

Teacher Tips

Using the Interactive History Map and Map Guides

Advance Preparation

- Use the site yourself to ensure that all the features are functioning properly on the computers. Please note that you will need Flash Player 8 to access the Interactive History Maps. If you are working with limited time, you may want to eliminate extra steps and save the appropriate map to the favorites menu for easy access by the students.
- Review the rubric and map guide with your students prior to entering the site. This will allow you, the instructor, to set some basic parameters about the kind of work that you will expect and accept. Remind students that their grades will be determined by their ability to complete the worksheet, but it will also depend on how specific they can be in their responses. You'll also want to instruct your class if they should answer map guide questions in complete sentences or using a short answer/phrase format.
- If you are using the map guide as an introduction to the story, students may find it helpful to read the summary of the story and the background of the story before completing the map guide.
- Depending on the amount of time you have, you may want to reduce the number of questions students are responsible for answering. You can have students choose the questions they will answer, or you can identify them.
- Based on your class needs and strengths and your technology and time situation, decide if it is best to have students work independently or with a partner. If time is a determining factor, you can also divide students into small teams, each team working only on completing the questions for one map tab. Teams can then share their information with the group. Alternatively, if you do not have access to individual computers, you can access the Interactive History Map using one computer and a projector and complete the map guide together as a class.

Getting Started

- If this is the first time students are using the Interactive History Map, be sure to orient them to the main features and functions of the site. The "Help" button on each Interactive History Map provides a quick guide to all the features on the map. To assist students, you can download and distribute the "Student Navigation Instructions" page.
- Allow students some free exploration time so they can exercise their own curiosity and grow comfortable with using the site.
- Model how to find information on the site by answering one map guide question all together.
- Because it is so easy to be enchanted and overwhelmed by all of the images, let students know in advance how much time they will have and offer occasional reminders to keep them on track.