

Learning with iLife



softwaresnapshot

What students can do with iLife and iTunes:

iPhoto: Import, edit, and organize images and share them as slideshows, books, or web pages

GarageBand: Create music and podcasts and record audio

iMovie: Create movies that include video, photos, music, narration, and text

iDVD: Create a DVD of their movie, complete with a selection menu

iWeb: Create a website to share their work

iTunes: Store and organize audio files

iLife applications are ideal for creating digital stories because of their combination of ease of use and powerful features. Integrating video, photos, and music into the curriculum brings lessons to life. The entire iLife suite is included on every new Mac or can be purchased separately at low education pricing.

show and tell a story

When students can organize their thoughts logically, find just the right words to express them, and communicate the ideas to others, they are demonstrating the ability to think logically. Now that we have great tools such as the iLife suite of digital authoring applications to support learning, one way we can help students improve thinking skills is by encouraging them to write creatively and express themselves visually. A very effective way to do this is with digital storytelling and iPhoto. Creating photo books with iPhoto engages students, motivates them to do their best work, and gets them excited about writing.

Storytelling is a tradition in which ideas and customs are handed down from generation to generation. Digital stories derive their power from adding the elements of images and design to create a story that communicates in powerful ways. Digital stories are compelling forms of expression because it is so easy to make them look like they were professionally created, share them with a wide audience, and store them for years to come.

Being visually creative enhances the power of narrative. iPhoto makes it incredibly easy for students to add visual elements to their stories. In just a few minutes, even the youngest students can import their photos, design their books, and enter their story text. Students can share their books by printing them or saving them as PDF files to send to others via email, post to a web page, or copy to a CD or DVD. Teachers can order professionally bound hard or soft copies of the books in a variety of sizes directly from iPhoto—a great way to save students' stories for future generations to enjoy.

resources

Apple Learning Interchange edcommunity.apple.com/ali

Apple Professional Development www.apple.com/education/apd

iLife in the Classroom www.apple.com/education/ilife

iPhoto in the Classroom www.apple.com/education/iphoto

iPhoto support and tutorials www.apple.com/support/iphoto

project: Similar and Different

Grade Level(s): 4-8

Subject Area: Language Arts

Software: iPhoto, TextEdit, Safari browser

Technology Skill: Digital Storytelling

Essential Question: How can we help students to understand the power of personal narrative to enhance writing, thinking, and communication skills?

Project Description: Students will plan, organize, and write a creative story; illustrate with photos; and design an iPhoto photo book to share their story.



Outcomes: Students will:

- Use a digital camera to capture photos for use in a digital story or find photos online that are free and available for use
- Identify elements of digital stories
- Decide on and develop a topic for creative writing
- Use iPhoto to edit images and create their own digital storybook

Preparation:

1. Help students to decide on a purpose for their stories and to brainstorm and select topics.
2. Discuss how images can help communicate a story and brainstorm ideas for photos and images to illustrate students' stories.
3. Review the elements of digital stories.
4. Clarify expectations and assessment of digital stories.

Project Steps:

1. Select your story topic.
2. Create an outline, concept map, or storyboard that includes all story elements.
3. Write a first draft of your story using TextEdit or another word-processor. Work with another student to do a peer-review and then edit your story to create a final draft.
4. Take digital photos or find digital images on the Internet that help to communicate the story's meaning. To make stories come alive, students could wear costumes, act out their stories, and take pictures of one another to use as illustrations.
5. Import your photos and images into iPhoto. Edit them as necessary: for example, you can remove red-eye, crop, or lighten or darken them.
6. Make a new album in iPhoto; add your photos to the album, and then arrange the images in the order you want them to appear in your book.
7. Click the Book button to create a new photo book and choose the Story Book theme.
8. Click the Autoflow button to have iPhoto place your photos in the book.
9. Replace the text on each page of the book with your story text.
10. Share your book by printing it, or save it as a PDF file and include it on a web page, CD, or DVD. You can also order a professionally-bound hard or soft copy of your book in a variety of sizes directly from iPhoto.

Sample Topics:

Invite students to write a myth, folktale, tall tale, or fairy tale for their books, or they can write a personal narrative, a story about another person or an event, or any work of fiction.

Elements of Digital Stories

- **VOICE** – Write in the first or third person.
- **CHARACTER** – The traits your main character demonstrates.
- **SETTING** – Describe where the story takes place.
- **CONFLICT** – Show a disagreement or struggle.
- **VISUAL** – Use photos or other images to enhance the story's meaning.
- **PACING** – Rising action sets the stage; conflict creates drama, and falling action leads to resolution.

How to Get Started

- Look at examples of student-created digital stories. Many can be found on the Apple Learning Interchange.
- Visit the iPhoto in the Classroom website for helpful tips and resources.
- Visit the iPhoto support site to access tutorials, step-by-step guides, and more.
- Sign up for a two-day Apple Professional Development iLife Workshop for up to 16 teachers delivered at your school site.

Visit the Apple Learning Interchange to view a wonderful example of a lesson titled "Fabulous Fairy Tales" (<http://edcommunity.apple.com/ali/story.php?itemID=231>) in which students learn the elements of a fairy tale and then work collaboratively to create their own fairy tale and share it as an iPhoto photo book. The Apple Learning Interchange provides a dynamic environment for educators to view content, publish and collaborate.