

Storymapping

Purpose: Storymaps are effective ways to combine the narrative power of stories with the cartographic strengths of spatial visualization and analysis. This synthesis makes storymaps effective ways of presenting historical information/arguments. Your team will have the option of using storymaps for your final project. This blog assignment will give you some sense of the possibilities of three different platforms for storymapping – Knight Lab’s Storymap.js, ESRI’s ArcGIS Storymaps, and Google Earth’s Tool Builder. While there are other storymap platforms available, these three are robust enough to incorporate skills and tools we will be learning over the course of the semester.

Good maps (including storymaps) make arguments. They present spaces in ways that highlights what the author(s) thinks are the most important/useful/interesting themes. Your task will be to choose three projects and explore their content with an eye to potentially using them as models for your team’s final project.

Instructions:

1. Go to the Mapping Inspiration page on the course blog.
2. Choose one map example from each of the three categories.
3. Examine the maps and answer the following questions:
 - a. What story is the map telling
 - b. What type of an argument is the map making? How does it support that argument? What type of media does it use in support? Any documents? Any cartographic features (shapes? Lines? Points?)
 - c. What are the maps “silences?” *think back to the lecture Prezi for this week*
 - d. Is it effective? Think creatively. If you could add a feature, add media, frame the question differently, what would you do?
4. Which is the most effective map and why?
5. Use images and no more than 400 words to make your case.
6. Post it to the blog using the tag “Student Weekly Blog”