cartoon video that is about European exploration. They have two choices for their videos: (1) A video where a person living in 2019 travels back into time to meet with European explorers or (2) A video where a European explorer travels into the future to meet with someone in 2019.
- Provide students with [Handout: Steps to Create a Brief](#). Explain to the class that a brief is an outline of film. As a class, review the steps.
- Teacher note: Make sure students have a copy of [Handout: Exploring America](#) from the previous step. They will use this document as inspiration for different scenes and characters in their video.

Step 3: Planning and Brainstorming (20+ minutes)

- Divide students into pairs or small groups. Explain to students that they will now brainstorm and plan what their video will be about. Have students complete the steps on the handout.
- Teacher note: Students can draw their own characters and scenes or they can cut out pictures from any of the handouts they have and glue them on their document.
- While students are working, ask the following questions: Why do you think filmmakers include historical sources in their videos? What tone do you want your video to have? Who is the ideal audience that will watch your video?

Please contact Allison Bischoff, Director of Customer Service, at allison@rozzylearningcompany.com or 314-272-2560 with questions.



Step 4: Designing Video (25+ minutes)

- Teacher note: this step will most likely be completed on a separate day. It can also be completed for homework or as a take-home project.
- Explain to students that once filmmakers have finished brainstorming ideas, they create an initial draft of their videos. Explain to students that they will be using Animaker, a computer program that allows people to create animated cartoons.

Materials List

Provided online:

- Video: European Exploration
- Handout: Teacher Set Up
- Handout: Exploring America
- Handout: Steps to Create a Brief

Not provided:

- Animaker.com

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