

# Data Storytelling: Knight Lab StoryMap & TimelineJS



HIST1232: History of Boston

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Digital Integration Teaching Initiative

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*Feel free to ask questions at any point  
during the presentation!*

# Workshop Agenda

- Slides and handouts available at:  
<https://bit.ly/fa25-poiger-hist1232-multi>
- Best practices and questions to consider before creating your StoryMap or TimelineJS project
- Learn about StoryMap and TimelineJS as modes of storytelling
- Demonstrate steps for using Knight Lab's StoryMap and TimelineJS
- Start building! (if time)

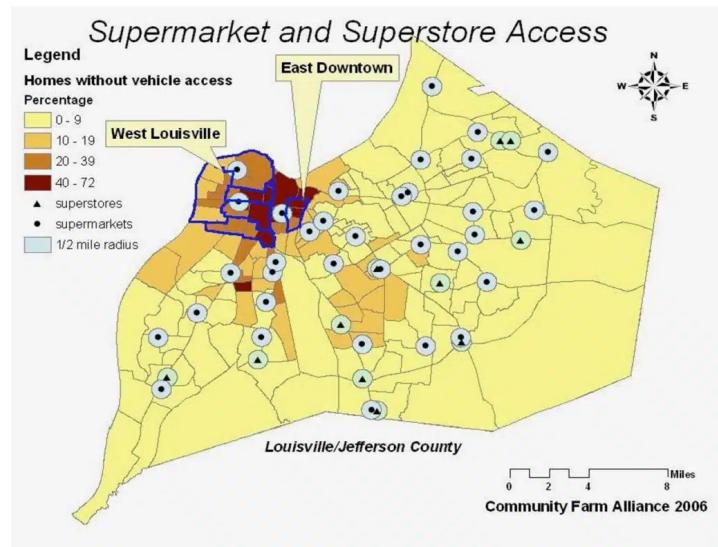
# Data Storytelling

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# Data storytelling with maps

Maps can convey all sorts of geospatial information that can facilitate different applications:

- Navigational/orientational maps
- Geological/topographical maps
- Political maps
- Thematic maps
- Artistic maps
- Narrative maps

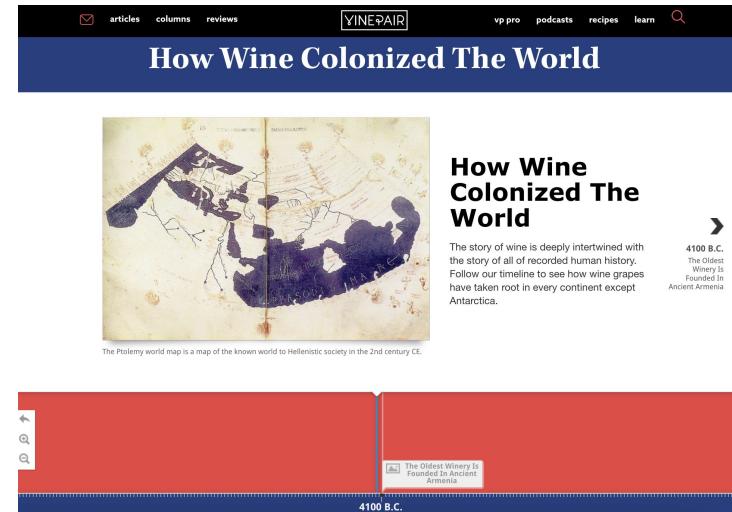


Supermarket and Superstore Access Map from University of Louisville

# Data storytelling with timelines

Timelines can be used to tell a variety of stories, supported with chronological data to create a narrative:

- Life stories
- Chronology of related events
- Tracking developments in a topic or singular event
- Examining trends



[“How Wine Colonized the World”](#)  
timeline from Vinepair

# Why use a map or timeline to tell stories?

- Maps and timelines are ways to visualize data in a way that is **contextualized in space or time**
- Writing about events or places **in connection to each other** allows you to craft a narrative
- **Grouping events or places together** in a timeline or map highlights their relatedness that may otherwise have been lost without a **curated story**

# What are the limits?

- As a form of storytelling, these representations reflect the intention of the creator and are **inherently limited**.
  - Maps and timelines produce **shared interpretations**, and are not expressions of objective spatial relations or histories.
  - For example, Boston is as much a human idea as a physical space, and thus maps both *represent* and *create* reality. See Quincy Langford's "[Maps Are a Tool to Understand the Past and Shape the Future](#)" to explore how maps can create, erase, and reshape.
- The **simplicity** and **clarity** of maps and timelines is deceiving, but **artificial clarity** is necessary for them to be **useful**.

# Example Projects Using Maps to Tell Stories

- “[Food Justice in St. Louis](#)”: uses ArcGIS to illustrate the patterns of food access in St. Louis, and its intersectionality with the built environment, race, income, and access to transportation.
- “[Map of Seattle's Amazon Fresh Area](#)”: uses a map to explore issues of food apartheid in Seattle.
- “[Contemporary Indigenous Spatiality](#)”: StoryMap created by Agléska Cohen-Rencountre (Lower Brule Sioux Tribe) to interrogate settler-colonial epistemologies about water-ways, as well as trace personal and community connections to Rapid Creek and the Mississippi River.

# Example Projects Using Timelines to Tell Stories

- [Whitney Houston 1963-2012](#): Tells the life of Whitney Houston through key dates and events
- [Revolutionary User Interfaces](#): Tracks the journey of computer technology to show how interfaces have become more intimate
- [How Wine Colonized the World](#): Studies the history of wine and how it's intertwined with empire building and colonization
- [The Bicycle: A Shifting Symbol](#): Analyzes the rise of the bicycle and trends that led to its popularity (by student at UVM)

# Making a StoryMap or TimelineJS

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during the presentation!*

# What is a StoryMap?

KnightLab's StoryMap tool allows users to tell narrative stories connected with specific geographic locations.

**Welcome to the Fenway**

Welcome to this Community Walk! The purpose of this walk is to introduce people to the history and context of one of the neighborhoods that surround Northeastern. Most importantly, this walk is designed using an Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) perspective. ABCD is a philosophy that recognizes communities' abilities to achieve positive change using their own knowledge, skills, and lived experiences as well as existing resources and infrastructure. Another way to think about it is to consider a community's strengths rather than deficits or problems.

For example: instead of saying, "This community has a high crime rate and it can't be fixed," we say, "This community has an organization that serves the previously incarcerated and is collaborating within the community to work towards

**Fenway Community Walk**

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# What is a TimelineJS?

KnightLab's TimelineJS tool allows students, journalists, historians, etc. to create interactive timelines that tell compelling chronological stories with strong visual elements.

The screenshot displays two entries from a TimelineJS timeline.

**Entry 1: 1860s VELOCIPEDES**  
The first bicycle appeared in the United States and was known as the 'velocipede' - a human powered vehicle that would allow for travel on land and included more than one wheel (Vivcano, 2013, p.28). The term 'bicycle' was born out of the trend of velocipede riding inspired by traveling gymnast groups visiting the United States from Europe.

**Entry 2: 1600 THE ANTIKYTHERA**  
In the year 1900, sponge divers discovered the Antikythera Mechanism, a remarkable mechanical computer used to track the cycles of the solar system dated to as early as 89 B.C. There was no input however. All computations were carried out by the intricate system of clockwork like plates and wheels..

Timeline navigation controls are visible at the bottom, including arrows for previous and next events, and a search bar.

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# Overall Best Practices

- Think carefully about the **audience** you are trying to reach with your project. This will impact your language, the order of your points, and the media that you choose.
- Think also about the **tone** of the map or timeline: adjust the formatting to match the content you are sharing.
- **Test your end product** after you have created it, to make sure that all the narrative points flow and that the language is clear and concise.

# Recommended: Spreadsheet Template

Make a copy of either template below and use it to fill in the different data and content you want to include.

