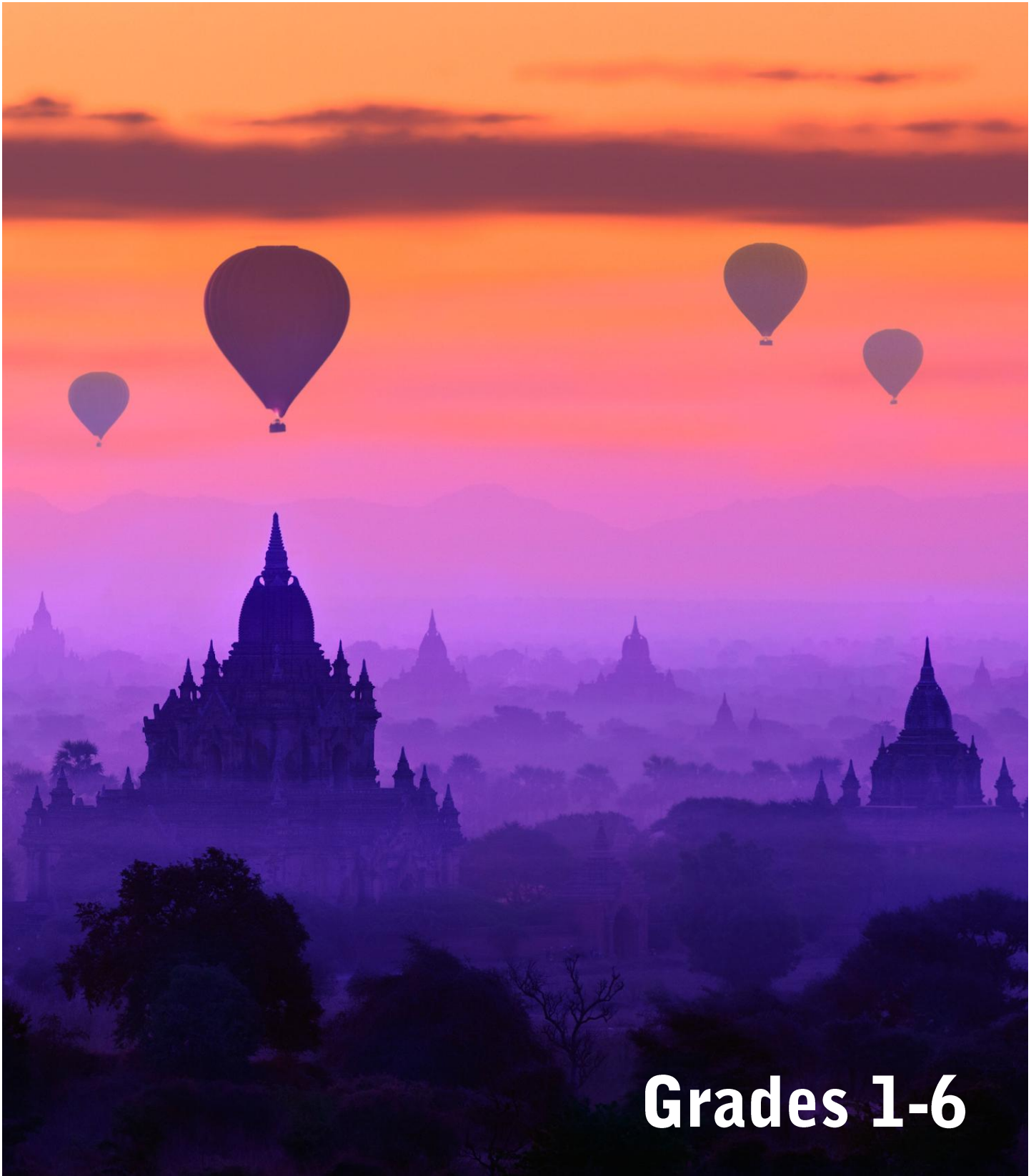


Engaging Digital-Age Learners in Reading: Wixie and Wonders®



Grades 1-6



Engaging Digital-Age Learners in Reading with Wixie & Wonders®

Digital-age learners need a modern approach that combines high-level thinking, powerful communication, and modern creative technologies. Integrating technology into a reading program helps to bridge students' digital lives outside of school and the time they spend in the classroom. The creative use of technology can help you engage students in your Wonders reading program.

This document contains ideas for extending activities for each unit using technology. Each extension provides ideas for the tool to use and the type of product students will create.

What is Wixie?

Wixie is a cloud-based digital tool that primary-grade students can use to write, paint pictures, and tell stories. Activities and projects created by students in Wixie provide a fun way for learners to explore and respond to the stories they are reading and curriculum topics related to the Common Core Standards.

Wixie include hundreds of existing activity templates. To use activities in Wixie, log in as a teacher, locate an activity, and assign it to students in your class.

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Grade 1

Unit 1 - Essential Questions:

- What do you do at your school?
- What is it like where you live?
- What makes a pet special?
- What do friends do together?
- How does your body move?

Today We Learned

There are lots of goals you have as a teacher each day, but how do you explain and share those with students and families?

At the end of a day at school, open the Today We Learned template in Wixie and project it to your class. Work together to list the skills and knowledge gained that day.

Do this every day for a week or two and you will have a great slide show to share at Back-to-School or Parent Night .

Create: Poster or Slide Show

Teacher thoughts:

Parents will appreciate this reminder as they ask their students what they learned that day at home. You may also want to print them out for students to take home as they learn how to share their day with their families.

Friendship Poster

Throughout this unit, you will gather information about different kinds of friends. Choose one of your friends or family members to focus your research on, and create a Biography Poster about this person.

Students will:

- Choose a friend or family member and interview them about their life.
- Rotate the canvas to Portrait orientation.
- Add text boxes that share information about this person's life.
- Add stickers and use the paint tools to add appropriate illustrations.
- Print their posters and share a copy with their interviewee.

Create: Biography Poster

Teacher thoughts:

Discuss what types of information a biographical poster should include.

Share examples of biographical posters you have at school.

Persuade for a Pet

Most young students love animals and many even have a pet at home. To help students think about the care a pet needs to survive and thrive, have them choose a pet they want to add to their family or your classroom and write a letter to convince you, or their parents, to get this new pet. Their letter should include reasons why the pet would make a great addition to their classroom or family, as well as demonstrate that they understand what needs to be done to take care of it.

Wixie includes cluster and OREO opinion organizers as well as a friendly letter template and lots of stationary backgrounds.

Create: Friendly letter

Teacher thoughts:

As a whole your class should have lots of prior experience with pets. Be sure to foster discussions and sharing that draw on their experience.

Find a complete lesson plan at:
<http://bit.ly/pet-persuade>

Grade 1

Unit 2 - Essential Questions:

- What jobs need to be done in a community?
- What buildings do you know? What are they made of?
- Where do animals live together?
- How do people help out in the community?
- How can you find your way around?

Research Project: Community Mural

Make a community mural. Draw the places in your community on the mural. Then draw a person who helps in that community. Cut out the person. Paste your person on the mural.

Students will:

- Work together to brainstorm places in a neighborhood.
- Use the paint tools to paint a picture of one place.
- Print and add to the neighborhood mural.
- Brainstorm a list of community helpers.
- Use the web cam to capture their picture.
- Use the paint tools to draw a community helper.
- Print and cut out both images and add to the mural.

Create: Mural

Teacher thoughts:

Hang butcher paper on the wall to make room for your neighborhood or if you prefer students to interact create a space on your floor and tape the paper down.

You may want to brainstorm places and people and then assign students to illustrate different things. There are also lots of clip art images in People>Careers.

How Our Family Helps

Your city needs more volunteers and citizens working to make a difference in the community. To help the city council encourage families to make a difference in the community, ask students to create a video or slideshow that highlights how their family helps others.

Students can share their stories by combining text and images with voice narration on multiple pages. In Wixie, students can simply open the URL to watch the documentary or embed the project in a class web site.

Create: Slideshow

Teacher thoughts:

Brainstorm with your class different ways to help a community, such as volunteering for a non-profit, sharing a home with other family members, bringing food to the homebound, taking out a neighbor's garbage, etc.

My Neighborhood

What does it mean to live in a neighborhood? What does your neighborhood look like? What is your favorite part of your neighborhood?

Students use the paint tools to draw a map of their street, including at least 4 buildings.

Print the maps and have students share them with peers and describe the feature they have included.

Create: Map

Teacher thoughts:

Talk to your students about the meaning of neighbor. What makes a good neighbor? What makes a bad neighbor?

Grade 1

Unit 3 - Essential Questions:

- How do we measure time?
- How do plants change as they grow?
- What is a folktale?
- How is life different than it was long ago?
- How do we get our food?

Research Project: From Seed to Plant

Gather information about plants and animals and use your notes to create a Life Cycle Booklet for that plant or animal.

Students will:

- Create a plant or animal growth booklet.
- Draw or find 4 pictures from the life cycle.
- Type text about each stage.
- Print the project as a booklet.

Create: Booklet

Teacher thoughts:

Discuss the different stages of plant growth. Include information on what plants need to grow strong and healthy and tips for taking care of plants.

Folktale Comics

After you read a folktale or two, it is natural to ask students to retell or recount the story orally. It is also normal to follow this up with a sequencing worksheet. To better connect work in school to life beyond school, ask students to retell the folktale in comic form.

Have students create a four-page Wixie project that includes a title and summarizes what happens in the beginning, middle, and end of the folktale. Students should include appropriate images from the Library on each page, as well as use the buttons on the Options panel to convert their text objects in to speech or thought bubbles.

Create: 4-panel comic

Teacher thoughts:

The visual nature of comics helps students cement ideas through nonlinguistic representation and the small amount of text is perfect for emerging writers.

Find instructions for printing as a comic in Wixie at: <http://bit.ly/wixie-print-comic>

Change Collage

Discuss with your students things in nature that change. You might ask students if things change during different months of the year (seasons) or days of the week (weather). You may want to ask if anyone has a pet at home. How long have they had it? Has it looked and behaved the same way for as long as they can remember?

