

An organisation that puts the children first: Multicultural Britain has experienced a rift in society, to tackle the issue at its core we must educate children to help them understand the importance of different ethnicities and their contributions to modern Britain.



problem

From researching the diversity in the UK, a startling statistic showed that “4 out of 10 Britons agreed that multicultural Britain has ‘undermined British culture’”.

Britain struggles with its diversity, especially in schools. With such a euro-centric look on history and many other subjects, the minority groups feel unrepresented.

process

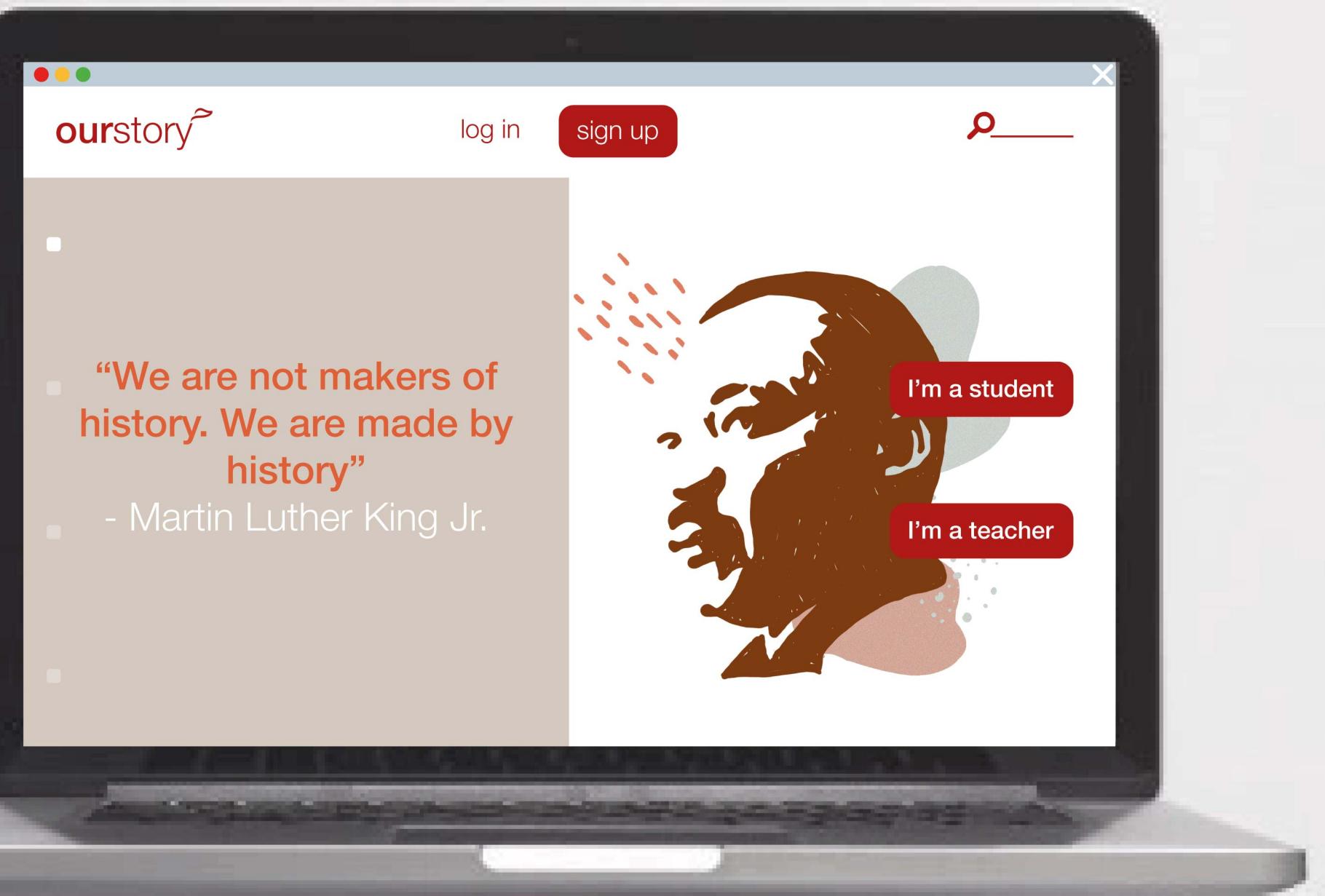
Whistle blowing teachers spoke out about the impact of ‘narrow education’ as well as a history curriculum too devoted to ‘the Tudors and Hitler’.