- [StoryMap Spreadsheet Template](#) (based on template created by Molly Brown, Reference and Outreach Archivist, Northeastern University Library)
- [TimelineJS Template](#) (make a copy on your drive)

For more information about collecting and organizing data, please see:  
<https://bit.ly/handout-storymap-spreadsheet> and [TimelineJS Handout](#).

# Data Collection Demo

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during the presentation!*

# Data collection: StoryMap Site

fx	http://hdl.handle.net/2047/d20158126											
1	Slide #	Site Name	Site Location	Image URL/File Location	Image Credit	Image Caption	Headline	Historical Profile/First Person Narrative	Citation(s)	Additional Media	Additional Media Caption & Credit	
2	Title Slide	n/a	n/a	<a href="http://hdl.handle.net/2047/d20158126">http://hdl.handle.net/2047/d20158126</a>	Freedom House Records, Courtesy of Northeastern University Archives and Special Collections		Walking the Emerald Necklace	This is an introduction to the project that will continue on.  Two men tend community garden in the Back Bay Fens. A public water building can be seen on the left. The Back Bay Fens (also called The Fens, or Fens) is a freshwater marsh and lagoon area within Boston's larger Emerald Necklace park system.				
3	Site 1	Back Bay Fens Community Gardens	42.344888, -71.093221	<a href="http://hdl.handle.net/2047/d201581723">http://hdl.handle.net/2047/d201581723</a>	Freedom House Records, Courtesy of Northeastern University Archives and Special Collections	Community garden in Back Bay Fens.	Back Bay Community Gardens					
4												
5												
6												

The slide number can serve as the order in which your sites appear on your map and the site name can be used to label sites on your map.

The site location is used to identify a point on your map where the site is physically located (address or coordinates).

# Data collection: StoryMap Image

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Slide #	Site Name	Site Location	Image URL/File Location	Image Credit	Image Caption	Headline	Historical Profile/First Person Narrative	Citation(s)	Additional Media	Additional Media Caption & Credit
2	Title Slide	n/a	n/a	<a href="http://hdl.handle.net/2047/d20158126">http://hdl.handle.net/2047/d20158126</a>	Freedom House Records, Courtesy of Northeastern University Archives and Special Collections	Back Bay Fens, Boston, Mass.	Walking the Emerald Necklace	This is an introduction to the project that will continue on.  Two men tend community garden in the Back Bay Fens. A public water building can be seen on the left. The Back Bay Fens (also called The Fens, or Fens) is a freshwater marsh and lagoon area within Boston's larger Emerald Necklace park system.			
3	Site 1	Back Bay Fens Community Gardens	42.344888, -71.093221	<a href="http://hdl.handle.net/2047/d20157723">http://hdl.handle.net/2047/d20157723</a>	Freedom House Records, Courtesy of Northeastern University Archives and Special Collections	Community garden in Back Bay Fens.	Back Bay Community Gardens				
4											
5											
6											

The image URL/File location is useful in keeping track of images of sites. Always credit your images to indicate their origin. Also include a caption describing your image.

# Data collection: StoryMap Narrative

Slide #	Site Name	Site Location	Image URL/File Location	Image Credit	Image Caption	Headline	Historical Profile/First Person Narrative	Citation(s)	Additional Media	Additional Media Caption & Credit
1	Title Slide	n/a	n/a	<a href="http://hdl.handle.net/2047/d20158126">http://hdl.handle.net/2047/d20158126</a>	Freedom House Records, Courtesy of Northeastern University Archives and Special Collections	Back Bay Fens, Boston, Mass.	Walking the Emerald Necklace	This is an introduction to the project that will continue on.		
2	Site 1	Back Bay Fens Community Gardens	42.344888, -71.093221	<a href="http://hdl.handle.net/2047/d20157723">http://hdl.handle.net/2047/d20157723</a>	Freedom House Records, Courtesy of Northeastern University Archives and Special Collections	Community garden in Back Bay Fens.	Back Bay Community Gardens	Two men tend community garden in the Back Bay Fens. A public water building can be seen on the left. The Back Bay Fens (also called The Fens, or Fens) is a freshwater marsh and lagoon area within Boston's larger Emerald Necklace park system.		
3										
4										
5										
6										

The headline can serve as the official title or label of your site. Including a narrative provides more context as to why your site is important.

Don't forget to cite your sources! Also, you may want to include additional media related to your site (e.g. newspaper clippings, additional photos, etc.).

# Data Collection: TimelineJS

The TimelineJS template operates in much the same way with “text” as your opportunity to add context through narrative.

Official TimelineJS3 Template										USE TEMPLATE							
Year	Month	Day	Time	End Year	End Month	End Day	End Time	Display Date	Headline	Text	Media	Media Credit	Media Caption	Media Thumbnail	Type	Group	Background
									Google Spreadsheet Example	This is a test of using google spreadsheets as a source for the timeline tool. This is a 'title' slide, so it doesn't need a date. It automatically occurs first, and doesn't appear in the timeline below.	<a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/zachwise/6115056146/in/photostream">http://www.flickr.com/photos/zachwise/6115056146/in/photostream</a>	Zach Wise/verite.co	<a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/zachwise/6115056146/">http://www.flickr.com/photos/zachwise/6115056146/</a> title="Chicago by zach.wise, on Flickr>Chicago by zach.wise</a>				
2011	11	1		2011	12	15			Another Flickr Example	It's Easy to Make Your Own Timeline	<a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/zachwise/6894476777/in/photostream">http://www.flickr.com/photos/zachwise/6894476777/in/photostream</a>	Zach Wise/verite.co	Chicago to NYC				
2011	11	16	05:58:44	2011	11	16	07:30:00		Vimeo Example	Illustrate your Timeline with photos, videos, tweets and more.	<a href="https://vimeo.com/143407878">https://vimeo.com/143407878</a>	Knight Lab	A video about how to make timelines!				#333333 <a href="http://knightlab.north/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/front-page-image.jpg">http://knightlab.north/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/front-page-image.jpg</a>

Date required; end date and display date (optional)

Text and headline for the slide

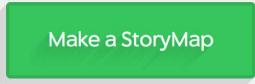
Entering media and related info

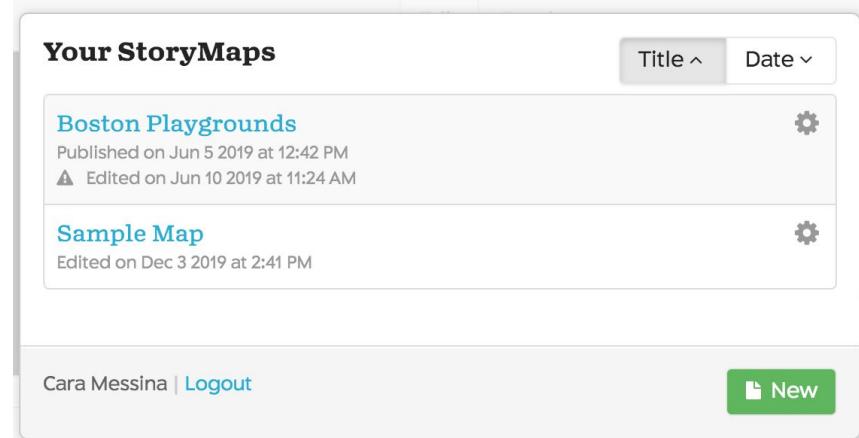
Additional options w/ slides

# StoryMap Demo

*Feel free to ask questions at any point  
during the presentation!*

# Create a StoryMap

- Go to <https://storymap.knightlab.com/>
- Click “Make a StoryMap.” 
- Either create a new account or sign in through Google.
- Once you’re signed in, click “New Map” (once you have created your map, it will be there for you to work on).
- Name your project.