Students can add images from the library and Pics4Learning to create a collage of images that represent change in nature. Print the pages or export the images to use on your classroom web site.

Display the final images and have each student present their collages and explanations to the class.

Create: Collage

Teacher thoughts:

Be sure to ask lots of questions of each student to draw out the reason for their choice of images.

Collect the final digital images students export into a "Changes in Nature" slideshow you can showcase at a school assembly.

Grade 1

Unit 4 - Essential Questions:

- How do animals' bodies help them?
- How do animals help each other?
- How do animals survive in nature?
- What insects do you know about?
- How do people work with animals?

Research Project: Those Amazing Animals

Throughout the unit, students read about animals. Have them choose an animal they want to learn more about. Do research to find out what makes this animal special and write a report about what you love about this animal.

Students will:

- Add pages for each quality or adaptation.
- Use the text tool to add facts to the project.
- Use paint tools and images from the library to support their writing.
- Display the project as visual support for their oral presentation.

Create: Presentation Report

Teacher thoughts:

To show off student work in Wixie, open the URL to watch the information as a presentation. You can also export student work as PDF and eBook (ePub) files for easy reading on tablets.

Animal Interviews

Partner students together and ask each team to choose an animal they are interested in learning more about. Students should research their animals using informational texts found in your school library. Have students take notes on facts about this animal and where it lives and write out questions and answers for the interview.

Students can use Wixie's paint tools to create illustrated pages that highlight information in each question and answer. They can then record the question and answer on each page. Open the project URL to watch it or embed the project in a class web site.

Create: Interview

Teacher thoughts:

Work with your librarian to find nonfiction animal books at the right reading level.

Watch interviews with your students. What makes for a great interview?

Find a complete lesson plan at:
<http://bit.ly/animal-interview>

Animal Riddles

Kids love jokes and riddles! Have each student create a two page animal riddle as a fun format for an informational text research project. Page 1 will be the riddle. An example might look like this:

I have beautiful black spots. I am a carnivore. I live on the savanna. I am the fastest land animal on the planet.

Page 2 will be an illustration of the animal.

Print the projects as table tents. Have students place the printed projects on their desks and encourage students move around the room to read and guess at other students' riddles.

Create: Table tent

Teacher thoughts:

Introduce your students to animal riddles by reading ABC Animal Riddles (rhyming verse) by Susan Joyce or If Not for the Cat (haiku) by Jack Prelutsky.

Find a complete lesson plan at:
<http://bit.ly/animal-riddle>

Grade 1

Unit 5 - Essential Questions:

- How can we classify and categorize things?
- What can you see in the sky?
- What inventions do you know about?
- What sounds can you hear? How are they made?
- How do things get built?

Practice Sorting and Classifying

Read Wixie includes an Activities library with hundreds of K-2 templates and activities you can assign to your first grade learners.

Have students sort according to a current curriculum goal. Wixie includes sorting activities for many different topics, such as:

- 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional shapes
- number of syllables
- types of animals
- seasons

Create: Groups of objects

Teacher thoughts:

Assigning sorting and classifying activities in Wixie focuses mainly on drag and drop skills, which are the foundations for almost all computer work and the online assessments in their school future.

Video instructions for assigning a Wixie activity: <https://youtu.be/jgCWonTemKU>

Mistakes that worked

Read Mistakes That Worked by Charlotte Jones which includes fun stories about Silly Putty, Popsicles, and more. Give students a collection of cardboard boxes, buttons, string, glue, and tape. Have them create a model for an invention that would make class better.

Take a picture of each of their inventions. Import each picture onto a page in Wixie and have each student record narration to describe their invention and how it will help others. Share the collection as a slide show.

Create: Invention

Teacher thoughts:

Simply taking pictures and having students record narration about their work is a great way to get them started reflecting on their learning!

Sound Poem

As your students build their skills as writers, it helpful to get them to add details using the five senses. Have students close their eyes and listen to the background noise in the classroom or just outside your room.

As the students share what they hear, prompt them to answer with 2 words: a noun and verb. For example, move from "bird" to "bird singing" and:

Carts rolling
Door slamming
Teachers talking

Then, have each student choose a line, type it on to a Wixie page, add illustrations and even voice narration. Combine the work together in to a class book.

Create: Poem

Teacher thoughts:

If you ask your students what they think poetry is, they often respond with rhyming. This is a great activity to help them move beyond this narrow definition and make writing poetry much easier.

How to combine student's Wixie pages into a single file: <http://goo.gl/uCFalv>

Grade 1

Unit 6 - Essential Questions:

- How can we work together to make our lives better?
- Who helps you?
- How can weather affect us?
- What traditions do you know about?
- Why do we celebrate holidays

Together or Alone?

After reading the books in this unit, talk with students about teamwork. When does it help to work solo and when might working as a team be in the best interest of the project?

Assign student teams a project. Have each team create a presentation that explores what might happen if that particular project was done alone and what might happen if the project was done as a team. Pages and slides should include benefits and the drawbacks of each approach.

Distribute or project the project URL to share student work in Wixie.

Create: Presentation

Teacher thoughts:

Make sure to give a balance of projects that are best for solo and teamwork approaches.

Amazing Weather eBook

Students create articles on places that get very cold for an Amazing Weather web book that could have a home at *Weather.com*. Student teams will work together to choose a place that gets cold weather, research information about the weather, and learn how people in this area cope.

Students can locate and download images from the Web through Google searches or from *Pics4Learning.com*. They can add these images or create their own illustrations with the paint tools. Encourage students to add captions to the images that highlight the unique cold in this location.

Create: Web Book

Teacher thoughts:

Distribute or project the project URL to share student work in Wixie.

Create a tall tale version that exaggerates the facts so that the place becomes amazingly, unbelievably cold!

Traditional Celebrations

Students will create a booklet about the celebrations of their family and culture. They will ask family members about their cultural heritage and about traditions, symbols, and objects found in different celebration. They will also consult books and web sites to find out more information.

Have each student design a four-page project that includes textual details about the celebration; photos, images, and/or drawings that capture the moment; and captions that quote personal stories.

Print the project as a booklet or create an electronic version you can share. Students can then present and share traditions their family celebrates.

Create: Booklet

Teacher thoughts:

If students in your class have more than one cultural heritage, encourage them to talk about these cultural differences and how they are negotiated in their family.

Grade 2

Unit 1 - Essential Questions:

- How do friends depend on each other?
- How are families around the world the same and different?
- How can a pet be an important friend?
- How do we care for animals?
- What happens when families work together?

Friendship Poster

Throughout this unit, you will gather information about different kinds of friends. Choose one of your friends or family members to focus your research on, and create a Biography Poster about this person.

Students will:

- Choose a friend or family member and interview them about their life.
- Rotate the canvas to Portrait orientation.
- Add text boxes that share information about this person's life.
- Add stickers and use the paint tools to add appropriate illustrations.
- Print their posters and share a copy with their interviewee.

Create: Biography Poster

Teacher thoughts:

Discuss what types of information a biographical poster should include.

Share examples of biographical posters you have at school.

Persuade for a Pet

Most young students love animals and many even have a pet at home. To help students think about the care a pet needs to survive and thrive, have them choose a pet they want to add to their family or your classroom and write a letter to convince you, or their parents, to get this new pet. Their letter should include reasons why the pet would make a great addition to their classroom or family, as well as demonstrate that they understand what needs to be done to take care of it.

Wixie includes cluster and OREO opinion organizers as well as a friendly letter template and lots of stationary backgrounds.

Create: Friendly letter

Teacher thoughts:

As a whole your class should have lots of prior experience with pets. Be sure to foster discussions and sharing that draw on their experience.

Find a complete lesson plan at:
<http://bit.ly/pet-persuade>

How Our Family Helps

Your city needs more volunteers and citizens working to make a difference in the community. To help the city council encourage families to make a difference in the community, ask students to create a video or slideshow that highlights how their family helps others.

Students can share their stories by combining text and images with voice narration on multiple pages. In Wixie, students can simply open the URL to watch the documentary or embed the project in a class web site.

Create: Video or Slideshow

Teacher thoughts:

Brainstorm with your class different ways to help a community, such as volunteering for a non-profit, sharing a home with other family members, bringing food to the homebound, taking out a neighbor's garbage, etc.

Grade 2

Unit 2 - Essential Questions:

- How do animals survive?
- What can animals in stories teach us?
- What are features of different animal habitats?
- How are offspring like their parents?
- What do we love about animals?

Research Project: Those Amazing Animals

Throughout the unit, students read about animals. Have them choose an animal they want to learn more about. Do research to find out what makes this animal special and write a report about what you love about this animal.

Students will:

- Add pages for each quality or adaptation.
- Use the text tool to add facts to the project.
- Use paint tools and images from the library to support their writing.
- Display the project as visual support for their oral presentation.

Create: Presentation Report

Teacher thoughts:

To show off student work in Wixie, open the URL to watch the information as a presentation. You can also export student work as PDF and eBook (ePub) files for easy reading on tablets.

Animal Interviews

Partner students together and ask each team to choose an animal they are interested in learning more about. Students should research their animals using informational texts found in your school library. Have students take notes on facts about this animal and where it lives and write out questions and answers for the interview.

Students can use Wixie's paint tools to create illustrated pages that highlight information in each question and answer. They can then record the question and answer on each page. Open the project URL to watch it or embed the project in a class web site.

Create: Interview

Teacher thoughts:

Work with your librarian to find nonfiction animal books at the right reading level.

Watch interviews with your students. What makes for a great interview?

Find a complete lesson plan at:
<http://bit.ly/animal-interview>

Animal Riddles

Kids love jokes and riddles! Have each student create a two page animal riddle as a fun format for an informational text research project.

Page 1 will be the riddle. An example might look like this:

I have beautiful black spots. I am a carnivore. I live on the savanna. I am the fastest land animal on the planet.

Page 2 will be an illustration of the animal.

