

In Our Time

Using Inspiration to Map Historical Periods

OBJECTIVES

- Map the ideas, people, and beliefs of a period of history
- Analyze influences of historical eras
- Use mapping as a prewriting strategy

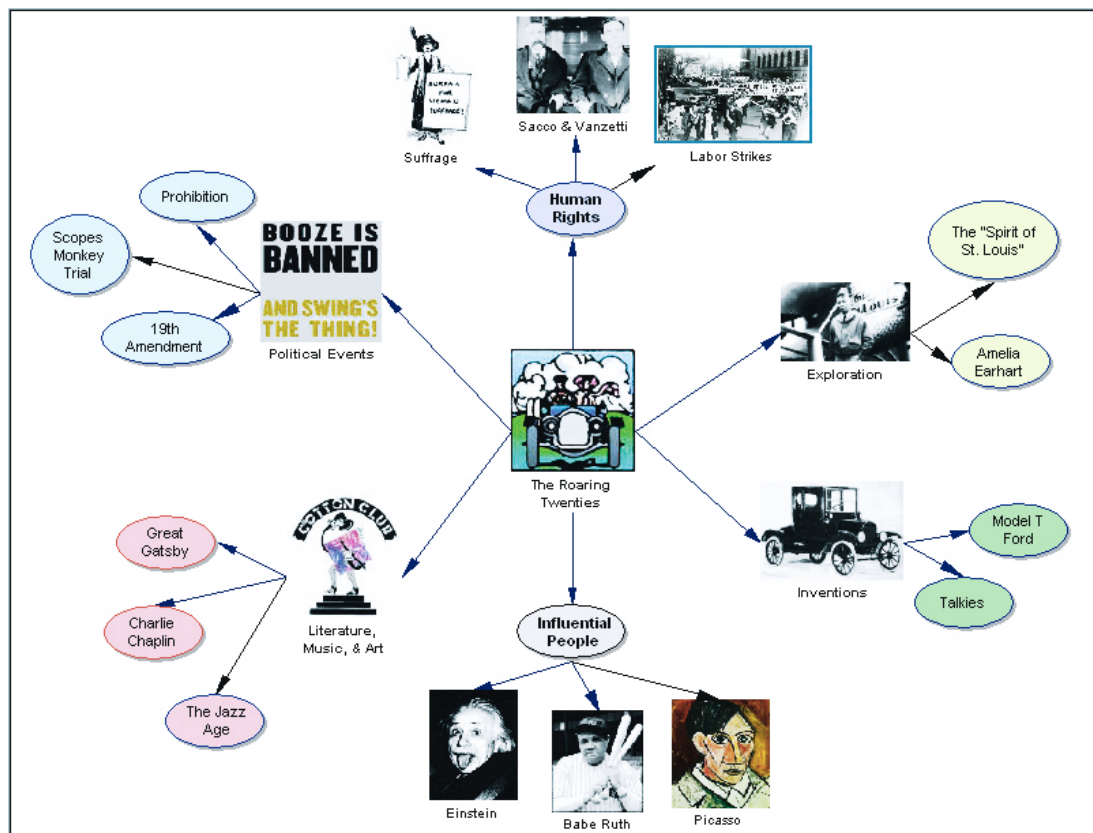
MATERIALS

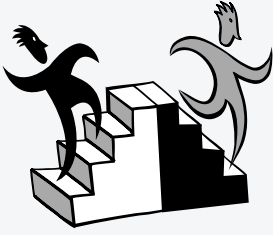
- Inspiration software
- In Our Time Planning Sheet
- In Our Time Template
- In Our Time Sample Activity

Note: Be sure to review the In Our Time Template and Sample Activity and make modifications to suit the needs of your students and situation. Browse the Internet Connection section to get more ideas on teaching about the influences inherent within specific historical time periods.

If you could travel back in time, which historical period would you visit? Would you choose one based on the arts of the time, historical figures, or maybe the politics? Every historical era is a reflection of the events that take place within it. Understanding historical perspective includes analyzing the influence that specific ideas and beliefs had on a period in history.

In this lesson, students use Inspiration to map the key events, ideas, and personalities of a historical period.





Customizing to Meet Your Needs

- You might want to revise the template for younger students and include influences such as:
 - famous people
 - leaders
 - fashion
 - children's games
 - food

- Older students could generate multiple historical period maps and use the hyperlink feature to link the maps together to display one decade or century.

Before the Computer

1. Launch the lesson by dividing the class into three teams. Assign each team one historical time period to analyze. Choose time periods that correspond to your social studies curriculum.
2. Next, invite the teams to brainstorm ideas on what they think influence or shape a particular period of history. Encourage them to think about the beliefs, people, and events that make an era unique.
3. Bring the teams to the library or provide access to the Internet sites listed in the Internet Connection section in order for them to do additional research on their historical period.
4. Distribute the In Our Time Planning Sheet and ask students to work with their teams to gather information regarding human rights, political events, exploration, inventions, literature and arts, and influential people.
5. Invite students to share their maps between the teams. Ask the teams if they see any comparisons between the different influences.
6. Before moving to the computer, be sure that students have provided detailed descriptions on the In Our Time Planning Sheet.

At the Computer

1. Direct students to the In Our Time Template and instruct them to rename and save the file in the appropriate location.
2. Next, tell students to enter their historical period in the symbol labeled "Historical Period." Instruct students to use the In Our Time Planning Sheet as a guide in completing the In Our Time Template and adding the suitable text in the symbols provided.
3. Remind students that they can switch to **Outline** view and easily enter detailed information or add notes to their data.
4. Invite students to use the **RapidFire** tool to add more symbols to their diagrams. They can also use the **Symbol** library to add clip art.
5. Tell students to print their historical period maps and begin drafting an essay describing the impact of specific influences on their historical period.

Other Great Activities

- Invite students to present their research to the class in costumes that reflect the historical period studied.
- Develop models of the inventions, design political cartoons, or produce fine arts reflecting the influences on a period of history.

Internet Connection

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/ammemhome.html>

Browse the American Memory site and view pictures, stories, and primary resources from American history.

http://www.archives.gov/digital_classroom/index.html

Search the Digital Classroom at the National Archives to find historical documents and pictures.

<http://www.historychannel.com/today/>

Visit the History Channel and use a powerful search engine to find just the right information for historical periods.



Tips & Timesavers

- You can make any text in your diagram a hyperlink by selecting the text and clicking the **Hyperlink** button on the **Diagram** toolbar.
- Change the arrangement of your diagram by clicking the **Arrange** button on the **Diagram toolbar** and choosing a new diagram type.