# Your StoryMap

The screenshot shows the StoryMap JS application interface. At the top, there's a toolbar with buttons for 'My Maps' (with a red box), 'Options' (with a red box), 'Save' (with a red box), 'Publish Changes', 'Help', and 'Share'. Below the toolbar is a world map. In the top right corner of the map area, there are 'Edit' and 'Preview' buttons. To the left of the map, there's a sidebar with a red box around the 'Add Slide' button. The main content area contains a slide titled '(untitled)'. The slide features a world map with a light blue background and white borders for countries. A text overlay on the map says, 'This is your title slide. The title slide shows all points from your other slides.' Below the map, there's a 'Leaflet' watermark. At the bottom of the slide, there's a note: 'Address search geocoding generously sponsored by Mapbox.' On the left side of the slide, there's a 'Media' section with a placeholder for 'No Media Selected'. It includes fields for 'URL to your media' (with a red box), 'Upload an Image' (with a red box), 'Credit', and 'Caption'. On the right side of the slide, there's a 'HEADLINE' section with a rich text editor toolbar ('B', 'I', '</>', '%') and a large text input field. At the bottom right of the slide, there are 'Marker Options' and 'Background Options' buttons.

Overall options (like changing map layout)

SAVE OFTEN!

# Your StoryMap: Slides

The screenshot shows the StoryMap JS interface. At the top, there are navigation buttons: 'My Maps', 'Options', 'Save', 'Publish Changes', 'Edit', and 'Preview'. A red box highlights the 'Preview' button. To the right, a callout box says 'Preview your slides'. In the center, a world map displays political boundaries. Below the map, a message reads: 'This is your title slide. The title slide shows all points from your other slides.' A red box highlights the left sidebar where a red square icon and '(untitled)' are shown, along with a '+ Add Slide' button. Another red box highlights the 'Media' section below, which includes fields for 'URL to your media', 'Upload an Image', 'Credit', and 'Caption'. A red line connects the 'Add Slide' button to the 'Check out and add new slides here' callout. A red line also connects the 'Media' section to the 'Preview the geographic points in all of your slides' callout. The bottom right corner features a pink box with the text: 'Feel free to ask questions at any point during the presentation!'

Preview your slides

Check out and add new slides here

Preview the geographic points in all of your slides

# Your StoryMap: Media and Text Boxes

The screenshot shows a StoryMap interface with a world map background. At the top, there are navigation buttons: 'My Maps', 'Options', 'Save', 'Publish Changes', 'Edit' (which is selected), and 'Preview'. Below the map, there's a title slide with the text: 'This is your title slide. The title slide shows all points from your other slides.' In the bottom left, there's a 'Media' section with a placeholder 'No Media Selected' and fields for 'URL to your media', 'Upload an Image', 'Credit', and 'Caption'. The bottom right contains a 'HEADLINE' editor with rich text tools (B, I, </>, %) and a 'Background Options' button. Three red callout boxes highlight specific features: one on the left pointing to the media section, one in the center pointing to the headline editor, and one on the right pointing to the background options button.

Uploading photos or other media! Document what you upload

Title and content of your text box

Color or image for text box background

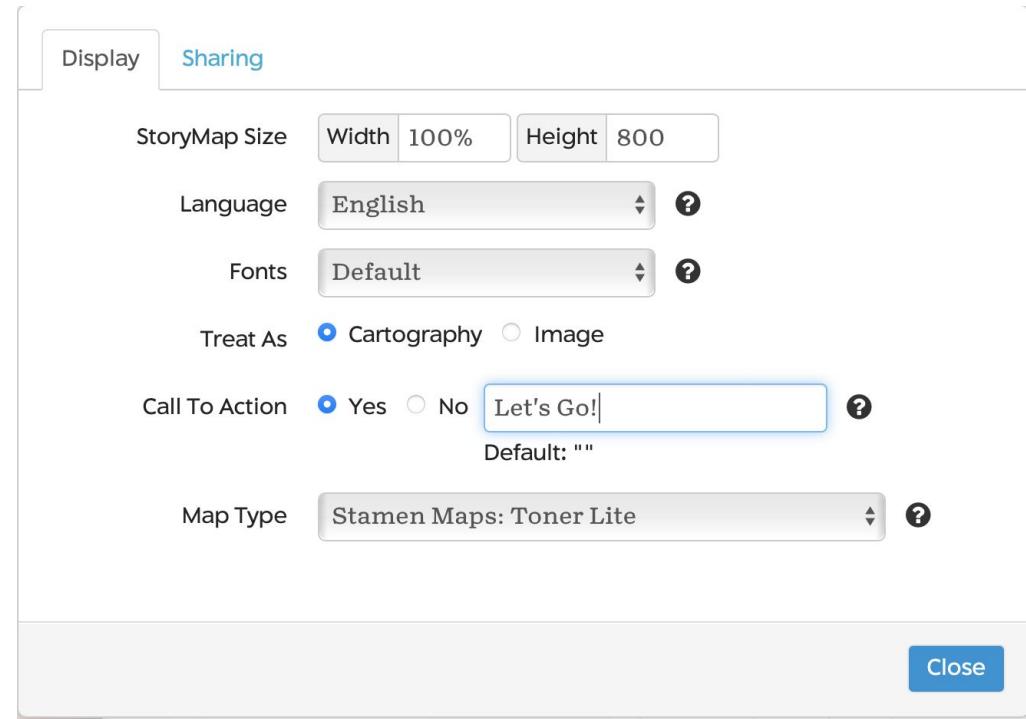
# Slides, or map markers

Each slide is a different marker point on your map. Each slide contains:

- Title and text. The text box reads basic HTML.
- A background image or color.
- A map marker, which can be placed by searching for Google Maps locations or by placing the marker manually.
- Media: images, videos, and sound files can be uploaded. Since only *one* media file can be uploaded per slide, you can use the text box's HTML to integrate additional images or other media types.

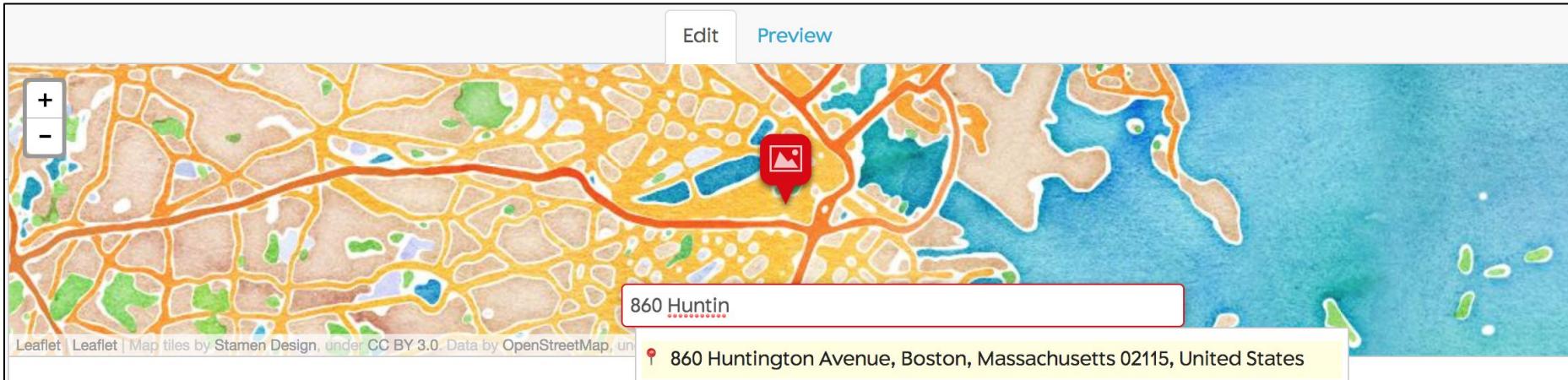
# Options for designing your map

- The “Options” button in the top left allows you to change the design of your map.
- Customizable options include Language, Fonts, Call to Action, Map Type and more.