Print the projects as table tents. Have students place the printed projects on their desks and encourage students move around the room to read and guess at other students' riddles.

Create: Table tent

Teacher thoughts:

Introduce your students to animal riddles by reading ABC Animal Riddles (rhyming verse) by Susan Joyce or If Not for the Cat (haiku) by Jack Prelutsky.

Find a complete lesson plan at:
<http://bit.ly/animal-riddle>

Grade 2

Unit 3 - Essential Questions:

- How do the Earth's forces affect us?
- What can we see in the sky?
- How can people help out their community?
- How does weather affect us?
- How do you express yourself?

Research Project: Nonfiction Books

Throughout this unit, you will gather information about natural resources and the environment. Choose one topic to focus your research on, such as a way to help the planet or the features of a habitat. Create a nonfiction picture book that describes your topic.

Students will:

- Write facts about their topic.
- Change font style and size to make information easier to find.
- Add images and illustrations that support the text.
- Print their work to share or publish online.

Create: Report/Presentation

Teacher thoughts:

Explore the features of nonfiction text with your students, so they know how to use labels, photographs, maps, illustrations, headings, and font styles to help their reader find the information they are looking for.

Reaching Out

Students will conduct interviews to learn about ways people have helped others. Students will use their notes from their interviews to compose articles that will be compiled into a class book.

Students will:

- Interview someone who works for a cause in the community.
- Add text to a page to write about this person.
- Add or draw images of the person in action helping others.
- Print their page to collect into a class book.
- Export a PDF of the page to add to an electronic book or web site.

Create: Class Book

Teacher thoughts:

Share some of the Chicken Soup stories as samples of feel-good stories.

Contact local businesses and offer copies of the book as reading material in waiting areas. Include a page in each book explaining how others can volunteer and help out in the community.

Amazing Weather eBook

Students create articles on places that get very cold for an Amazing Weather web book that could have a home at *Weather.com*. Student teams will work together to choose a place that gets cold weather, research information about the weather, and learn how people in this area cope.

Students can locate and download images from the Web through Google searches or from *Pics4Learning.com*. They can add these images or create their own illustrations with the paint tools. Encourage students to add captions to the images that highlight the unique cold in this location.

Create: Web Book

Teacher thoughts:

Distribute or project the project URL to share student work in Wixie.

Create a tall tale version that exaggerates the facts so that the place becomes amazingly, unbelievably cold!

Grade 2

Unit 4 - Essential Questions:

- What makes different parts of the world different?
- How does the Earth change?
- How are kids around the world different?
- How can we understand nature?
- What excites us about nature?

Our Great National Parks

The National Parks have been around since the late 1700s and were officially organized by Woodrow Wilson in the 1900s. Create an advertising campaign for a National Park in the United States that shares information to persuade visitors to visit the park during a vacation. Include activities, facilities available, and what makes this park special.

Students can combine the text options, clip art, paint tools, Pics4Learning images, and voice narration to create a variety of materials to advertise their park. Products could include posters, postcards, video or slide show advertisements, brochures, booklets, and even online travel guides.

Create: Media Products

Teacher thoughts:

Have students transform their marketing materials into a trade show booth and host a summer travel ideas conference. Invite families from your school to learn what the various national parks have to offer.

Traditional Celebrations

Students will create a booklet about the celebrations of their family and culture. They will ask family members about their cultural heritage and about traditions, symbols, and objects found in different celebration. They will also consult books and web sites to find out more information.

Have each student design a four-page project that includes textual details about the celebration; photos, images, and/or drawings that capture the moment; and captions that quote personal stories.

Print the project as a booklet or create an electronic version you can share. Students can then present and share traditions their family celebrates.

Create: Booklet

Teacher thoughts:

If students in your class have more than one cultural heritage, encourage them to talk about these cultural differences and how they are negotiated in their family.

Nature Travel Guide

Many people visit the Lonely Planet web site to gain valuable information on a location prior to visiting. Have each student in your class choose a place that includes amazing natural features and write a travel guide for this spot that nature lovers or adventure travelers could use to identify and learn facts about travel destinations.

Students can create pages that include text descriptions of climate and unique natural features as well as persuasive text to encourage someone to visit. Students can add images they find on the Web or Pics4Learning.com and use the paint tools to add color and other design elements.

Create: Travel Guide

Teacher thoughts:

Bring in examples of travel brochures or ask students to find them at home or in local tourist destinations and restaurants. Share the Lonely Planet web site.

Distribute or project the project URL to share student work in Wixie.

Grade 2

Unit 5 - Essential Questions:

- What do citizens do?
- How do people get along?
- What do heroes do?
- How can we protect Earth?
- Why are rules important?

Together or Alone?

After reading the books in this unit, talk with students about teamwork. When does it help to work solo and when might working as a team be in the best interest of the project?

Assign student teams a project. Have each team create a presentation that explores what might happen if that particular project was done alone and what might happen if the project was done as a team. Pages and slides should include benefits and the drawbacks of each approach.

Distribute or project the project URL to share student work in Wixie.

Create: Presentation

Teacher thoughts:

Make sure to give a balance of projects that are best for solo and teamwork approaches.

Wanted: Heroes

Heroes can be found in our school, at home, and even at the grocery store. Have students choose a place where heroes can be found and create a Wanted poster for a hero for this place. For example, "Wanted: Classroom Hero."

Use the Wanted Poster activity in the Templates folder to make the process easier. Students can draw or add a picture of their hero and type words to describe them and their behavior in the Known aliases, Last Seen, Runs with, and Favorite saying fields.

Create: Wanted Poster

Teacher thoughts:

What are the qualities of a hero? Do these qualities differ depending on the type of hero? What is a playground hero? A school hero? A family hero?

Rules for teamwork

Young students do not have a lot of experience with collaboration or the idea of team work, but many have played on a sports team or performed with a drama or dance group. Talk to your students about what makes a great team. Then work together to try to list some of the things that make a team successful such as:

- be nice
- take turns
- listen,
- share,

Then, have students use Wixie create posters about being a great team member.

Create: Poster

Teacher thoughts:

Check with local print shops to see if they can help turn student printed products into full-size posters you can display at school and in the community.

Grade 2

Unit 6 - Essential Questions:

- What do myths help us understand about plants?
- How do we use energy?
- Why is Teamwork Important?
- How do we use money?
- Where can your imagination take you?

Research Project: From Seed to Plant

Gather information about plants and animals and use your notes to create a Life Cycle Booklet for that plant or animal.

Students will:

- Create a plant or animal growth booklet.
- Draw or find 4 pictures from the life cycle.
- Type text about each stage.
- Print the project as a booklet.

Create: Booklet

Teacher thoughts:

Discuss the different stages of plant growth. Include information on what plants need to grow strong and healthy and tips for taking care of plants.

The Greatest Team Member

Talk with your students about the qualities they feel make someone a great member on a team, like listening, working hard, and being nice. Work as a class to come up with at least fifteen different qualities a great team member has.

Have students create an award certificate for the Greatest Team Member. This award should indicate the three qualities they think are most important. Ask students to share why they choose these qualities over other ones.

Have students print a copy of the award and give it to a person they have worked with in the past who has these qualities.

Create: Award

Teacher thoughts:

Share examples of awards with your student. Talk about how awards have:

- a place for the recipient's name,
- a place for the name and signature of the person giving the award, and
- information about the award.

Research Project: Express Your Passion

Throughout this unit, you will gather information about different ways that people express themselves creatively. Chose the topic that interests you most and create a presentation in that form to give to your class.

Students will:

- Choose an idea or topic that interests them.
- Add text to describe it.
- Use paint tools and stickers to add images and illustrations.
- Present their final product to the class and explain why they choose to share their ideas in this way.

Create: Presentation, poster, collage

Teacher thoughts:

Talk to students about different ways they can share their ideas with others:

- Booklets
- Postcards
- Trading cards
- Movies

Grade 3

Unit 0 - Essential Questions:

- What discoveries can people make when they cooperate with others?
- What can you discover by observing nature?

Classroom Explorers

What qualities does a great explorer need? Students might easily come up with descriptions like “brave” and “strong.” Encourage them to think about things like “map skills” and “good thinking” too. You may want to bring in a microscope or map or other tools an explorer might use.

Use the web cam feature to capture an image of each student. Then search the library for hat to find an adventurer hat they can wear. Print these out to hang on a bulletin board or put on their desks when you need them to think like an adventurer!

You can also open the Wanted Poster template to document the features of a great explorer.

Create: Wanted Poster & Decorations

Teacher thoughts:

What qualities does a great explorer need?

Can You Believe I Saw...?

Students will create a postcard for a trip they have taken to a surprising location. This location might be a habitat that they have studied in class or a place they have read about.

Use the paint tools and stickers to design the front of the postcard showing the features of the place being visited. Add text to the back side to create a description of the place and explain why it is so surprising.

Print the pages as a table tent, then fold, glue, and share them.

Create: Postcard

Teacher thoughts:

Be sure to ask lots of questions of each student to draw out the reasoning behind their choice of images.

Grade 3

Unit 1 - Essential Questions:

- What can stories teach you?
- What can traditions teach you about cultures?
- How do people from different cultures contribute to a community?
- How can problem solving lead to new ideas?
- How do landmarks help us understand our country's story?

Traditional Celebrations

Students will create a booklet about the celebrations of their family and culture. They will ask family members about their cultural heritage and about traditions, symbols, and objects found in different celebration. They will also consult books and web sites to find out more information.

Have each student design a four-page project that includes textual details about the celebration; photos, images, and/or drawings that capture the moment; and captions that quote personal stories. Print the project as a booklet or create an electronic version you can share. Students can then present and share traditions their family celebrates.

Create: Booklet

Teacher thoughts:

If students in your class have more than one cultural heritage, encourage them to talk about these cultural differences and how they are negotiated in their family.

Research Project: Neighborhood Mural

Make a community mural. Draw community places on the mural. Then draw a person who helps you. Cut out the person. Paste your person on the mural.