To gather first hand feedback, I spoke with my secondary school history teacher who stated that “the problem is that the education system moves too slowly” and also agrees that there is a focus on British history. History needs modernising and expanding to cater for a multicultural Britain.

proposal

Oursstory is an intervention that will allow children to choose a topic of history that interests them most. changing the Eurocentric views of traditional history whilst simultaneously modernising it in a blended learning approach we can begin to change some of the racial stigmas that are associated with certain ethnicities. Knowledge is integral to removing a close-minded attitude towards different cultures.

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ourstory

The positive impacts of this speculative design implementation would reduce racism within the pupils. Additionally, it would modernize the out-dated education system, allowing children to take their education into their own hands.

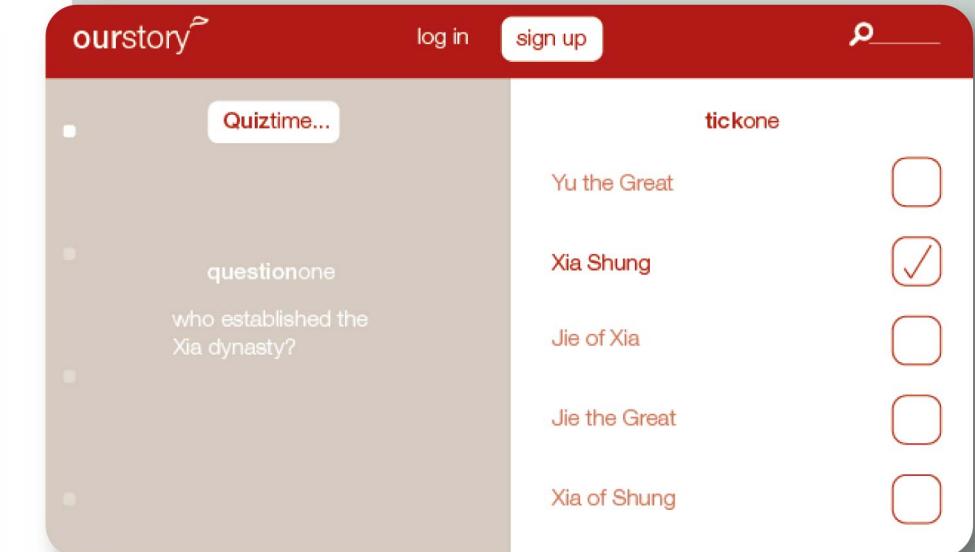
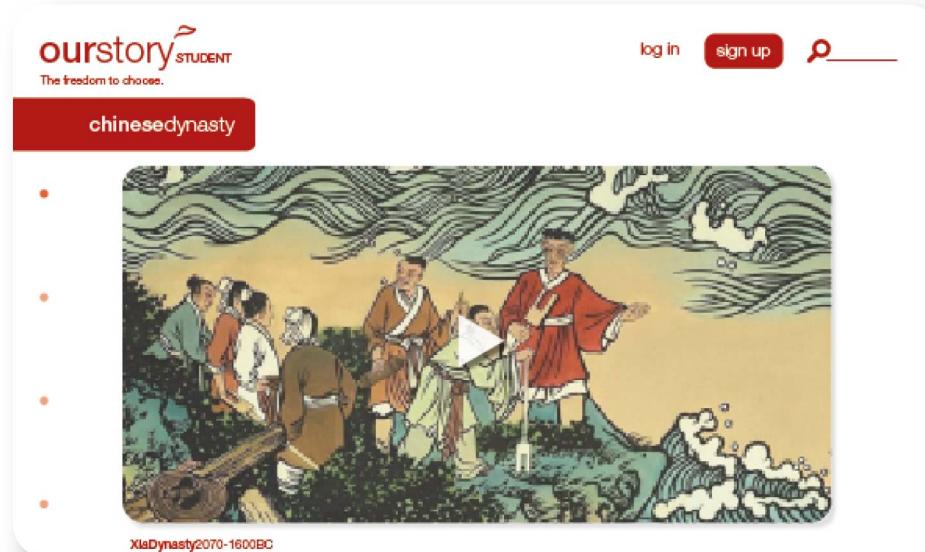
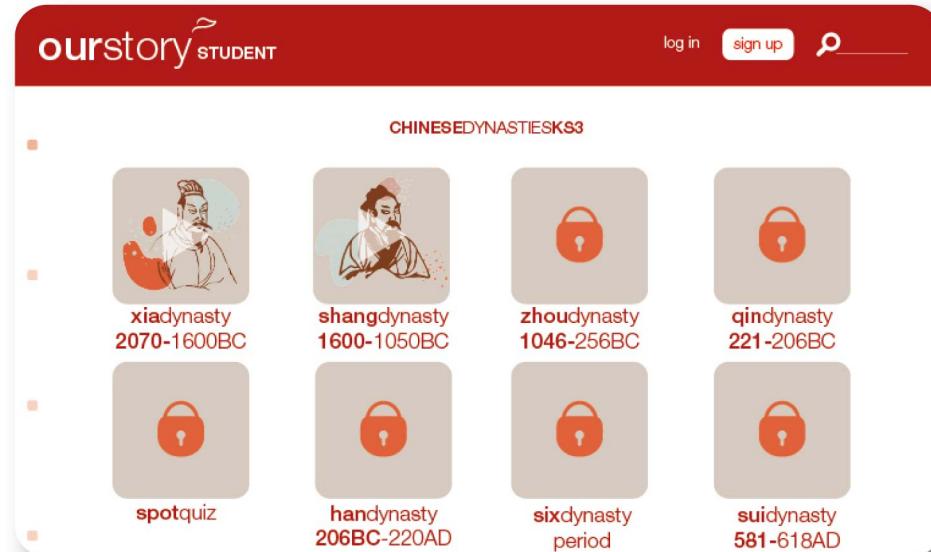
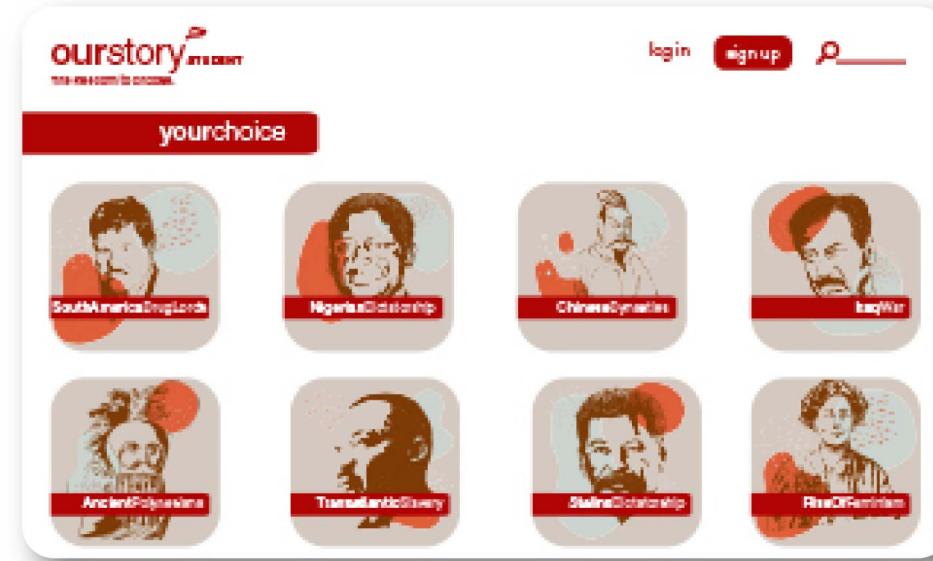
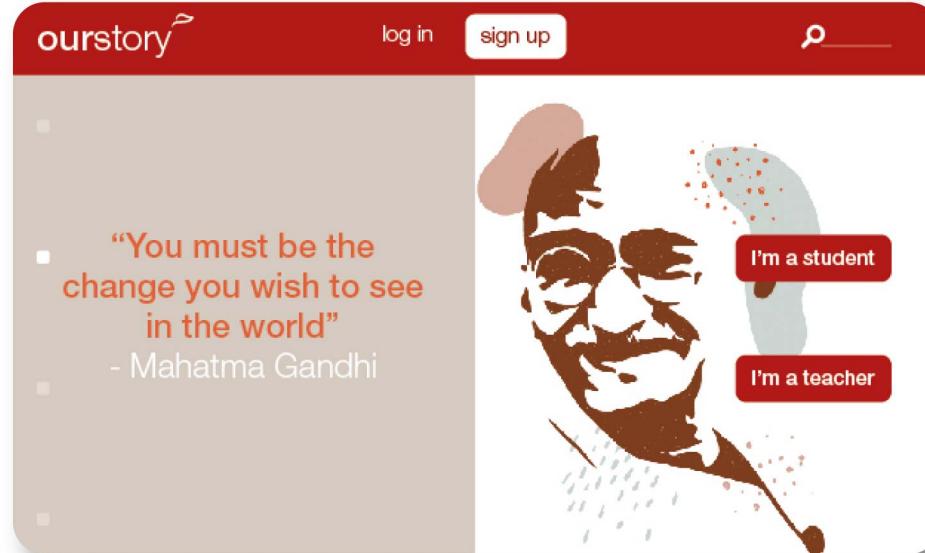
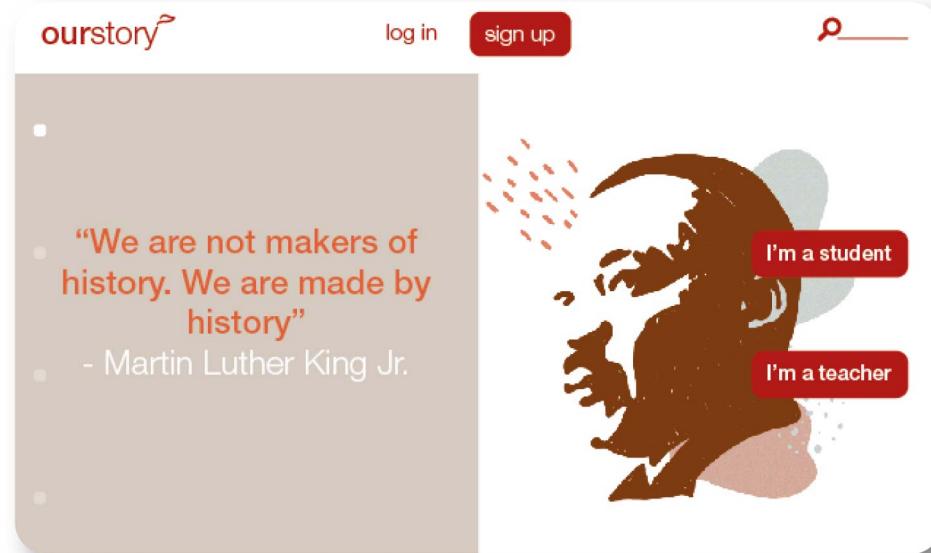
The main focus is allowing the minority students to gain more insight into their culture and give them a subject that they can relate to, whilst reducing prejudices in the other students.