Feel free to ask questions at any point during the presentation!

# Add A Location



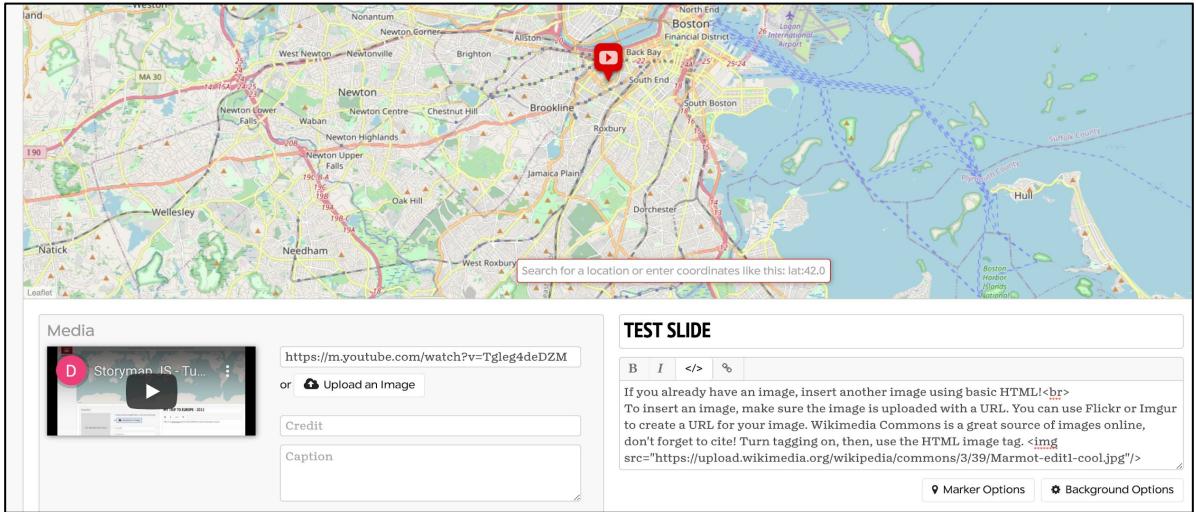
KnightLab StoryMap uses **Mapbox** to locate addresses

StoryMap, however, does **not** always recognize place names; you might need to know the **address** or location of particular structures

You can also **drag and drop the map markers** to the specific location

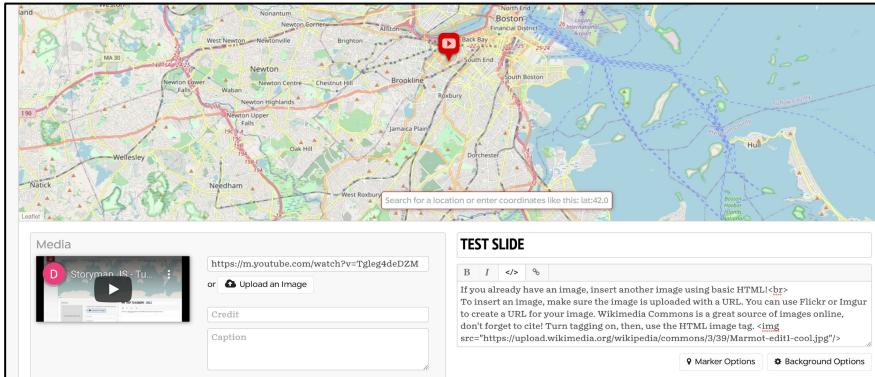
*Feel free to ask questions at any point during the presentation!*

# Add Media and Images to a Slide: Upload or URL



Use “media” to upload files. You can upload an image or put a **URL** of an image OR a video (like a YouTube video). If you want to include your own video, you will first have to upload it to YouTube or other online publisher and copy that link.

# Add Media and Images to a Slide:HTML



If you have an image or a video in the “media” section, but want to include an image **in the text**, you can! The text box reads basic HTML.

1. Click the </> button (turn on HTML)
2. Get a URL of your image. Use Wikimedia Commons to search images by content, and filter by license type and image size. Make sure to use the embed file code, and don't forget to cite the source!
3. Use the HTML `` tag to insert the image.
4. Check the “Preview” to see the image. Smaller image sizes may appear as a thumbnail, so stick to larger image sizes and preview your end result!

# Embed codes and image files

If you are adding an image via its URL, make sure that you select the link with **the image file itself**, not just a page with the image on it.



For example, to add an image from Wikimedia Commons, follow these steps:

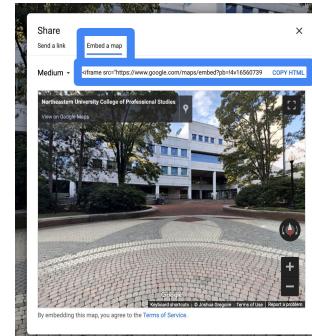
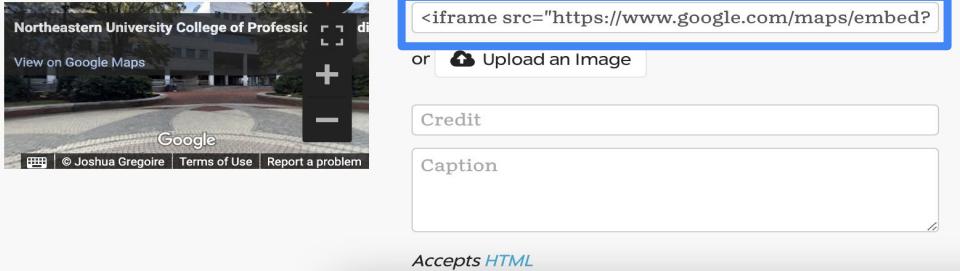
1. Go to "More Details" and choose "Use this file on the web," or just choose "Use this file on the web" if you see that option.
2. Copy the "File URL."

# Add Google Street View to a Slide

As with other media, you can insert a Google street view map into a slide by entering its **URL**.

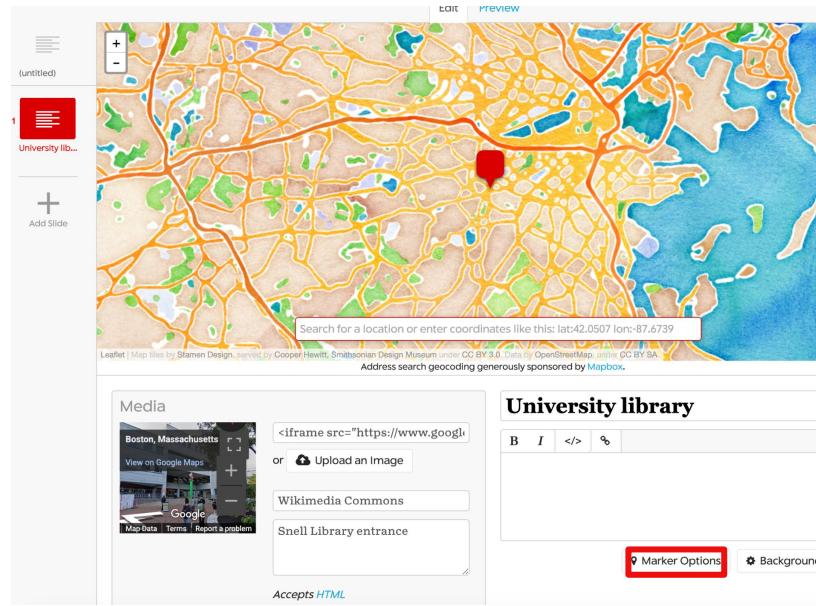
- Click “Share or embed image” from the menu in Google Maps, and copy the **HTML** link from the “Embed a map” tab.
  - Make sure the link has the `<iframe src="URL"></iframe>` code (it should automatically, but the map won’t work without it!).
- Enter the URL into the “URL to your media” box.

