



Starter Sheet: Mapskip <http://www.mapskip.com/>

See TF Edge review at: <http://www.teachersfirst.com/single.cfm?id=9374>

Note that 2009 changes on Mapskip have made it more teacher-friendly!

Sample created by TF Edge team: <http://www.mapskip.com/index.php?place=364>

A 5th grade class project: <http://www.mapskip.com/stories.php?story=1022>

Registration: requires email. Scroll down to check off box to enable additional teacher features!

Terms to know:

places: locations on the map (worldwide)

stories: text added to Mapskip placemarkers

photos: images people have uploaded and associated with a certain place

sounds: for uploading an audio file. Try the Thames River in London.

people: anyone who has contributed to Mapskip. These include profiles

My passport: member's user profile, content made by user, and social features such as people you have "tracked. Teachers access their affiliated student accounts through this area.

Try this first:

- Set up your account –being sure to select TEACHER FEATURES and wait for the email verification
- While you wait, explore places and stories left by others. Note that they are submitted by anyone and could include inappropriate material (though we have found none).
- Notice how to zoom, drag maps, and access full text of "stories."
- Notice links to Most Favored, Most discussed, Most viewed
- Learn about teacher features in the blog post: <http://www.mapskip.com/blog/?p=68>

Schoolwide literacy project ideas:

(gr 2) Whole-class-created:

Local map with student-written "stories" about locations/people/businesses in your community. Create a mapskip map to annotate continents, important landmarks, and more. Students can use it to review/self-test by guessing the "story" before clicking to read it. Continue to add new stories year to year, including places where families have visited, etc. reinforcing map skills as students navigate the map, write and read stories. Map and write stories (write separately in word processor, then enter on map as whole class) of local animal habitats, bodies of water (water cycle), neighborhoods, family history (initials



only!), other social studies and science concepts. READ each other's stories, write comments, and invite parents to comment (more to read!).

(gr 3) *individual/small group on single class account:* A whole-class explorers map of the world, including "story" markers at locations discovered by explorers. St can write one or more "stories" to go on markers. Basic maps of the U.S. regions with "story" markers created by class members. Local community "story" markers (with digital pictures?) with written explanations by students

(gr 4) Detailed student-made maps with "stories" in different regions, time zones. Detailed state maps with "stories" at major historic sites. A Kids' Tour of X(state): places and "stories" every kid should know. A Mouse's tour of XX: place "stories" told from the point of view of a mouse, flea, colonist, etc. Maps with "stories" based on literature selections, such as locations in novel or place where authors lives/lived. Maps of the locations in an adventure story. Student-created travel tales with a chapter at each location on a map.

(gr 5) Class or student-created maps of US history: annotated tales of westward expansion, colonial times, Revolutionary War sites etc. Landform maps of the state, U.S., or world with markers ("stories") about each landform and images included.

**** For more project ideas: See "Possible Uses" near the end of the full TeachersFirst Review**

