

## Social Studies Activities for Developing Visual Literacy

**\*\*\*Pics4Learning Lessons** – All of these lessons use digital camera and/or digital images in unique and engaging ways. You will find lessons for math, science, language arts, and social studies.

<http://www.tech4learning.com/services/teachingwithdigitalcameras.htm>

**City landmarks.** Take students on a tour around town to take pictures, or assign students a landmark to photograph. Make the pictures into a presentation about your city. Use publishing software to make a brochure about your town. Start a discussion of the history of your city with the pictures. See Michigan Excel Interactive Map on LISD site from MACUL 2004 presentation.

<http://cemat.lisd.k12.mi.us/web/MACUL2004/Michigan%20Excel%20Map.xls>

### China

<http://www.fi.edu/fellows/fellow1/apr99/abc/index.html>

**Clay Animation Lessons** – All of these lessons use clay animation to enhance student projects in unique and engaging ways. You will find lessons for math, science, language arts, and social studies.

<http://www.tech4learning.com/ClayKit/projects.html>

**Emotions.** Take pictures to make emotion flash cards or an emotion book for young children. Have students make faces or mime actions that indicate various emotions and take a picture of each. These can also be used to generate creative writing, or to discuss nonverbal language.

**Family Tree** Students can take pictures of their family if they live in the area to make a family tree. Scan in pictures of ancestors if available. Microsoft PowerPoint has a tree diagram template that works well for this activity.

**Fieldtrips** – Take photos on field trips. This will help students remember when writing about them later.

<http://coe.west.asu.edu/Thumbphotos-DD/MachanTrip.html>

### Generational Interviews

- **Generations Online**  
<http://generationsonline.com/>
- **Guardians of Freedom – Nieman Enhanced Learning Center – WWII Oral Histories Project** – Copy & paste this link into your browser address bar:  
<http://connections.smsd.org/veterans>
- **American Experience War Letters**  
[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/warletters/letters/warletter\\_17.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/warletters/letters/warletter_17.html)

**Interview** someone about a career you are interested in. Take the person's picture to include in a report or multimedia presentation.

**Interview senior citizens, war veterans, Holocaust victims** - Take a picture of grandparents or senior citizens the students know to include in a report or presentation. (The focus might be past vs. present, memories (Mem Fox's book "Wilfrid Gordon McDonald

Partridge" is a great way to get them started thinking), Grandparents' Day, World War II, or diversity.)

**Time Line** – See this timeline of Martin Luther King's life. Students can also use TimeLiner software from Tom Snyder Productions to insert digital images into a timeline they create.  
<http://www.pps.k12.or.us/district/depts/itss/buckman/timeline/kingframe.html>

**Multimedia Scrapbook**-students gather together resources on a topic (see "Filamentality" – <http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil> for template and more information on "scrapbook.")  
<http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/China/scrapbook.html#instructions>

**\*\*\*Persuasive and Presidential Writing** – Students will write a persuasive piece of writing about who, if possible, would be a suitable president to carve into Mt. Rushmore.  
[http://www.pics4learning.com/lessonplan\\_details.php?id=111](http://www.pics4learning.com/lessonplan_details.php?id=111)

**\*\*\*Rainforest Conservation Cards and Comics** – Students will create postcards with persuasive text and images on the importance of conserving natural resources.  
<http://www.tech4learning.com/pdfs/imageblender/rainforestpostcards.pdf>

**Signs** Have students take pictures of signs around the neighborhood. Discuss what these signs mean. Create a bulletin board or book.