## Media



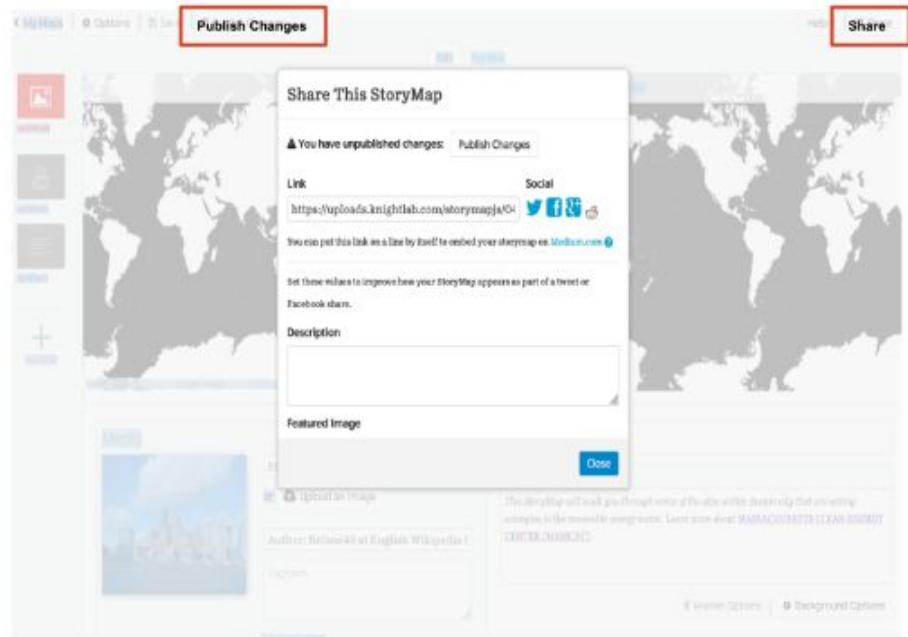
# Changing map markers

- Save the icon image you want to use as a map marker on your computer.
- On the slide you want to change the marker for, you can find “Marker Options.”
- Select the “Choose File” option to upload your new icon image.
- When you close the pop-up window, you should have the new icon uploaded onto your map.



# Publish and Share Your StoryMap

- Click the “Publish Changes” button on the top left side on the editing page.
- StoryMap’s “Share” button is in the top right corner.
- You can add a description and feature image here before sharing your StoryMap widely.



# A Note on Save States

- StoryMap does not keep older versions of your project. Once save changes, **you cannot retrieve a previous version**. Be careful! If you have your StoryMap open in multiple browser tabs or windows at once, you can write over new changes.
- This is why it is a good idea to plan out your StoryMap in a separate document, so your content is saved somewhere else.
- When working on a group project, we suggest **assigning individual users** to certain sections of the StoryMap spreadsheet to prevent any overlap in data entry.

# TimelineJS Demo

*Feel free to ask questions at any point  
during the presentation!*

# Create a Timeline

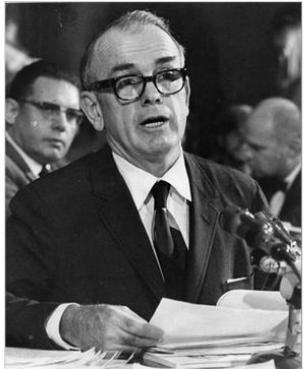
- Go to <https://timeline.knightlab.com/>
- Click “Make a Timeline”
- You don’t need an account to create a timeline
- Click "Get the spreadsheet template" and follow the instructions to copy it to your Google Drive
- The main place where you build your timeline is Google Sheets, so when you make a copy, the file will be saved in your Google Drive

MAKE A TIMELINE

# Create your spreadsheet

- The first step to making a Timeline will always be building a new Google Spreadsheet by making a copy of the template provided by TimelineJS
- Copy the template to your own Google Drive by clicking “Make a Copy”
- Add in your dates, text, media links
- Note: Don’t make any changes to the column headers, remove any columns, or leave any blank rows

# The end result we're aiming for



Bob Burchette/The Washington Post

Former IRS Commissioner Randolph Thrower

1971

## Commissioner Thrower leads defiance

Nixon fires one of the commissioners, Randolph Thrower. As the story goes, he returns a few years later for a visit to the agency. Employees hear that he's in the building and they stream into the hallways to greet him with applause.



1978

IRS tests for racial discrimination met with protest



1

# The end result components

Slide



Bob Burchette/The Washington Post  
Former IRS Commissioner Randolph Thrower

Date

1971

Headline

Commissioner Thrower leads defiance

Nixon fires one of the commissioners, Randolph Thrower. As the story goes, he returns a few years later for a visit to the agency. Employees hear that he's in the building and they stream into the hallways to greet him with applause.

Timeline

Image and details

Commissioner Thrower leads defiance

Tax Reform Act of 1969

IRS verifies pressure from Nixon

Uncomfortable indecision

Technology troubles

IRS tests for racial discrimination met with protest

"Radioactive" tax exempts

Tax returns for church-affiliate

Congress nixes testing

IRS rulings slow

Era

1969 1970 1971 1973 1975 1977 1979 1981 1983 1985 1987 1

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N

Northeastern University  
NULab for Digital Humanities and  
Computational Social Science

# Slides

Each row in the spreadsheet is one slide in the Timeline. Every slide represents a different point or period in time. Each slide contains:

- **Headline** and **text**. The text box reads basic HTML.
- A **background image/color**
- **Media**: images, videos, and sound files.
  - Only **one** media file can be uploaded per slide
  - Special columns in the spreadsheet are dedicated to incorporating the media onto the slide

# Dates

- Slides in the final timeline follow the **order of the dates, not the rows**
- You can choose how specific you want to make your dates, but you must enter at least the **year**
- Entering the end date is optional
- The “display date” is useful when the exact date is unknown/unknowable

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Year	Month	Day	Time	End Year	End Month	End Day	End Time	Display Date
2011	11	1		2011	12	15		
2011	11	16	05:58:44	2011	11	16	07:30:00	

Feel free to ask questions at any point during the presentation!

# Headlines and text

Headline	Text
Google Spreadsheet Example	This is a test of using google spreadsheets as a source for the timeline tool. This is a 'title' slide, so it doesn't need a date. It automatically occurs first, and doesn't appear in the timeline below.
Another Flickr Example	<a href="#">It's Easy to Make Your Own Timeline</a>
Vimeo Example	<a href="#">Illustrate your Timeline with photos, videos, tweets and more.</a>

Date

Headline



*Feel free to ask questions at any point during the presentation!*

# Adding media (1/2)

- Timeline supports various online media platforms (but you **can't** upload from your computer directly)
- Go to the “Supported Media Types” list on the KnightLab TimelineJS site to find more information on file types and embedding

Media	Media Credit	Media Caption	Media Thumbnail
<a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/zachwise/6115056146/">http://www.flickr.com/</a> <a href="http://www.flickr.com/">http://www.flickr.com/</a>	Zach Wise/verite.co Zach Wise/verite.co	zach.wise</a> Chicago by zach.wise, on Flickr">Chicago by zach.wise</a>	
<a href="https://vimeo.com/1234567890">https://vimeo.com/1234567890</a>	Knight Lab	Chicago to NYC A video about how to make timelines!	
<code>&lt;iframe id="inlineFrameExample" src="https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f8/Mosaic_of_Theodora_-_Basilica_San_Vitale_%28Ravenna%2C_Italy%29.jpg" style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 100%;"&gt;</code>	commons	looking at iframe example	<b>Using urls</b> <b>Using &lt;iframe&gt;</b>

Feel free to ask questions at any point during the presentation!

# Adding media (2/2)

- Markup language (used for writing the content of web pages) can be used to import the media not supported by TimelineJS
- This is done by adding **<iframe>** instead of the URL in the column L: you can find the model for entry here
- You can also use **<blockquote>** markup in the same column to add text next to your media: you can use this model for entry.