After looking at articles from whistle blowing teachers, many were concerned by the lack of diversity in the British history curriculum with many children unwilling to learn about history that did not focus on the UK perspective (see links below). For primary research, I spoke to my Secondary and A-level history teacher to gage if this implementation was feasible. He agreed the school system was out-dated, being based on the Victorian methods. Additional feedback also led to the topics 'OurStory' covered to be more controversial showing a holistic view of history rather than a Eurocentric one. These were:

- The Rise of Feminism
- Ancient Polynesians
- Slavery and its Abolition
- Chinese Dynasties
- Nigerian Dictatorship
- South America drug lords
- Iraq War
- Stalin's Dictatorship

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2009/nov/17/a-levels-degrees-narrow-education-broaden>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-47199896>
<https://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/2018/may/26/secret-teacher-history-bias-school-fear-student-future>
https://www.upi.com/Science_News/2005/02/04/British-history-lessons-too-narrow/29811107556754/

3



The viability of this implementation would have to be government-based funding, 'OurStory' would initially be the one subject but can expand across all the humanities-based subjects, this would entail 'OurStory' to be a focused exam board. The difference behind this exam board would be the use of blended learning, through the use of online and in person teaching. The success of the pupils will be measured through quizzes and initially exams, but that would be phased out into teacher-based grading. As the exam board, success will be measured through the decline of discrimination within the school.

The bigger thinking:

- Reducing the racism and prejudice in the UK.
- Updating the education system.
- Making children more aware of other cultures and histories.
- Getting children excited about learning.
- Giving children more freedom in the education system.