Students will:

- Work together to brainstorm places in a neighborhood.
- Use the paint tools to paint a picture of one place.
- Print and add to the neighborhood mural.
- Brainstorm a list of community helpers.
- Use the web cam to capture their picture.
- Use the paint tools to draw a community helper.
- Print and cut out both images and add to the mural.

Create: Mural

Teacher thoughts:

Hang butcher paper on the wall to make room for your neighborhood or if you prefer students to interact create a space on your floor and tape the paper down.

You may want to brainstorm places and people and then assign students to illustrate different things. There are also lots of clip art images in People>Careers.

Our Country's Story

Students have been hired to complete an article for an archaeology magazine that highlights the importance of a national landmark. Students choose a landmark, such as Mt. Rushmore, the Washington Monument, or Crazy Horse that interests them and share their findings with the class.

Student pages should include a catchy title, a written article describing the landmark, and images that support the story. Print the page and combine them into a class book or export PDFs for easy electronic distribution.

Create: Article

Teacher thoughts:

What do students need to know about the elements of a magazine? Visit Archaeology magazine online at: www.archaeology.org

Grade 3

Unit 2 - Essential Questions:

- Why is working together a good way to solve a problem?
- Why do people immigrate to new places?
- How do people make government work?
- How can people help animals survive?
- How do people figure things out?

Together or Alone?

After reading the books in this unit, talk with students about teamwork. When does it help to work solo and when might working as a team be in the best interest of the project?

Assign student teams a project. Have each team create a presentation that explores what might happen if that particular project was done alone and what might happen if the project was done as a team. Pages and slides should include benefits and the drawbacks of each approach.

Distribute or project the project URL to share student work in Wixie.

Create: Presentation

Teacher thoughts:

Make sure to give a balance of projects that are best for solo and teamwork approaches.

Inventions that Help

Students invent machines or systems that address problems they face in daily life. They create plans for these inventions and present their work to the class.

Students will:

- Plan an invention. Use a planning template to help with the thought processes.
- Create a slide show with relevant information on the invention, such as what problem it solves, how it will be produced, and its benefits.
- Add audio to the slides to create a video advertisement.
- In Wixie, open the URL to watch the presentation.

Create: Design, Advertisement

Teacher thoughts:

Work as a class to list problems they have personally encountered.

Great sample invention at:

<http://bit.ly/invent-ad>

Animal Interviews

Partner students together and ask each team to choose an animal they are interested in learning more about. Students should research their animals using informational texts found in your school library. Have students take notes on facts about this animal and where it lives and write out questions and answers for the interview.

Students can use Wixie's paint tools to create illustrated pages that highlight information in each question and answer. They can then record the question and answer on each page. Open the project URL to watch it or embed the project in a class web site.

Create: Interview

Teacher thoughts:

Watch interviews with your students. What makes for a great interview?

Find a complete lesson plan at:

<http://bit.ly/animal-interview>

Grade 3

Unit 3 - Essential Questions:

- What makes different animals unique?
- How can one person change the way you think?
- What do we know about Earth and its neighbors?
- What ideas can we get from nature?
- How is each event in history unique?

Those Amazing Animals

Throughout the unit, students read about animals. Have them choose an animal they want to learn more about. Do research to find out what makes this animal special and write a report about what you love about this animal.

Students will:

- Add pages for each quality or adaptation.
- Use the text tool to add facts to the project.
- Use paint tools and images from the library to support their writing.
- Display the project as visual support for their oral presentation.

Create: Presentation Report

Teacher thoughts:

To show off student work in Wixie, open the URL to watch the information as a presentation. You can also export student work as PDF and eBook (ePub) files for easy reading on tablets.

My Hero

Throughout the unit, you will gather information about community heroes. Choose one type of hero to focus your research on, and create a dramatic play that shows and tells about that hero's work.

Students will:

- Conduct research on a person and write a play that demonstrates how they are a hero.
- Create a page for each scene in the play.
- Add text to describe the location as well as lines for each character.
- Add or paint images to illustrate the actions in each scene.
- Print the project to use as a guide for practicing and presenting the play.

Create: Dramatic Story

Teacher thoughts:

Let students know how directors use a storyboard to map out a story in a visual way before creating a movie.

Share examples of the programs you receive when watching a play. Discuss the elements the class might include in their books.

Planetary Travel Guide

Many people visit the Lonely Planet web site to gain valuable information on a location prior to visiting. Have each student in your class choose a planet and write a travel guide that helps potential visitors learn more about this interesting destination.

Students can create pages that include text descriptions of climate and unique natural features as well as persuasive text to encourage someone to visit. Students can add images they find on the Web or Pics4Learning.com and use the paint tools to add color and other design elements.

Create: Travel Guide

Teacher thoughts:

Bring in examples of travel brochures or ask students to find them at home or in local tourist destinations and restaurants. Share the Lonely Planet web site.

Find a complete lesson plan at:
<http://bit.ly/planet-tour>

Grade 3

Unit 4 - Essential Questions:

- What choices are good for us?
- How can you use what you know to help others?
- How do animals adapt to challenges in their habitat?
- How are people able to fly?
- How can others inspire us?

'I Can Teach You' Ads

What do you love to do? If you are enthusiastic about playing soccer, you might make a great coach! What skills can you teach others?

Students choose one thing they are good at and enjoying doing. They can use the paint tools to create a picture of themselves doing the activity as well as add text that shares what other people can learn from them.

Print the ads and display them around school.

Create: Advertisement

Teacher thoughts:

Use this activity to celebrate the diverse abilities in the class.

Help students learn to promote themselves and their talents.

A World of Wonder

Hollywood has recently created documentaries on penguins, chimpanzees, and even babies from around the world. Movie producers are looking for a pitch for a new documentary film that would be enjoyed by moviegoers on the silver screen while educating them about unique animal adaptations.

Students create a visual presentation to support a pitch they will make to potential movie producers. Students can add text for imaginative titles and descriptions, as well as images, artwork, and narration that both provides information about the unique adaptations of a specific animal and engages the viewer in exploring and protecting it.

Create: Presentation and Pitch

Teacher thoughts:

In Wixie, open the URL to watch the presentation.

Consider asking for a volunteer or two to pretend to be the movie producers to listen to the pitch by each team.

Wanted: Heroes

Heroes can be found in our school, at home, and even at the grocery store. Have students choose a place where heroes can be found and create a Wanted poster for a hero for this place. For example, "Wanted: Classroom Hero."

Use the Wanted Poster activity in the Templates folder to make the process easier. Students can draw or add a picture of their hero and type words to describe them and their behavior in the Known aliases, Last Seen, Runs with, and Favorite saying fields.

Create: Wanted Poster

Teacher thoughts:

What are the qualities of a hero? Do these qualities differ depending on the type of hero? What is a playground hero? A school hero? A family hero?

Grade 3

Unit 5 - Essential Questions:

- How do we get what we need?
- How can we reuse what we already have?
- How do teams work together?
- What do good citizens do?
- What are different kinds of energy?

Research Project: Team Work Script

Think about the teams in the stories you are reading. Then pick a scene from one of the stories that shows teamwork. Act out the scene as a team with a partner or small group.

Students will:

- Create a page to represent action in the scene.
- Record narration to describe what characters said.
- Have their teacher or a parent aide type the text on the page.
- Add or paint images to illustrate the action.

Create: Illustrated Script

Teacher thoughts:

Print the project to use as a guide for practicing and presenting the play.

Rules for teamwork

Young students do not have a lot of experience with collaboration or the idea of team work, but many have played on a sports team or performed with a drama or dance group. Talk to your students about what makes a great team. Then work together to try to list some of the things that make a team successful such as:

- be nice
- take turns
- listen,
- share,

Then, have students use Wixie create posters about being a great team member.

Create: Poster

Teacher thoughts:

Check with local print shops to see if they can help turn student printed products into full-size posters you can display at school and in the community.

How Our Family Helps

Your city needs more volunteers and citizens working to make a difference in the community. To help the city council encourage families to make a difference in the community, ask students to create a video or slideshow that highlights how their family helps others.

Students can share their stories by combining text and images with voice narration on multiple pages. In Wixie, students can simply open the URL to watch the documentary or embed the project in a class web site.

Create: Video or Slideshow

Teacher thoughts:

Brainstorm with your class different ways to help a community, such as volunteering for a non-profit, sharing a home with other family members, bringing food to the homebound, taking out a neighbor's garbage, etc.

Grade 3

Unit 6 - Essential Questions:

- How do you decide what's important?
- How can weather affect us?
- Why are goals important?
- How can learning about animals help you respect them?
- What makes you laugh?

Amazing Weather eBook

Students create articles on places that get very cold for an Amazing Weather web book that could have a home at *Weather.com*. Student teams will work together to choose a place that gets cold weather, research information about the weather, and learn how people in this area cope.

Students can locate and download images from the Web through Google searches or from *Pics4Learning.com*. They can add these images or create their own illustrations with the paint tools. Encourage students to add captions to the images that highlight the unique cold in this location.

Create: Web Book

Teacher thoughts:

Distribute or project the project URL to share student work in Wixie.

Create a tall tale version that exaggerates the facts so that the place becomes amazingly, unbelievably cold!

My Goals

Reaching goals takes hard work, but before you can achieve your goals, you first need to set them. To get students thinking about successes they want to have this year, have them create a short list of academic and personal goals. Wixie includes a clipboard activity template you can use to list student goals.

If you are going to publish the goals online, have students click the Record button and recite their goals, further cementing their connection to them.

Create: List of Goals

Teacher thoughts:

These are great to print and keep in student folders or even taped to their desk.

Research Project: Meeting Goals

Throughout the unit, you will learn about what can get done when people work as a team. Research to learn more about a team that worked together to accomplish something important. Write about the team. What did they accomplish? How did they work together to accomplish their goal?