Media	Media Credit	Media Caption	Media Thumbnail
<pre>&lt;a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/zachwise/6115056146/" title="Chicago by zach.wise, on Flickr"&gt;Chicago by zach.wise&lt;/a&gt; <a href="http://www.flickr.com">http://www.flickr.com</a> <a href="http://www.flickr.com">http://www.flickr.com</a></pre> <pre>https://vimeo.com/14 &lt;iframe id="inlineFrameExample" src="https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f8/Mosaic_of_Theodora_-Basilica_San_Vitale_%28Ravenna%2C_Italy%29.jpg" data-bbox="140 100 300 200"&gt;&lt;/iframe&gt;</pre>	Zach Wise/verite.co Zach Wise/verite.co Knight Lab	A video about how to make timelines!	commons

Using urls

Using <iframe>

Ex: markup language used to turn the media caption into hyperlink

*Feel free to ask questions at any point during the presentation!*

# Timeline Types: *Title* vs. *Era*

The Type column (P) can be used to activate a few more specialized features.

- If you use the word **title** in this column, then Timeline will use the row as a "title slide," which is shown before all others and does not require a date.
- If you use the word **era** in this column, then Timeline will use the row to label a span of time in the "axis" area of the timeline navigation component. Eras should have start and end dates (at least the year for each) and a headline.

M	N	O	P	Q
Media Credit	Media Caption	Media Thumbnail	Type	Group
Zach Wise/verite.co	<a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/zachwise/6115056146" title="Chicago by zach.wise, on Flickr">Chicago by zach.wise</a>		title	
Zach Wise/verite.co	Chicago to NYC A video about how to make timelines!			
Knight Lab			era	

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# Groups

- **Group:** text entered in this column acts as a subheading for moments that you want grouped together
- Moments in the same group will appear in their corresponding row at the bottom of the timeline

The screenshot shows the Timeline JS interface with a table header and two rows of data.

Type	Group	Background
title	contemporary contemporary	#333333 <a href="https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/58/44_AM_NOVEMBER_2,_2011_VIMEO_EXAMPLE.jpg/1200px-44_AM_NOVEMBER_2,_2011_VIMEO_EXAMPLE.jpg">https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/58/44_AM_NOVEMBER_2,_2011_VIMEO_EXAMPLE.jpg/1200px-44_AM_NOVEMBER_2,_2011_VIMEO_EXAMPLE.jpg</a>
era	historical	

A red box highlights the "historical" entry in the "Group" column of the second row. A red arrow points from this box to a "historical" heading in a collapsed dropdown menu below the table. Another red box highlights the word "Groups" in a large white box on the right side of the interface, with a red arrow pointing from the "historical" heading to it. The bottom of the interface shows a timeline with markers for NOV. 1 and NOV. 2, and a small preview window showing a historical image.

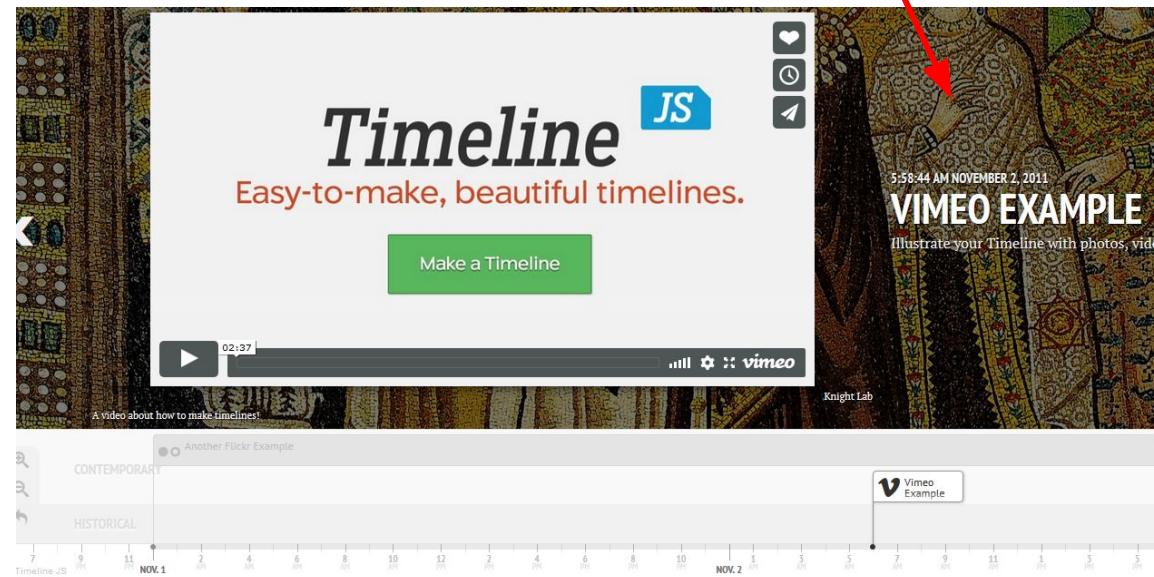
# Background

You can customize your background with a color or an image.

You enter a color by its **hex code** (#333333 in the example on the right).

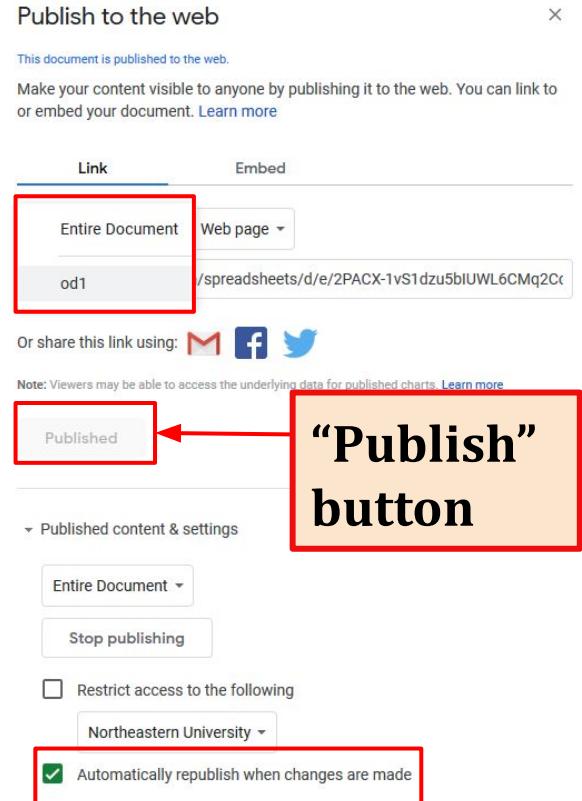
You can Google a color name, or browse [HTML color codes](#).

A screenshot of a timeline editor interface. At the top, there are three tabs: 'Type', 'Group', and 'Background'. The 'Background' tab is selected. Below it, there's a list of items: 'title' (contemporary), 'title' (contemporary), and 'era' (historical). The 'era' item has a dropdown menu open, showing 'historical' as the current selection. To the right of the list, there are two input fields: one containing the hex code '#333333' and another containing a URL 'https://upload.wikimedia.org'. A red box highlights the hex code field, and a red arrow points from it to a callout box that says 'Using CSS color names for background'. Another red box highlights the URL field, and a red arrow points from it to a callout box that says 'Using image URL for background'.