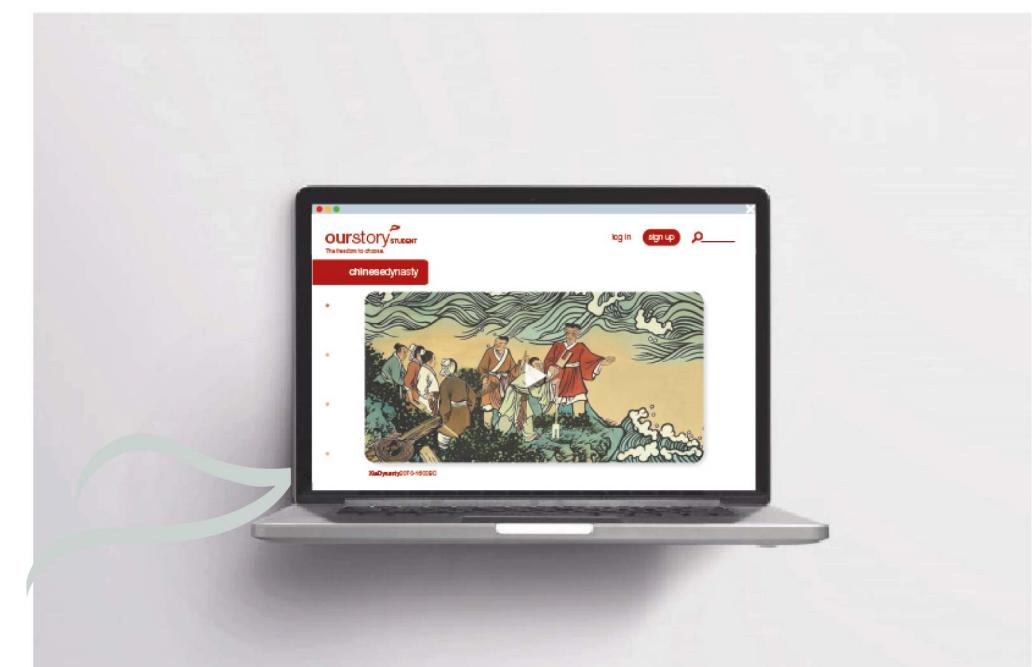
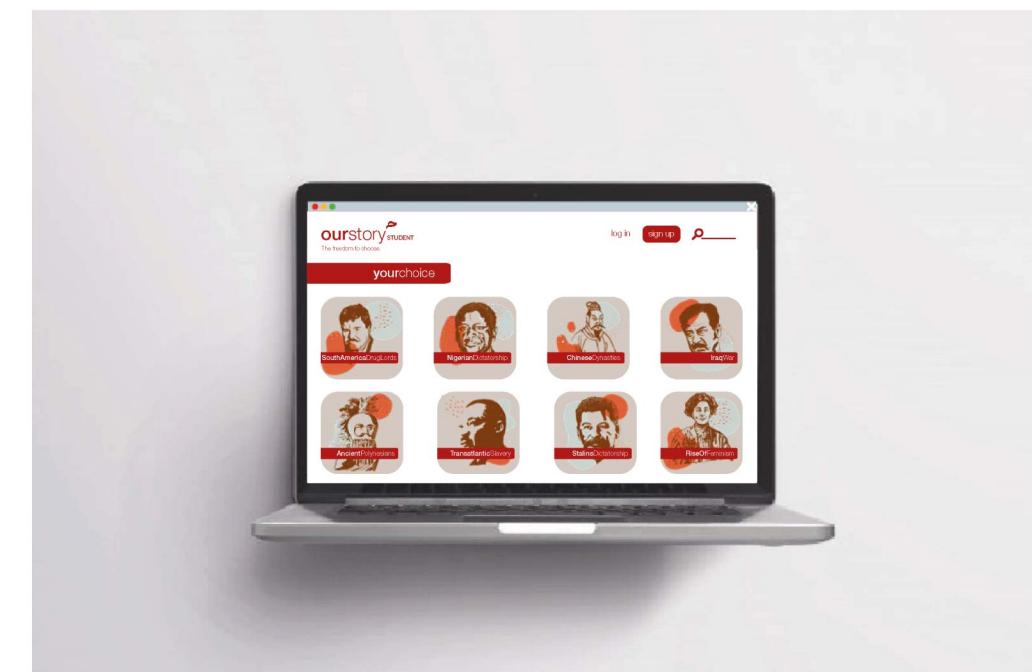
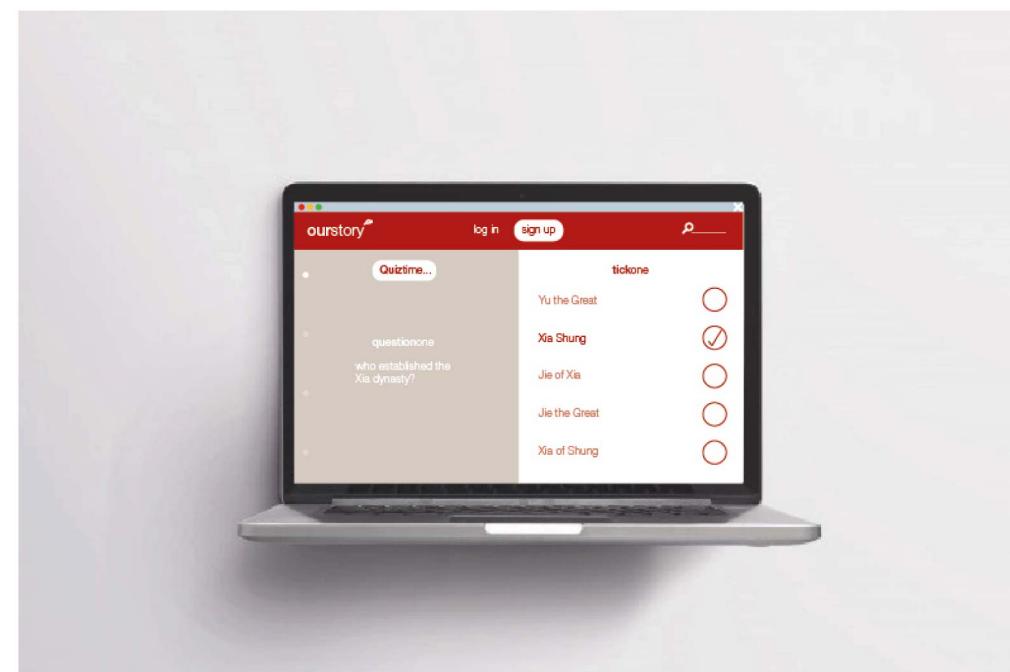
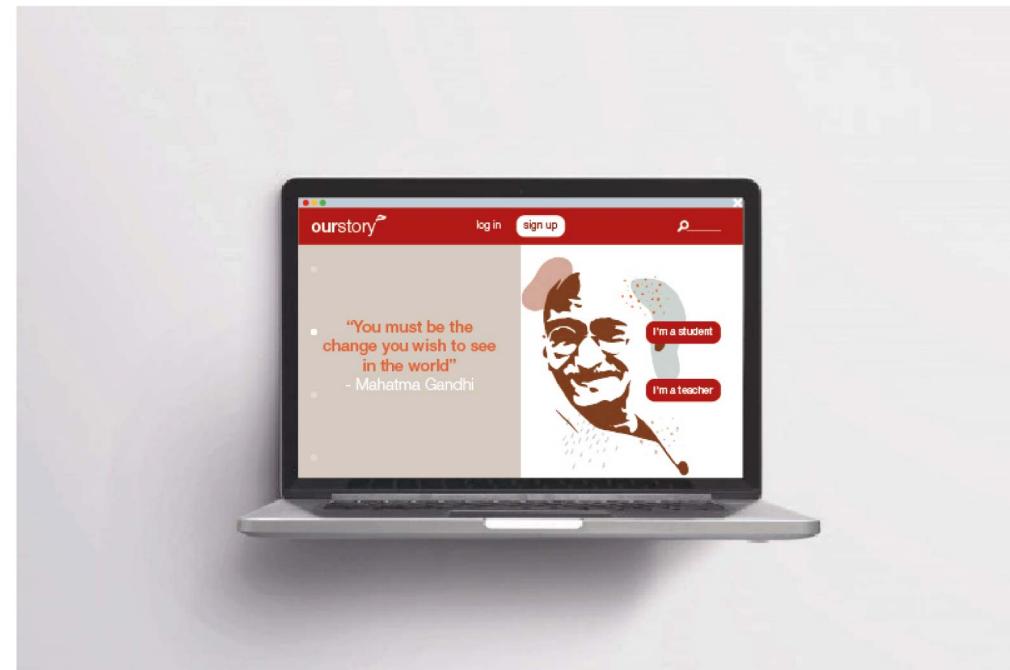
This was especially aimed at the larger cities who have more diverse schools, and the minorities tend to be under represented in the education system.

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This is an example of a one-hour lesson with Ourstory:

- An introduction to the lesson by the class teacher; they would explain which video and quiz was needed to be completed, as well as setting homework for the children. 5-10 mins.
- The children would then proceed to complete a recap quiz of their previous lesson on Ourstory. Around 5 mins.
- Then they would watch a 20-minute video, a pre-recorded lesson.
- The lesson they just watched would set work to do after the video, such as analysing two sources and explaining why the Xia dynasty is so mysterious. 20mins.
- Finally, they would relay to the teacher what they learned in the lesson in their groups - the teacher can check this with their text book, and if they show a clear understanding there will not be additional material for homework. However, if there are key aspect the child seems to have missed the teacher can give them additional homework to help them comprehend the lesson.

ourstory



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ourstory



Long time thinking for communities can be easily embedded in education, it is a key way of changing behaviours and thus reducing racism. Many long term thinking briefs focus on the down stream thinking but they don't tackle the issue at its core, this implementation focuses on changing beliefs and behaviours and thus tackling injustices effectively.