Students will:

- Add four pages to a project.
- Use clip art images and painted artwork to:
 - Introduce the event.
 - Show how the teamwork helped meet goals.
 - Conclude with a reflection on success.
- Change text boxes into speech bubbles to show dialogue.
- Print the file with four or six pages per sheet to create a comic.

Create: Comic

Teacher thoughts:

Discuss ways comic authors convey the meaning between panels. How do they condense or summarize? How do you know that action has occurred or time has passed between two panels?

Grade 4

Unit 0 - Essential Questions:

- What discoveries can people make when they cooperate with others?
- What can you discover by observing nature?

Classroom Explorers

What qualities does a great explorer need? Students might easily come up with descriptions like “brave” and “strong.” Encourage them to think about things like “map skills” and “good thinking” too. You may want to bring in a microscope or map or other tools an explorer might use.

Use the web cam feature to capture an image of each student. Then search the library for hat to find an adventurer hat they can wear. Print these out to hang on a bulletin board or put on their desks when you need them to think like an adventurer!

You can also open the Wanted Poster template to document the features of a great explorer.

Create: Wanted Poster & Decorations

Teacher thoughts:

What qualities does a great explorer need?

Can You Believe I Saw...?

Students will create a postcard for a trip they have taken to a surprising location. This location might be a habitat that they have studied in class or a place they have read about.

Use the paint tools and stickers to design the front of the postcard showing the features of the place being visited. Add text to the back side to create a description of the place and explain why it is so surprising.

Print the pages as a table tent, then fold, glue, and share them.

Create: Postcard

Teacher thoughts:

Be sure to ask lots of questions of each student to draw out the reasoning behind their choice of images.

Grade 4

Unit 1 - Essential Questions:

- Where do good ideas come from?
- How do your actions affect others?
- How do people respond to natural disaster?
- How can science help you understand how things work?
- How can starting a business help others?

Changes

Students will research problems that affect their community. They will then write articles that outline the problems, the people involved, ideas that have been tried, and potential solutions.

Student teams should use the Internet and local newspapers to conduct research on problems facing their community. Students should work together to develop a newspaper article that includes a catchy title, a written article describing the finding(s), and images that support the story.

Print student articles to combine them into a class book or export PDFs for easy electronic distribution.

Create: Newspaper Article

Teacher thoughts:

What type of changes have recently taken place in your community? Who led these changes? Were they politically motivated? Was it a good change or a bad change?

Present student research and ideas to your local chamber of commerce or city council representative.

It's About Progress

Students research and write a report about a person whose scientific work brought about change that led to progress. For the presentation, the class can create a Progress Timeline and individual students may share their information as they add their reports to the timeline.

Students will:

- Research a person who has worked to bring about positive change through science.
- Use Wixie's Timeline template to organize significant events.
- Add text, captions, and images to each page of the presentation.

Create: Report, Timeline, and Presentation

Teacher thoughts:

Open the Wixie project URL to display the project as visual support for their oral presentation.

Natural Disasters Magazine

Throughout the unit, you will be gathering information about extreme acts of nature. Research a natural disaster that has affected the Earth and its resources. Write about its effects on nature and people.

Students will:

- Research the event and write an article with:
 - An imaginative title that catches viewer interest.
 - An engaging article that combines facts and opinions.
- Rotate the canvas and add text and visuals to support the article.
- Print the article to share in a class magazine.

Create: Article

Teacher thoughts:

Have students who finish early work together to design a magazine cover.

Have students create ads for products that would be needed during such a natural disaster.

Grade 4

Unit 2 - Essential Questions:

- What are some messages in animal stories?
- How do animal characters change familiar stories?
- How are all living things connected?
- What helps an animal survive?
- How are writers inspired by animals?

My Teacher is Ms. Owl!

What would your class be like if your teacher was an owl? Or a python? What would they teach you? Would you learn to hunt? Sleep all day? What would your classroom look like? Would it have trees or a swamp?

Start the discussion by talking with your class about one of the animals in your text, such as a chipmunk or jelly. What is important to them? Brainstorm together how these animals might want the classroom to be.

Have students use the paint tools to draw a picture of what their classroom would look like if this animal was the teacher. Have them write a paragraph that starts with: "If an (animal) was our teacher, our classroom would..."

Outcome: Document

Teacher thoughts:

If students create two pages, consider printing them as a table tent. You can display it standing up or glue the two halves together for easy sharing.

Print student work for display or to combine into a class book.

A World of Wonder

Hollywood has recently created documentaries on penguins, chimpanzees, and even babies from around the world. Movie producers are looking for a pitch for a new documentary film that would be enjoyed by moviegoers on the silver screen while educating them about unique animal adaptations.

Students create a visual presentation to support a pitch they will make to potential movie producers. Students can add text for imaginative titles and descriptions, as well as images, artwork, and narration that both provides information about the unique adaptations of a specific animal and engages the viewer in exploring and protecting it.

Create: Presentation and Pitch

Teacher thoughts:

In Wixie, open the URL to watch the presentation.

Consider asking for a volunteer or two to pretend to be the movie producers to listen to the pitch by each team.

Animal Interviews

Partner students together and ask each team to choose an animal they are interested in learning more about. Students should research their animals using informational texts found in your school library. Have students take notes on facts about this animal and where it lives and write out questions and answers for the interview.

Students can use Wixie's paint tools to create illustrated pages that highlight information in each question and answer. They can then record the question and answer on each page. Open the project URL to watch it or embed the project in a class web site.

Create: Interview

Teacher thoughts:

Watch interviews with your students. What makes for a great interview?

Find a complete lesson plan at: <http://bit.ly/animal-interview>

Grade 4

Unit 3 - Essential Questions:

- How can you make new friends feel welcome?
- In what ways can you help your community?
- How can one person make a difference?
- How can words lead to change?
- In what ways can advances in science be helpful or harmful?

'I Can Teach You' Ads

What do you love to do? If you are enthusiastic about playing soccer, you might make a great coach! What skills can you teach others?

Students choose one thing they are good at and enjoying doing. They can use the paint tools to create a picture of themselves doing the activity as well as add text that shares what other people can learn from them.

Print the ads and display them around school.

Create: Advertisement

Teacher thoughts:

Use this activity to celebrate the diverse abilities in the class.

Help students learn to promote themselves and their talents.

My Hero

Throughout the unit, you will gather information about community heroes. Choose one type of hero to focus your research on, and create a dramatic play that shows and tells about that hero's work.

Students will:

- Conduct research on a person and write a play that demonstrates how they are a hero.
- Create a page for each scene in the play.
- Add text to describe the location as well as lines for each character.
- Add or paint images to illustrate the actions in each scene.
- Print the project to use as a guide for practicing and presenting the play.

Create: Dramatic Story

Teacher thoughts:

Let students know how directors use a storyboard to map out a story in a visual way before creating a movie.

Share examples of the programs you receive when watching a play. Discuss the elements the class might include in their books.

Famous Speeches

For this unit you will create a piece of writing or a speech that tells about something that is important. Your audience should know the topic is important to you, too. Research people who have made famous speeches. Write about one of them and tell how that person inspired your writing.

Students will:

- Conduct research on a topic that is important to them.
- Create a page for each argument they want to make in their speech.
- Write the main idea they will speak about as well as supporting facts.
- Add or paint images to illustrate the emotions they want to convey.
- Print the storyboard to use as a guide for delivering their speech.

Create: Illustrated Script

Teacher thoughts:

Let students know how directors use a storyboard to map out a story in a visual way before creating a movie. Talk about using the storyboard model as notes for their speech

Grade 4

Unit 4 - Essential Questions:

- Why do we need government?
- Why do people run for public office?
- How do inventions and technology affect your life?
- How can you explain what you see in the sky?
- How do writers look at success in different ways?

Public Servants

Students will create posters illustrating personality traits needed for public service. Posters will focus on traits such as courage, honesty, or patience. Students will present their posters to the class, describing how they have illustrated a single trait.

Students will:

- Brainstorm the characteristics of a great public servant.
- Interview people outside the class and get quotes on what “public service” means to them.
- Rotate the canvas and use the paint, image, and text tools to design a poster portrays one of the traits of great public servants.
- Print the posters or export the files as PDF to make them easy to share.

Create: Poster

Teacher thoughts:

Check with local print shops to see if they can help turn some of the posters into full-size posters to use around the community.

A Wanted Poster would also make a great approach for this project.

Inventions that Help

Students invent machines or systems that address problems they face in daily life. They develop plans and present their work to the class.

Students will:

- Plan an invention.
- Use a planning template to help with the thought processes.
- Create a slide show with relevant information on the invention, such as what problem it solves, how it will be produced, and its benefits.
- Add audio to the slides to create an advertisement.

Create: Design, Advertisement

Teacher thoughts:

Work as a class to list problems they have personally encountered.

Great sample invention at:
<http://bit.ly/invent-ad>

Planetary Travel Guide

Many people visit the Lonely Planet web site to gain valuable information on a location prior to visiting. Have each student in your class choose a planet and write a travel guide that helps potential visitors learn more about this interesting destination.

Students can create pages that include text descriptions of climate and unique natural features as well as persuasive text to encourage someone to visit. Students can add images they find on the Web or Pics4Learning.com and use the paint tools to add color and other design elements.

Create: Travel Guide

Teacher thoughts:

Bring in examples of travel brochures or ask students to find them at home or in local tourist destinations and restaurants. Share the Lonely Planet web site.

Find a complete lesson plan at:
<http://bit.ly/planet-tour>

Grade 4

Unit 5 - Essential Questions:

- In what ways do people show they care about each other?
- What are some reasons people move west?
- How can inventions solve problems?
- What can you discover when you look closely at something?
- How can learning about the past help you understand the present?

Positive Postcards

Everyone needs a little lift sometimes. A little inspiration and motivation can help us through difficult events. Students work together to think of stressful moments at school, such as an oral presentation, a big test, or important sports event. Students then design inspirational postcards to send to others at their school.

Students can combine text, painted artwork, photographs, and images from the Library to create the front of the card. Students can add a second page and write words of encouragement to a classmate, teacher, or someone in the school community. Print the pages as a table tent, fold, and glue to share with the rest of the class.