# Uploading the spreadsheet

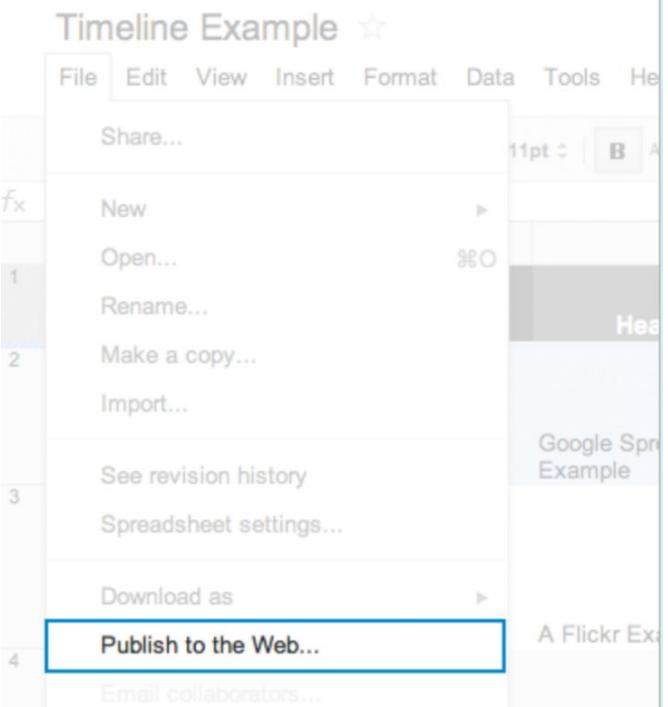
- In the spreadsheet, select the "**Publish to the web**" option under "File" → "Share".
- In the settings box that pops up...
  - check "**Automatically republish when changes are made**"
  - select "**od1**" under *Entire document* drop down box
  - then click "**Publish**"



*Feel free to ask questions at any point during the presentation!*

# Publish to the web (1/2)

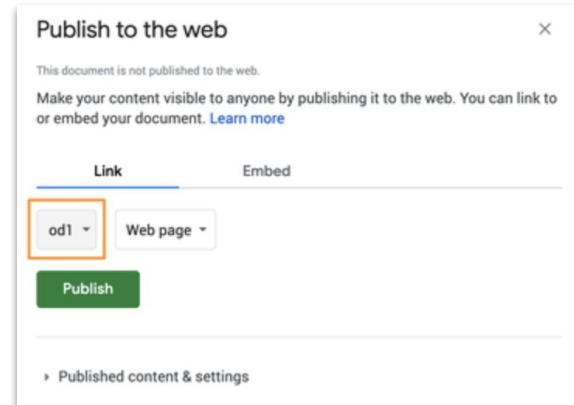
- Under the File menu, select “Publish to the Web”
- Note: Don’t set your Timeline Google spreadsheet to “anyone with the link can edit.” It isn’t necessary, and could lead to someone changing your Timeline without your consent.



*Feel free to ask questions at any point during the presentation!*

# Publish to the web (2/2)

- In the next window, change the menu that reads “entire document” to “od1.” Then click the blue “publish” button. When asked, “Are you sure...” click OK. Ignore the URL that appears in the center of the window. Just close the window using the X in the top right corner.
- After you close the window, copy the URL in your browser address bar. You’ll use it in the next step.

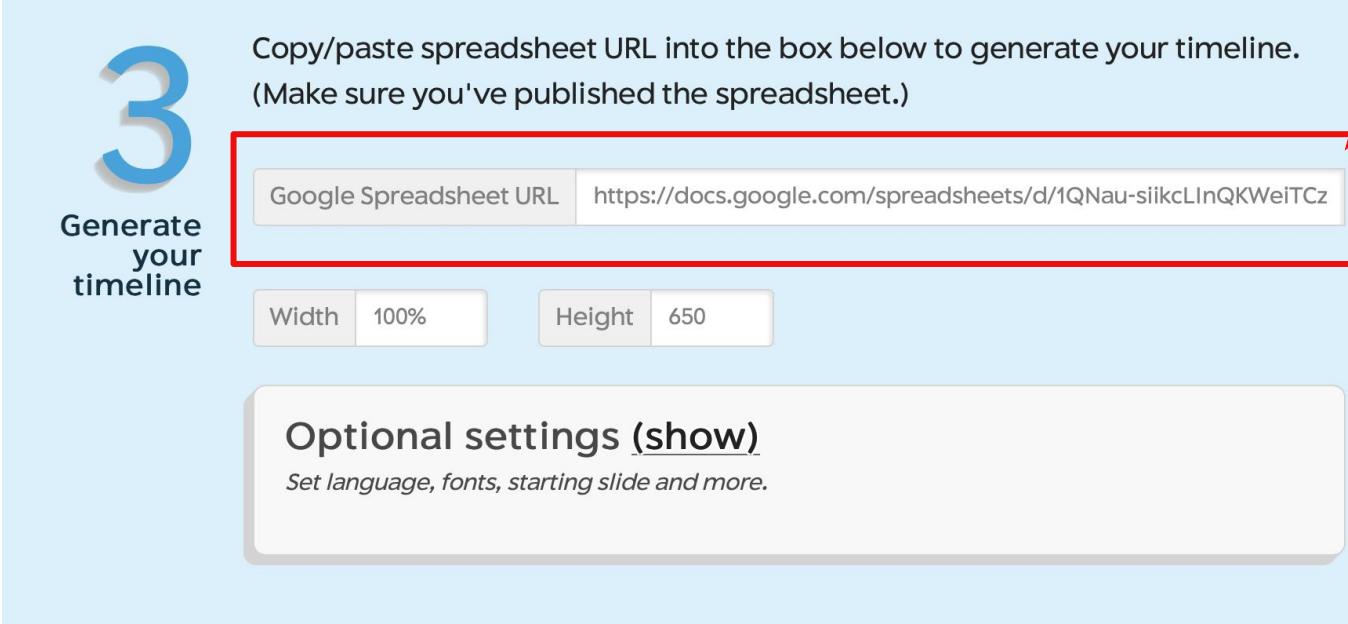


A screenshot of a Google Sheets browser window. The title bar says 'Copy of Official TimelineJS3 Template'. The address bar shows the URL 'docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Q4DKp6DbLsDLzbL6bli02ZvBggcJPYltOgBH4XOkbaU/edit#gid=0'. The main content area shows a table with data. The bottom of the window shows the standard Google Sheets menu bar: File, Edit, View, Insert, Format, Data, Tools, Add-ons, Help, and a status bar that says 'Last edit was made 5 minutes ago by anonymous'.

Feel free to ask questions at any point during the presentation!

# Converting Spreadsheet to Timeline

Copy the **Page URL** (**not** the Publish URL) into the [\*\*Timeline website\*\*](#)



3  
Generate  
your  
timeline

Copy/paste spreadsheet URL into the box below to generate your timeline.  
(Make sure you've published the spreadsheet.)

Google Spreadsheet URL

Width 100% Height 650

**Optional settings (show)**  
*Set language, fonts, starting slide and more.*

Feel free to ask questions at any point  
during the presentation!

# Viewing the timeline

After you have entered the link from the spreadsheet URL, you will get a **shareable link**.

Copy and paste the '**share link**' in your browser to open your timeline or to share it with others. **USE THIS OPTION!**

(ONLY use the '**embed**' code if you are going to embed your timeline on a website.)

The screenshot shows a step-by-step guide for sharing a timeline. Step 4, titled 'Share your timeline', includes a large blue '4' icon. Below it, under 'Share Link', there is a text input field containing a URL: `https://cdn.knightlab.com/libs/timeline/latest/embed/?source=1cWqQBZCkX9GpzFtxCwHoqFXChg-y1TVUlnrdYmzKUI&font=Bevan-PotanoSans&maptype=toner&width=600&height=600`. Under 'Embed', there is another text input field containing an iframe code: `<iframe src='https://cdn.knightlab.com/libs/timeline/latest/embed/?source=1cWqQBZCkX9GpzFtxCwHoqFXChg-y1TVUlnrdYmzKUI&font=Bevan-PotanoSans&maptype=toner&width=600&height=600'></iframe>`. At the bottom are two buttons: 'Preview' (blue) and 'Open Preview in a new window'.

