

Integrating Technology in the Classroom: How Technology Can Enhance Social Studies



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The purpose of this poster is to demonstrate how technology enhances instruction in the Junior High classroom and how, without it, we would not be able to afford our students the vast opportunities that are made available to them via technology.

The Design Brief, below and to the left, is an example of a possible assignment that 7th grade students will be expected to complete. They will have to rely on technology in order to access the necessary tools, and through assignments like these the students' knowledge of and level of confidence in dealing with technology will greatly increase.

The applied technology that the students will be using are Power Point programs, EXCEL spreadsheets, Microsoft Publisher, (or the equivalent of the three) as well as utilizing the World Wide Web to research and find the resources needed to complete the assignment.



Reconstruction Era Design Problem

The "Reconstruction of the American South" Design Problem

The period after the Civil War, known as Reconstruction, is considered to be one of the most fascinating and dynamic periods in American History. Demonstrate, delineate, and describe the events that transpired during the rebuilding of the American South.

Context

You are a curator/historian at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. You have been approached by the History Channel to be a member of the archival team that will be consulted for historical accuracy during their production of a documentary film titled "The Reconstruction of the American South". However, before production begins, the History Channel's Creative Design Team needs your help to convince the investors and producers that this is a worthwhile venture.

Task

You and a team of three other historians at the Smithsonian must demonstrate, delineate, and describe the events that transpired during the Reconstruction of the American South. Your task includes a Power Point presentation, directed to the Board of Investors and the film's producers. Assuming the film receives the necessary financial backing, the History Channel has requested your team's assistance in post-production marketing and advertising.

Design Criteria

Applied technology

The purpose of the Power Point presentation is to persuade the investors that this documentary film is worthwhile and necessary. It should contain a brief outline of the integral phases of Reconstruction, a timeline of major events, and an introduction of the key figures involved in Reconstruction. Your team should create a rudimentary worksheet of anticipated expenses using EXCEL. This worksheet should consider costs of all materials needed, required labor, and post-production marketing expenses in an estimated time frame.

Using the appropriate art programs and software, create posters and flyers advertising the film.



The ways in which technology enhances learning and instruction are numerous. This Design Brief is merely a glimpse into the possibilities.

Students are now afforded the opportunity to "travel" to unfamiliar places during Virtual Field Trips. The virtual field trip allows students a chance to learn of different cultures, visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC or explore the Egyptian Pyramids as an archaeologist would- there is no limit to what technology can provide for our students.

Classrooms have the option of exchanging journals and letters with students from around the globe in "e-pal" programs.

We need to prepare our students for the future and the future is technology. By integrating technology into our classrooms and acquainting our students with technology on a daily basis we will help ensure their success and provide a bridge over the digital divide.