Create: Postcard

Teacher thoughts:

Share examples of motivational cards and posters you find in catalogs or online. You can find a good collection of inspiration quotes at:

<http://www.inspirational-quotes.info/>

Export the files to PDF so students can email the cards to friends who need a pick-me-up!

The American West

Throughout the unit, you will be gathering information about the American West. Research an important event that shaped the American West. Write an article explaining why that event was important.

Students will:

- Research the event and write an article with:
 - An imaginative title that catches viewer interest.
 - An engaging article that combines facts and opinions.
- Rotate the canvas and add text and visuals to support the article.
- Print the article to share in a class magazine.

Create: Article

Teacher thoughts:

Have students who finish early work together to design a magazine cover.

Have students create ads for products that would be needed during a move west.

Portraits

Explore and analyze John Singleton Copley's images from the colonial time period using the National Gallery of Art. (<http://1.usa.gov/O2mRD6>). What details did Copley include on the clothing, background, and other objects to indicate personality, lifestyle, and events?

Students write a character sketch about what their lives would be like at this point in time. Sketches should include likes, hobbies, skills, important recent events, goals, and hardships. Students can use the paint tools, clip art, and even image effects to create a self-portrait that tells the story of a person, place, and time. Print artwork or export image files to share in an electronic slide show presentation.

Create: Self Portrait

Teacher thoughts:

Partner with the art teacher to explore elements of figure drawing and design.

Have students present their portraits, including details an art historian would incorporate, on a web site similar to the National Gallery.

Grade 4

Unit 6 - Essential Questions:

- How do traditions connect people?
- Why is it important to keep a record of the past?
- How have our energy resources changed over the years?
- What has been the role of money over time?
- What shapes a person's identity?

Family Traditions

Have students create slideshows that showcase their family's traditions. Have students interview family members about traditions that have been passed down from previous generations. Discuss with students how those traditions were established and how their family observes them now.

Students should condense their notes into a 300-500 word script, then work to divide the script into scenes. Students should create a page in Wixie for each scene to share how the traditions, how they are observed now, and how their own family traditions compare to that of their ancestors.

Create: Slide show

Teacher thoughts:

What do students need to know about writing a script?

Celebrate by showing the slideshows at a family night celebration.

The Aha Moment

According to the Aha Moment web site (www.ahamoment.com), the aha moment is *"is a defining moment where you gain real wisdom - wisdom you can use to change your life."* Students will think of a moment of clarity they have had and create a booklet or presentation to help share their wisdom.

Students can create pages that include titles, descriptions, rich visual displays, and narration to explain:

- What they thought before the "aha" moment.
- The actual moment of clarity.
- How it changed their way of thinking.

Create: Booklet or Slideshow

Teacher thoughts:

Explore some of the videos at the Aha Moment web site and share one or two of them with your students.

Students present their experience to the class, school, or community. Print student work as a booklet or open the Wixie project URL to view and share online.

It Was Life-Changing

Throughout the unit, you will be gathering information on people who have gone through life-changing experiences. Choose one person to focus your research on, and then create a short biography. This person can be famous, historical, or someone close to you. Use photos or other graphic aids to illustrate your biography.

Students will:

- Choose someone they want to learn more about.
- Conduct research about their life, stories, and inspiration.
- Create a multimedia presentation about this person's life.
- Present their research to the rest of the class.

Create: Biographical Presentation

Teacher thoughts:

Discuss what biographical information student work should include. Share examples of biographical posters you have at school, as well as watch a short biographical video such as one from A&E Biography. www.biography.com

Share student work in the media center to educate others.

Grade 5

Unit 0 - Essential Questions:

- What discoveries can people make when they cooperate with others?
- What can you discover by observing nature?

Classroom Explorers

What qualities does a great explorer need? Students might easily come up with descriptions like “brave” and “strong.” Encourage them to think about things like “map skills” and “good thinking” too. You may want to bring in a microscope or map or other tools an explorer might use.

Use the web cam feature to capture an image of each student. Then search the library for hat to find an adventurer hat they can wear. Print these out to hang on a bulletin board or put on their desks when you need them to think like an adventurer!

You can also open the Wanted Poster template to document the features of a great explorer.

Create: Wanted Poster & Decorations

Teacher thoughts:

What qualities does a great explorer need?

Can You Believe I Saw...?

Students will create a postcard for a trip they have taken to a surprising location. This location might be a habitat that they have studied in class or a place they have read about.

Use the paint tools and stickers to design the front of the postcard showing the features of the place being visited. Add text to the back side to create a description of the place and explain why it is so surprising.

Print the pages as a table tent, then fold, glue, and share them.

Create: Postcard

Teacher thoughts:

Be sure to ask lots of questions of each student to draw out the reasoning behind their choice of images.

Grade 5

Unit 1 - Essential Questions:

- How do we get the things we need?
- What can lead us to rethink an idea?
- How can experiencing nature change the way you think about it?
- How does technology lead to creative ideas?
- What are the positive and negative effects of new technology?

Inventions that Help

Students invent machines or systems that address problems they face in daily life. They create plans for these inventions and present them to the class.

Students will:

- Plan an invention.
- Create a slide show with relevant information on the invention, such as what problem it solves, how it will be produced, and its benefits.
- Add audio to the slides to create a video advertisement.
- Open the Wixie URL to watch the presentation.

Create: Design, Advertisement

Teacher thoughts:

Work as a class to list problems they have personally encountered.

Great sample invention at:
<http://bit.ly/invent-ad>

Stormy Memories

Students will create a community scrapbook on the “Stormy Memories” of local residents. Interview parents, neighbors, or other community members about a major storm they experienced sometime in the past.

Have each student design a page that includes textual details about the storm, photos, images, and/or drawings that capture the moment, and captions that quote personal stories. Students can also add narration or sound effects to each page. Open the Wixie project URL to share it, or have each student export their file as PDF or ePub they can view on a phone or tablet.

Create: Scrapbook

Teacher thoughts:

Ask students to find out as many details as possible about the storm, including when it occurred, how people prepared for it, what damage it did, and how they recovered.

Discussion: How can a digital scrapbook be different than a traditional scrapbook?

Change Collage

Discuss with your students how technology has changed our world. Things like phones and cameras have changed dramatically in the past few decades. If you show your students a picture of a portable CD player, do they know what it is?

Have students use Wixie to create a collage showing how a familiar object like a car or light has changed over time. Print the pages to share or combine them into one presentation you can use for class reflection.

Display the final images and have each student present their collages and explain both positive and negative effects of the change in this object.

Create: Collage

Teacher thoughts:

Be sure to ask lots of questions of each student to draw out the reason for their choice of images.

How to combine student’s Wixie pages into a single file: <http://goo.gl/uCFalv>

Grade 5

Unit 2 - Essential Questions:

- What do good problem solvers do?
- What can you do to get information you need?
- How do we investigate questions about nature?
- When has a plan helped you accomplish a task?
- What motivates you to accomplish a goal?

Discovering for Myself

Choose something that you would like to learn more about. Research and write as much as you can about this topic. Write about what makes this topic interesting to you.

Students will:

- Use the tri-fold brochure activity template.
- Include factual information about the topic.
- Share their opinion about the topic.
- Include images that help explain facts and opinions.
- Print brochures to share.

Create: Brochure

Teacher thoughts:

Celebrate student work during an open house or even mini-conference for others to come in and learn about the topics your students are passionate about.

My Goals

Reaching goals takes hard work, but before you can achieve your goals, you first need to set them. To get students thinking about successes they want to have this year, have them create a short list of academic and personal goals. Wixie includes a clipboard activity template you can use to list student goals.

If you are going to publish the goals online, have students click the Record button and recite their goals, further cementing their connection to them.

Create: List of Goals

Teacher thoughts:

These are great to print and keep in student folders or even taped to their desk.

Meeting Goals

Throughout the unit, you will learn about what can get done when people work as a team. Research to learn more about a team that worked together to accomplish something important. Write about the team. What did they accomplish? How did they work together to accomplish their goal?

Students will:

- Add four pages to a project.
- Use clip art images and painted artwork to:
 - Introduce the event.
 - Show how the teamwork helped meet goals.
 - Conclude with a reflection on success.
- Change text boxes into speech bubbles to show dialogue.
- Print the file with four or six pages per sheet to create a comic.

Create: Comic

Teacher thoughts:

Discuss ways comic authors convey the meaning between panels. How do they condense or summarize? How do you know that action has occurred or time has passed between two panels?

Grade 5

Unit 3 - Essential Questions:

- What can learning about different cultures teach us?
- How can learning about nature be useful?
- Where can you find patterns in nature?
- What benefits come from people working as a group?
- How do we explain what happened in the past?

Nature Travel Guide

Many people visit the Lonely Planet web site to gain valuable information on a location prior to visiting it. Have each student in your class choose a place with amazing natural features and write a travel guide nature lovers and adventure travelers can use to decide where they want to visit, what they will do there, and how it will impact their thinking.

Students can create pages that include text descriptions of climate and natural features as well as persuasive text to encourage someone to visit. Students can add images they find on the Web or Pics4Learning.com and use the paint tools to add color and other design elements.

Create: Travel Guide

Teacher thoughts:

Share examples of travel brochures as well as travel web sites such as:

www.lonelyplanet.com

Open the Wixie URL to share the project.

Together or Alone?

After reading the books in this unit, talk with students about teamwork. When does it help to work solo and when might working as a team be in the best interest of the project?

Assign student teams a project. Have each team create a presentation that explores what might happen if that particular project was done alone and what might happen if the project was done as a team. Pages and slides should include benefits and the drawbacks of each approach.

Create: Presentation

Teacher thoughts:

Make sure to give a balance of projects that are best for solo and teamwork approaches.

Distribute the project URL to share student work in Wixie.

Archaeological Discoveries

Students have been hired to complete an article for an archaeology magazine that highlights the discovery of an important location or artifact. Students choose a culture that interests them and write an article about the culture through the unearthing of a specific object.