*Feel free to ask questions at any point during the presentation!*

# Discussion and Useful Reminders

*Feel free to ask questions at any point  
during the presentation!*

# Discussion

What do you think of these tools? Do you find it accessible?

Are there any features you think you will need help with?

What type of information, stories, and narration are especially compatible with each format?

How could you see yourself using these tools outside this class?

# Image sharing and permissions

- It is important to verify that you are allowed to use images before you put them in your StoryMap or Timeline.
- Search for media that is public domain or shared with permissions that allow re-use.
  - DITI recommends [Wikimedia Commons](#) and DPLA ([Digital Public Library of America](#)).
- Ensure proper credit/attribution is given for all media

For more information on copyright and reuse, please see:

<https://bit.ly/fair-use-handout>

# Accessibility in StoryMap & TimelineJS (1/3)

Alt-text is a description of a digital image attached to the image file. When you attach an image or video to your StoryMap or add media in your TimelineJS spreadsheet, add descriptions of any images and videos in the spaces provided for image caption and alt text. People that use screen readers are able to hear content you include in image captions and the text box.

**Headline**

B I </>

Place alt text describing the slide and attached visuals here

**Media**

<iframe src="https://www.google.com/maps/embed?pb=!3

or Upload an Image

Place image title and credit here

Place alt text describing the image here

Accepts HTML

# Accessibility in StoryMap & TimelineJS (2/3)

Color contrast is one way to make StoryMap or TimelineJS accessible. Choosing a higher color contrast palette will make the text more accessible. Avoid using red and green colors for differentiation.

- StoryMap allows users to customize text color using HTML and the slide background color.
- TimelineJS allows users to customize background colors in the spreadsheet

Headline

B I </> %

<span style="color:red">Slide Text: Place alt text describing the slide and attached visuals here</span>

Marker Options Background Options

Slide Background

Background Color

Background Image  or upload an image to your StoryMap folder.

Choose File... Upload

Close

Media  <iframe src="https://www.google.com/maps/embed/>  
or

Image Credit <span style="color:red">Image Caption: Place alt text describing the image here</span> Accepts HTML

Feel free to ask questions at any point during the presentation!

# Accessibility in StoryMap & TimelineJS (3/3)

If linking media in the text box of a slide on StoryMap or TimelineJS, be sure to use a descriptive link name. Descriptive link names allows users to know the content and context of the link before they navigate it.

Instead of writing “For more information on accessibility in StoryMap, click [here](#).”

Write “For more information on accessibility in StoryMap, please see: [\*\*Handout: Accessibility in StoryMap\*\*](#)”

# Data Privacy

- It's important to pay attention to data privacy when using digital resources
- At its simplest, **data privacy** is a person's ability to control what of their personal information is shared and with whom.
- To help you make informed decisions about interacting with digital tools in ways that honor your boundaries with your data and/or personal information, The DITI has prepared a handout on **Handout: Data Privacy**.

# Data Ethics

- Data can render certain communities and their qualities hyper-visible or invisible, as well as reinforce biases.
- It is important to consider what voices are missing from the data or from the archives. Data ethics provide a critical framework for challenging bias in big data, data visualizations, etc.
- To help you engage with and transform your data ethically, the DITI has prepared an handout on **Handout: Data Ethics**.

# Thank you!

*Feel free to ask questions at any point  
during the presentation!*

# For Further Exploration

- [Handout: StoryMap](#)
- [Handout: StoryMap Data Gathering Spreadsheet](#)
- [Handout: StoryMap and Accessibility](#)
- [Handout: Timeline](#)
- [Handout: Copyright and Fair Use](#)
- [Handout: HTML Basics](#)

# Thank you!

- Taught by DITI Fellows Dipa Desai, Shannon Peifer, Mel Williams
- Developed by Claire Lavarreda, Ana Abraham, Chris McNulty, and Benjamin Grey
  - Course materials: <https://bit.ly/fa25-poiger-hist1232-multi>
  - For more information on DITI, please see: <https://bit.ly/diti-about>
  - Schedule an appointment with us! <https://bit.ly/diti-meeting>
  - To give us feedback: <https://bit.ly/diti-feedback>
  - If you have any questions, contact us at: [nulab.info@gmail.com](mailto:nulab.info@gmail.com)

# Appendix

*Feel free to ask questions at any point  
during the presentation!*

# Activity: Map Critique

Navigate to [Falling Fruit](#), a collaborative project that maps free food predominantly in the form of fruit trees.



As you explore, consider these questions:

- What is its subject?
- Who is/are the map's audience(s)?
- What is its message, argument, or purpose?
- How and when was the map made?
- How would you improve this map? What is missing?
- Who made this map? What choices did they make?

From [“Critiquing Maps II”](#), by Shannon Mattern

*Feel free to ask questions at any point during the presentation!*

# A Note on HTML

- You can use HTML to have more control over the display and behavior of StoryMap. Look for the “Accepts HTML” language or this symbol: </>
- For more information on HTML, please see:  
<https://bit.ly/handout-HTML>

## Helpful HTML Codes

#Change Text Color  
<span style ="color:red">YOUR TEXT  
HERE</span>

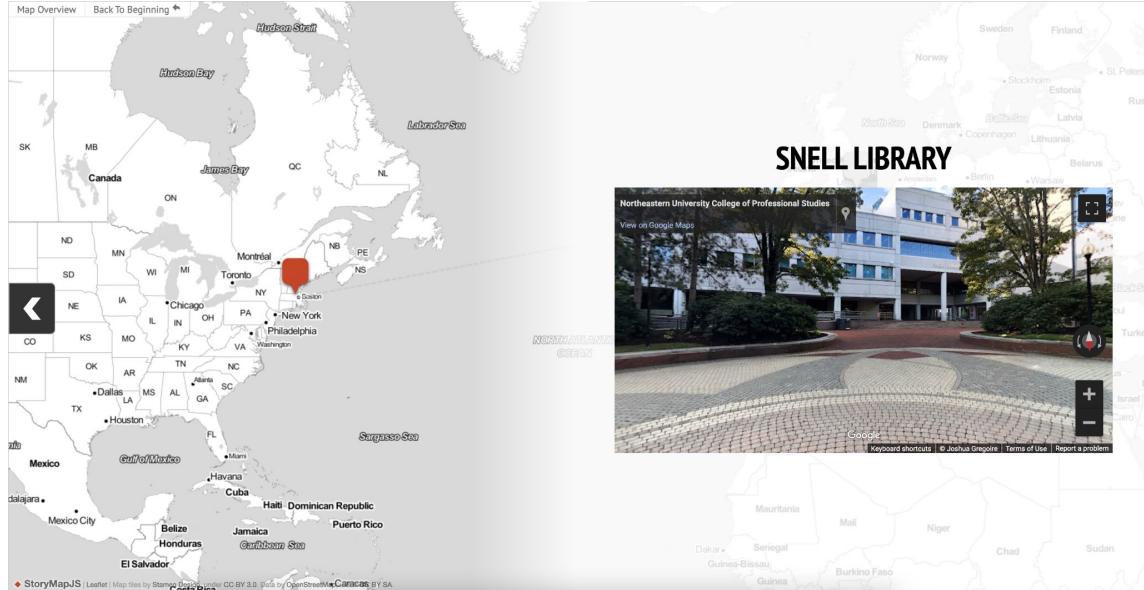
#Add Link in Caption/Credit  
<a href="URL">text</a>

#Add Image/Media in Textbox  


#Add Alternate Text to Image/Media  


# A Note on Zoom Levels

StoryMap does not let you set how far zoomed in or out your slides will be. The zoom level is determined automatically according to the distance between your locations.



# StoryMap Demo DITI Map

- To see StoryMap in action, click on this [Sample Map Link!](#)
- Here you will be able to explore a map custom-made by DITI to highlight your options for creating maps.

