



Historian: Understanding the Roman Republic

Adventure Description:

In this adventure, you will think like a computer scientist and develop a new VR headset to teach students about the Roman Republic in ancient Rome.

Activity

Step 1: Background Information (5-10 minutes)

- Show [Video: Understanding the Roman Republic](#).
- As a class, discuss how the Roman Republic was a government that had 3 different branches of government. By having 3 different groups of people, no one person or group controlled which laws were passed. The Roman Republic also had senators, a Constitution, and representation of everyday citizens, just like the United States has today. Explain to students that many countries base their government structure on the Roman Republic.
- Next, discuss why allowing people to vote and having checks and balances is important for a country to thrive.
- Now, explain to students that they will be historians using virtual reality to teach students about how the Roman Republic worked and how it impacts governments today.
- Provide students with [Handout: Steps to Create a VR Headset](#). As a class, review the steps. Discuss how students will create a VR headset with 3 buttons, meaning students who use the VR headset will be able to 3 different sets of images.

Step 2: Sketching Images (15-20 minutes)

- Explain to students that they will first sketch images that students will see each time they click on a button on their VR headset. Each set of images will show a different part of the Roman Republic. For example, when students click on the first button, they will see a picture of the Roman Republic Constitution, which explained the laws of the land. When students click on the second button, they will see a group consuls or senators discussing a law they want to create.
- Provide students with [Handout: Using Sources](#).
- Teacher Note: Students can work individually, in pairs, or in small groups.
- Remind students that they must include at least 1 source into each image.
- As students are working, ask the following questions:

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- How are you going to show that the Roman Republic is still relevant to today's society?
- What parts of the Roman Republic do you think are most important for students to learn about today?

Step 3: Building the Headset (20+ minutes)

- Explain to students that they will now complete step 2, building a prototype of their VR headset. Remind students that they should make sure all requirements are included in their headset. Show [Handout: VR Headset Example](#).
- Provide groups with art supplies and building materials (ex: recycled boxes, pipe cleaners, popsicle sticks, construction paper).

Step 4: Class Discussion and Presentation (5 minutes)

- Have groups present their VR headsets to the rest of the class. They should also show the images that that will be seen when a person puts on the VR headset. Students should explain why they chose to show certain parts of the Roman Republic and discuss which sources were used.

Materials List

Provided online:

- Video: Understanding the Roman Republic
- Handout: Steps to Create a VR Headset
- Handout: Using Sources
- Handout: VR Headset Example

Not Provided:

- Building Materials (ex: recycled boxes, pipe cleaners, popsicle sticks, construction paper)

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