Student pages should include a catchy title, a written article describing the finding(s), and images that support the story. Print the page and combine them into a class book or export PDFs for easy electronic distribution.

Create: Article

Teacher thoughts:

What do students need to know about the elements of a magazine? Visit Archaeology magazine online at:

www.archaeology.org

Grade 5

Unit 4 - Essential Questions:

- What kinds of stories do we tell? Why do we tell them?
- What can you discover when you give things a second look?
- What can people do to bring about a positive change?
- Why are natural resources valuable?
- How do you express that something is important to you?

My Moment

Students will interview parents, neighbors, or other community members about a moment that changed their lives and create a “My Moment” scrapbook for that person.

Have each student design a four-page Wixie project that includes textual details about the event, photos, images, captions, drawings, and voice narration that capture the moment. Print the project as a booklet or create an electronic version you can share. In Wixie, open or link to the URL to watch or embed the project in a class web site.

Create: Memory Book

Teacher thoughts:

Share with students your own experience of change. Encourage students to share something that changed themselves. Be prepared for the student that shares the loss of a loved one or something equally as personal.

Raise Your Voice

Student’s voices can have a powerful impact in your community. Work together to determine an issue the class feels passionately about.

Have students design posters; write and read aloud stories or poems; print postcards, comics, and trading cards; create artwork; or present speeches to showcase their unique voices and communicate ideas.

Share printed products at local coffee shops, air videos and public service announcements on local access television, and collect student work into one area on your school website to promote their ideas and get the community involved in the work students want to accomplish.

Create: Media Products

Teacher thoughts:

Are there any special causes going on in the community or the world that impact your students? Can you find public places, outside of school, for students to display their “voices?”

Check with local print shops to see if they can help turn student work into full-size posters to use around the community.

We are Passionate Book

Students express their passions by contributing an illustrated story, play, or poem about their passion and share it through a class book

Students will:

- Select a format for their work, such as short story, poem, or play.
- Create a page in Wixie with text, images, illustrations, and narration.
- Have others proof their creations to make sure they are clear in their meaning and intentions.
- Print the page for a class book or export the page as a PDF to add to a class eBook.

Create: Book or eBook

Teacher thoughts:

Talk with students about how to organize the book. Should it be organized by themes or type of writing? In alphabetical order? By media type? To tell a story?

How to combine student’s Wixie pages into a single file: <http://goo.gl/uCFalv>

Grade 5

Unit 5 - Essential Questions:

- What experiences can change the way you see yourself and the world around you?
- How do shared experiences help people adapt to change?
- What changes in the environment affect living things?
- How can scientific knowledge change over time?
- How do natural events and human activities affect the environment?

Research Project: It Was Life-Changing

Throughout the unit, you will be gathering information on people who have gone through life-changing experiences. Choose one person to focus your research on, and then create a short biography. This person can be famous, historical, or someone close to you. Use photos or other graphic aids to illustrate your biography.

Students will:

- Choose someone they want to learn more about.
- Conduct research about their life, stories, and inspiration.
- Create a presentation containing text, images and narration.
- Present their research to the rest of the class.

Create: Biographical Presentation

Teacher thoughts:

Discuss what biographical information student work should include. Share examples of biographical posters and watch a short biographical videos from: www.biography.com

Share student work in the media center to educate others about the author's found there.

Natural Disasters Magazine

Gather information about extreme acts of nature. Research a natural disaster that has affected the Earth and its resources. Write about its effects on nature and people.

Students can use a Newsletter template or rotate the canvas in Wixie to portrait mode. Their articles should include imaginative titles that capture viewer interest and engaging text that combines facts and opinions. Print student pages to combine into a class magazine.

Create: Article

Teacher thoughts:

Have students who finish early work together to design a magazine cover. Have students create ads for products that would be needed during such a natural disaster.

Every Day is Earth Day

Animals and habitats are overwhelmed by the amount of trash humans throw away. For example, over 82,500 volunteers removed more than 1.2 million pounds of trash and recyclables from California beaches, lakes, and waterways during the 2010 Coastal Clean Up day, including over 60,000 plastic shopping bags!

Select an everyday item, such as plastic shopping bags, and investigate how we use this item and how it impacts the environment. Use Wixie to create posters and presentations that share how the items can be recycled, reused, or disposed of with the least impact on the environment. Better yet, explain how we might eliminate the item altogether.

Create: Posters and Presentations

Teacher thoughts:

Find local businesses willing to hang the posters in their stores to help educate the community.

Have each student present their work to the class. Students can add text for imaginative titles and descriptions, images, artwork, and narration that both provides information and engages the viewer.

Grade 5

Unit 6 - Essential Questions:

- How do different groups contribute to a cause?
- What actions can we take to get along with others?
- How are living things adapted to their environment?
- What impact do our actions have on the world?
- What can our connections to the world teach us?

Achieve Your Dreams with...

Learn about people who achieved their dreams with hard work and with the help of others. Focus your research on an organization that helps people reach their goals by helping them overcome challenges.

Students will research using the organization web sites and print materials. Conduct in-person, phone, or online interviews with people who work at or have benefitted from these organizations.

Students will design “Achieve Your Dreams with...” posters in Wixie by rotating the canvas and using the paint, image, and text tools. Print the posters or export the files as PDF to make them easy to share.

Create: Poster

Teacher thoughts:

Brainstorm organizations that help people reach their dreams. Work with students to identify local organizations. Think about education, home ownership, fitness centers, etc.

Check with local print shops to see if they can help turn some of the posters into full-size posters to use around the community.

A World of Wonder

Hollywood has recently created documentaries on penguins, chimpanzees, and even babies from around the world. Movie producers are looking for a pitch for a new documentary film that would be enjoyed by moviegoers on the silver screen while educating them about unique animal adaptations.

Students create a visual presentation to support a pitch they will make to potential movie producers. Students can add text for imaginative titles and descriptions, as well as images, artwork, and narration that both provides information about the unique adaptations of a specific animal and engages the viewer in exploring and protecting it.

Create: Presentation and Pitch

Teacher thoughts:

In Wixie, open the URL to watch the presentation.

Consider asking for a volunteer or two to pretend to be the movie producers to listen to the pitch by each team.

Rules for teamwork

Young students do not have a lot of experience with collaboration or the idea of team work, but many have played on a sports team or performed with a drama or dance group. Talk to your students about what makes a great team. Then work together to try to list some of the things that make a team successful such as:

- be nice
- take turns
- listen,
- share,

Have students use Wixie to create posters about being a great team member.

Create: Poster

Teacher thoughts:

Check with local print shops to see if they can help turn student printed products into full-size posters you can display at school and in the community.

Grade 6

Unit 0 - Essential Questions:

- What discoveries can people make when they cooperate with others?
- What can you discover by observing nature?

Classroom Explorers

What qualities does a great explorer need? Students might easily come up with descriptions like “brave” and “strong.” Encourage them to think about things like “map skills” and “good thinking” too. You may want to bring in a microscope or map or other tools an explorer might use.

Use the web cam feature to capture an image of each student. Then search the library for hat to find an adventurer hat they can wear. Print these out to hang on a bulletin board or put on their desks when you need them to think like an adventurer!

You can also open the Wanted Poster template to document the features of a great explorer.

Create: Wanted Poster & Decorations

Teacher thoughts:

What qualities does a great explorer need?

Can You Believe I Saw...?

Students will create a postcard for a trip they have taken to a surprising location. This location might be a habitat that they have studied in class or a place they have read about.

Use the paint tools and stickers to design the front of the postcard showing the features of the place being visited. Add text to the back side to create a description of the place and explain why it is so surprising.

Print the pages as a table tent, then fold, glue, and share them.

Create: Postcard

Teacher thoughts:

Be sure to ask lots of questions of each student to draw out the reasoning behind their choice of images.

Grade 6

Unit 1 - Essential Questions:

- How do new experiences offer new perspectives?
- Why do people form alliances?
- How do life forms vary in different environments?
- How do natural forces affect Earth?
- What factors influence how people use money?

It Was Life-Changing

Throughout the unit, you will be gathering information on people who have gone through life-changing experiences. Choose one person to focus your research on, and then create a short biography. This person can be famous, historical, or someone close to you. Use photos or other graphic aids to illustrate your biography.

Students will:

- Choose someone they want to learn more about.
- Conduct research about their life, stories, and inspiration.
- Create a presentation with images and textual information about this person's life.
- Present their research to the rest of the class.

Create: Biographical Presentation

Teacher thoughts:

Discuss what biographical information student work should include. Share examples of biographical posters you have at school, as well as watch a short biographical video such as one from A&E Biography. www.biography.com

Share student work in the media center to educate others about the author's found there.

A World of Wonder

Hollywood has recently created documentaries on penguins, chimpanzees, and even babies from around the world. Movie producers are looking for a pitch for a new documentary film that would be enjoyed by moviegoers on the silver screen while educating them about unique animal adaptations.

Students create a visual presentation to support a pitch they will make to potential movie producers. Students can add text for imaginative titles and descriptions, as well as images, artwork, and narration that both provides information about the unique adaptations of a specific animal and engages the viewer in exploring and protecting it.

Create: Presentation and Pitch

Teacher thoughts:

In Wixie, open the URL to watch the presentation.

Consider asking for a volunteer or two to pretend to be the movie producers to listen to the pitch by each team.

Natural Disasters Magazine

Gather information about extreme acts of nature. Research a natural disaster that has affected the Earth and its resources. Write about its effects on nature and people.

Students can use a Newsletter template or rotate the canvas in Wixie to portrait mode. Their articles should include imaginative titles that capture viewer interest and engaging text that combines facts and opinions. Print student pages to combine into a class magazine.

Create: Article

Teacher thoughts:

Have students who finish early work together to design a magazine cover. Have students create ads for products that would be needed during such a natural disaster.

