



FRNH 2102: Intermediate French 2

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Making Knight Lab StoryMaps

KnightLab StoryMap Info

- KnightLab StoryMap site: <https://storymap.knightlab.com/>
- KnightLab Support Forum: <https://knightlab.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/sections/202556646-StoryMapJS>
- NULab video on StoryMap: <https://youtu.be/X33ud7RYZFg>

KnightLab StoryMap is a user-friendly, web-browser mapping tool that allows users to choose a map and place markers across the map. Each marker can present images, texts, videos, and audio clips. The goal, then, is to tell a story with these markers and guide your audience through a journey.

Questions to Consider

- What story am I trying to tell? What is the main point(s) I want to convey?
- How can I best tell this story/give a tour of a location? How can I integrate a balance of text, images, and other media forms?
- What is the best StoryMap template I can use to convey my information?
- Who is my audience? What kinds of information does that audience need?

Story Map Examples

- Mapping Black Paris: <https://uploads.knightlab.com/storymapjs/4b074fa299869d47b2d6fd8c4e18d968/mapping-black-paris/index.html>
- Mapping American Childhoods: <https://blog.uvm.edu/mcope-childhoods/american-childhoods-1850-1950/>
- Boston Parks and Playgrounds: Community Scan: <https://uploads.knightlab.com/storymapjs/519665db8eee0565cdfe065cd5953daf/science-of-play-community-scan-6-10-19/index.html>
- Mapping Shared Spaces: A Visual History of Boston's Black and Jewish Communities: <https://dhjewsofboston.northeastern.edu/a-visual-history-of-bostons-black-and-jewish-communities-mapping-shared-spaces/>



Data preparation for StoryMap

DITI suggests that you take a moment to plan out your data collection for your StoryMap before building the map in KnightLab. You can use our [DITI StoryMap Template spreadsheet](#) to get a head start on the planning process and keep your data organized. Be sure to **make a copy** of the spreadsheet template. **Do not edit the template directly.**

When you are ready to add your data, you can copy and paste from your spreadsheet. Please see the handout on using the DITI StoryMap Template spreadsheet.

Using StoryMap:

1. Create your Map
 - a. Go to <https://storymap.knightlab.com/>
 - b. Click “Make a StoryMap”
 - c. After creating an account or signing in, click “New Map” and name your project
2. Title Page
 - a. The title page will display all the map markers
 - b. The Text box on the bottom-right is where you put the project description
 - c. Add Media for the page in the “Media” box (Image, caption, credit)
3. Add Slides (Map Markers)
 - a. Click the “Add Slide” button in the left-hand column
 - b. Add a Location
 - i. StoryMap uses Google Maps to locate addresses
 - ii. Type the address or coordinates into the search bar in center of page
 - iii. If you can’t find the location, you can drag and drop map marker to specific location
 - c. Add description and media (same as the Title Page)
4. Add Media and Images in Text
 - a. To add additional media to a slide, you can use basic HTML
 - b. Click the `</>` button (turn on HTML)
 - c. Get a URL of your image. Wikimedia Commons is a great source of images. Make sure to use the embed file code--don’t forget to cite!
 - d. Use the HTML `` tag to insert the image.
 - e. Check the “Preview” to see the image
5. To add a link in a caption or credit
 - a. Use the HTML `text`
 - b. Fill in the link you want to use between the quotation marks, and replace the word “text” with the text you want to be linked.
6. Customize
 - a. The “Options” button in the top left allows you to change the design of your map
 - b. “Background Options” in the bottom right of the text box allows you to customize the color of the background



Frequently Asked Questions:

1. *How do I change my text color in KnightLab StoryMaps?*
 - a. To change the text color in KnightLab StoryMaps you'll need to use the tag in HTML.
 - b. Click the HTML button (</>) in the editor. Then add the tag; for example: **YOUR TEXT HERE**
Note: you must open and close the tags appropriately for the code to work.
 - c. Be sure to wrap the tag around **the entire text** you wish to be in a different color.
 - d. Experiment with different colors! Try it on your own by changing the color from "red" to "purple".
2. *How do I add "alt" (alternative) text to my images for accessibility purposes (i.e., screen readers and other assistive technologies)?*
 - a. You can add alt text with HTML code, using the tag to make the image accessible for screenreaders.
 - i. Note: typically, the tag is associated with a specific image. However, the software for StoryMap separates the slide image from the caption. Be aware of this as you make accessibility-related improvements to your StoryMap.
 - b. Alternatively, **you can do longer-form, more detailed image descriptions within the caption section** of the image slide. This may be the best approach considering software limitations.
3. *Can I use 'custom' map in the 'Map Type' option instead of in-built map types?*

No, do not use a custom map. This option requires the user to provide a tile server URL. A simple image map will not work.
4. *Can I use ESRI/ArcGIS StoryMap instead of KnightLab's StoryMap?*

DITI teaches KnightLab's StoryMap because it is an open source web-based tool and relatively simple to use/learn. Our aim is to introduce a new digital skill that integrates with class projects/assignments without taking too much time away from the subject matter. On the other hand, ArcGIS StoryMap is a paid product. Advanced users often create original maps using ArcGIS and embed them in story maps. It can be a more time consuming tool to learn.

If you wish, you can create a web map using ArcGIS StoryMap program by accessing it through your northeastern student/staff account. Use the library's GIS guide and resources to learn more about accessing, creating, and preserving web maps in ArcGIS.
<https://subjectguides.lib.neu.edu/c.php?g=1019498&p=7384780>