Subject Areas: Social Studies, English/Language Arts

Grade Level: 6 – 12

Lesson Objective:
Students will research a place and time in history and create mind maps to help them better organize, synthesize and analyze the information.

Common Core State Standards:
College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading:
  **Standard 7.** Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing:
  **Standard 1.** Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
  **Standard 6.** Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

Overview:
Make the process of studying a place and time in history more manageable with the integration of visual learning. This lesson uses the History – Time Period template in this folder to help students research, organize and synthesize information about a place in time. They can focus on areas such as influential people, political events, inventions, exploration, literature, music and art. If possible, use local places to make the assignment especially engaging for students, and provide them with opportunities to conduct original research within their communities.
Preparation:

- Access to library resources and/or the Internet would also be helpful for student research.

Lesson:

1. Tell students that they will research a place in history and use Inspiration to help organize their notes and thinking. For example, if you are studying the colonial period in U.S. history, you could have students choose one of the original settlements or colonies to research. Open the History – Time Period template shown on the previous page, and talk students through it so they understand the assignment. Explain that students could make their own mind maps from scratch, but using the template may help them get started and organize their research.

2. Open the Time Period example file in this folder, and talk the students through it, as well, so they know what is expected.
3. Explain to students that they will be adding visual Images, as well as text, to their diagrams. Students may use Images from their Camera Roll, upload Images from the Internet, and/or take photos (if iPad has a camera) and insert them directly into the diagram. Adding symbols will help them and those who view their mind maps to better understand and remember the content.

4. Inform students they can use Notes to add additional information as they complete the project. They can go to Outline View to finish organizing the information and start writing a draft if you require a written paper.

5. Organize students into groups of 2-3 to complete the project. Groups will then choose a place in history to research. You may want to provide a list of acceptable topics, or you may have groups choose a place and then submit their proposals to you for review.

6. Encourage students to add Hyperlinks to their sources of information, including any multimedia files available on the Internet.

Adaptations / Extensions:

- Students may print and/or share documents. Tap to print, mail, or send work to a different App, Dropbox, or iTunes.

- Students can develop a thesis statement and write a report on a specific place in history. For example, their thesis statement could relate to the similarities and differences between the place in history and their own place and time.
• Modify the assignment by changing the topics to be researched on the template. The template can also be simplified by removing some of the areas or adding more areas to be researched.