Grade 6

Unit 2 - Essential Questions:

- What contributions were made by early civilizations?
- How did democracy develop?
- What was life like for people in ancient cultures?
- What influences the development of a culture?
- What can the past teach us?

Ancient Civilizations

Throughout the unit, you will be gathering information about different cultures of the past. Choose one culture to focus your research on and write a booklet about how people in that culture lived long ago.

Students will:

- Add text and images to a cover page to convey important information about the culture.
- Add pages that use text and images to describe government, transportation, housing, dress, food, and entertainment.
- Distribute the Wixie URL, embed the project in a web site, or export the projects as an ePub/eBook or PDF.

Create: Booklet

Teacher thoughts:

Have students transform the information in their booklets into a trade show booth and host an ancient civilizations event. Invite families from your school to learn more about these cultures.

Share final booklets on the classroom web site and in the media center.

A Day in the Life

Students create a daily newspaper to show what life was like for people in ancient cultures. Students can use a Newsletter template or rotate the canvas in Wixie to portrait mode. Their articles should include imaginative titles that capture viewer interest and engaging text that combines facts and opinions. Students could also create advertisements for common items or political cartoons.

Print individual student work to share with the class or in the school media center or combine the best work together into one large newspaper.

Create: Newspaper

Teacher thoughts:

As a class, brainstorm what makes an effective newspaper. Catchy headlines? Bright ads? Compelling articles?

Find a complete lesson at:
<http://bit.ly/ancient-news>

Where in the World?

Students create a storyboard and brochure as advertisements for a tour package to visit an ancient civilization. Presentations will focus on giving details and information about the company and persuading customers to purchase the tour package.

Have each student, or small teams, research an ancient civilization and choose key places in that civilization people would want to visit. Combine text, images, and artwork to create a slide show to support the tour package presentation. Students can use the brochure template to create a tri-fold brochure that includes details about the tour and highlights the sites participants will visit, and rotate a Wixie canvas and create a poster.

Create: Poster, Brochure, Presentation

Teacher thoughts:

Gather resources for different tours and vacations from local travel agents or travel web sites. Which tours do students gravitate towards and why? What can students learn about advertisements from these resources to make their brochures and presentations better?

Grade 6

Unit 3 - Essential Questions:

- What happens when people share ideas?
- What kinds of challenges transform people?
- What can people accomplish by working together?
- How can one person affect the opinions of others?
- What steps can people take to promote a healthier environment?

My Moment

Students will interview parents, neighbors, or other community members about a moment that changed their lives and create a “My Moment” scrapbook for that person.

Have each student design a four-page Wixie project that includes textual details about the event, photos, images, captions, drawings, and voice narration that capture the moment. Print the project as a booklet or create an electronic version you can share. Open or link to the Wixie URL to watch or embed the project in a class web site.

Create: Memory Book

Teacher thoughts:

Share with students your own experience of change. Encourage students to share something that changed themselves. Be prepared for the student that shares the loss of a loved one or something equally as personal.

Meeting Goals Together

Throughout the unit, you will learn about what can get done when people work as a team. Research to learn more about a team that worked together to accomplish something important. Write about the team. What did they accomplish? How did they work together to accomplish their goal?

Students will:

- Add four pages to a project.
- Use clip art images and painted artwork to:
 - Introduce the event.
 - Show how the teamwork helped meet goals.
 - Conclude with a reflection on success.
- Change text boxes into speech bubbles to show dialogue.
- Print the file with four or six pages per sheet to create a comic.

Create: Comic

Teacher thoughts:

Discuss ways comic authors convey the meaning between panels. How do they condense or summarize? How do you know that action has occurred or time has passed between two panels?

20th Century Revolutionaries

Who is the most influential revolutionary of the 20th Century? As a class, brainstorm a list of people from the 20th century that qualify as revolutionaries. Have students form teams around their favorite revolutionary and work together to share the beliefs and accomplishments of this person, persuading others that they are worthy of the “most influential” title.

Students can combine text, clip art, paint tools, Pics4Learning images, and voice narration to create a variety of promotional materials for their nominee. Products could include posters, postcards, video or slide show advertisements, brochures, booklets, and web pages.

Create: Campaign Media

Teacher thoughts

What qualifies someone as a revolutionary? Discuss how someone might be revolutionary in the fields of music, business, and art. How do revolutions in these areas influence our broader culture?

Grade 6

Unit 4 - Essential Questions:

- How do people meet environmental challenges?
- How do people meet personal challenges?
- When are decisions hard to make?
- How do people uncover what they have in common?
- How can we take responsibility?

What It Takes

Students will create posters illustrating personality traits that help people "go the distance." Posters will focus on traits such as courage, honesty, or patience. Students will present their posters to the class, describing how they have illustrated a single trait.

Work as a class to brainstorm characteristics of a person who "goes the distance." Have students interview people outside the class and get quotes on what "going the distance" means to them. Have students rotate the Wixie canvas and use the paint, image, and text tools to design a poster portrays one of the traits that help us go the distance. Print the posters or export the files as PDFs for easy sharing.

Create: Poster

Teacher thoughts:

Check with local print shops to see if they can help turn some of the posters into full-size posters to use around the community.

You could also have students use the Wanted Poster template to help them focus on a particular trait and articulate ideas with aliases and last seen locations.

Community Spaces

Students will work in small groups to design a new neighborhood space, such as a park, playground, or community garden. Identify places where students currently meet friends, family, and other community members. What features are attractive to some, or all, of the community's constituency?

Students can analyze available space, conduct surveys of nearby residents, and choose features they think will bring the most people together. Features could include a picnic area, playground, basketball court, or performance space.

Students can use the paint tools, clip art images, and text options to design and label their spaces. Display the designs and present them to members of other teams for feedback.

Create: Design and Presentation

Teacher thoughts:

Locate an unused or vacant plot of land near your school that could be turned into a community space.

Remind students to include features for people of various ages and interests.

Vote for the best features from all designs and create a single class proposal to present to a community development group.

My Goals

Reaching goals takes hard work, but before you can achieve your goals, you first need to set them. To get students thinking about successes they want to have this year, have them create a short list of academic and personal goals. Wixie includes a clipboard activity template you can use to list student goals.

If you are going to publish the goals online, have students click the Record button and recite their goals, further cementing their connection to them.

Create: List of Goals

Teacher thoughts:

These are great to print and keep in student folders or even taped to their desk.

Grade 6

Unit 5 - Essential Questions:

- Why do people tell and retell myths?
- How do people show inner strength?
- How do people benefit from innovation?
- How does technology lead to discoveries?
- How have tools used for exploration evolved over time?

Ancient Mythology

Many people are familiar with Greek gods and goddesses. To help share information about other ancient cultures, students create trading cards for the deities of an ancient culture from Japan, South America, India, China, or the Middle East.

Students can create one or two pages that include images from the Internet and Library, artwork drawn with the paint tools, and text descriptions. Print the files in trading card, postcard, or comic form, cut out the cards, and trade with the class!

Create: Trading Cards

Teacher thoughts:

Combine pictures and text on one page so you don't have to try to print on both sides or cut out and glue together.

If you are focusing on one culture and students each create one card, you can print with the same file on multiple pages so students can trade cards to make full sets.

Inventions that Help

Students invent machines or systems that address problems they face in daily life. They create plans for these inventions and present their work to the class.

Students will:

- Plan an invention. Use a planning template to help with the thought processes.
- Create a slide show with relevant information on the invention, such as what problem it solves, how it will be produced, and its benefits.
- Add audio to the slides to create a video advertisement.
- In Wixie, open the URL to watch the presentation.

Create: Design, Advertisement

Teacher thoughts:

Work as a class to list problems they have personally encountered.

Great sample invention at:

<http://bit.ly/invent-ad>

It's About Progress

Students research and write a report about a person whose scientific work brought about change that led to progress. For the presentation, the class can create a Progress Timeline and individual students may share their information as they add their reports to the timeline.

Students will:

- Research a person who has worked to bring about positive change through science.
- Use Wixie's Timeline template to organize significant events.
- Add text, captions, and images to each page of the presentation.

Create: Report, Timeline, and Presentation

Teacher thoughts:

Open the Wixie project URL to display the project as visual support for their oral presentation.

Grade 6

Unit 6 - Essential Questions:

- How have people used natural resources?
- How do we learn about historical events?
- How can a scientific investigation be an adventure?
- What can scientists reveal about ancient civilizations?
- Why is taking a break important?

Discovering for Myself

Choose something connected to science or history that you would like to learn more about. Research and write as much as you can about this topic. Write about what makes this topic interesting to you.

Students will:

- Use the tri-fold brochure activity template.
- Include factual information about the topic.
- Share their opinion about the topic.
- Include images that help explain facts and opinions.

Create: Brochure

Teacher thoughts:

Celebrate student work during an open house or even mini-conference for others to come in and learn about the topics your students are passionate about.

Print brochures to share with the class or in the media center.

Natural Connection

Students create dioramas to illustrate how people affect nature and how nature affects people. Students use their dioramas to share information about how people and nature are connected to and affect the other.

Students will:

- Use the paint tools and Library images to create, print, and install a background scene for the diorama.
- Use the paint tools and Library images to create objects and animals that are found in this habitat, both native and non-native. Print and glue the artwork onto cardboard and place in the diorama.
- Combine text, titles, images, artwork, and narration to create a presentation to share how nature and people impact each other.

Create: Diorama and Presentation

Teacher thoughts:

Open the Wixie URL to watch the presentation.

Archaeological Discoveries

Students have been hired to complete an article for an archaeology magazine that highlights the discovery of an important location or artifact. Students choose an ancient civilization that interests them and research the discoveries that have led us to what we know today about the culture of that era.

Student pages should include a catchy title, a written article describing the finding(s), and images that support the story. Print the page and combine them into a class book or export PDFs for easy electronic distribution.

Create: Article

Teacher thoughts:

What do students need to know about the elements of a magazine? Visit Archaeology magazine online at:

www.archaeology.org

Have students create ads for products needed during an archaeological dig or by people from that culture and time.