

StoryMap JS Author Biography Project

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English 2850

Overview

In our course, we are reading a number of writers from diverse locations from 1650 to the present. As one step toward meeting the course goal of understanding literary works within their multicultural environments, we'll create a collaborative story map using StoryMapsJS. This map will provide biographical information about each author, including when and where they lived, as well as information about important locations in their texts and lives. This will allow us to visualize this geographical and temporal range as well as gain some understanding of our authors. For an idea of what the final product that I compile from your work will look like, see my [example](#) for the British authors Charlotte Smith and Frances Burney.

This assignment will also allow you to practice using library databases and finding and citing open source images. (Open source images have licenses that allow you to use them in specific ways that do not violate copyright.) Rather than having each of you create your own story map, I will compile the information that you each contribute via a Google form into one map so that we will gain a fuller sense of the geographical and temporal range of our selections this semester.

Your part

1. Sign up to be the biographer for one author (one student per author.)

[\[hyperlink to sign-up sheet\]](#)

2. Research this author's biography, using a reputable source, and write a 2-3 sentence overview of their life, citing your source(s).

3. Based on your research into the author's life and your reading of our course text, identify four locations significant to the author and, where possible, the text. One should be the author's birthplace. Another should be the setting of the text we are reading in this class. (The setting is where the story takes place.) Some texts may include multiple settings; in that case, identify one or two that seem the most important. In cases where the author does not specify a geographic location or creates a fictional one, you may substitute another location that you think is meaningful for understanding the text or the author.

Other *possible* locations include a place the author lived while they wrote, their place of burial, or a curious place associated with them.

For the three locations other than the author's birthplace, write a 2-3 sentence description and explanation of their significance to the author or to the text.

4. Look for images:

Image of the author

Location-related images

5. Put together your contribution to the StoryMap using this [\[hyperlink to Google form\]](#). The form will ask you to provide specific location information, short descriptions, links to the images, and attributions (credit) and captions (descriptions) for the images.

Resources

Where should I look for open-source images?

- [Wikimedia Commons](#)
- [Creative Commons](#)
- [Flickr: Creative Commons](#)
- [Google Image Search](#) (under “Tools,” choose “Usage Rights,” and then “Creative Commons licenses”)
- [Getty Open Content Images](#) (Limit search to "Open Content Images")
- [Library of Congress digital collections](#)
- [Look and Learn: History Picture Archive](#) [search free public domain images]

Recommended databases for biographical information available through [Newman Library](#):

- Britannica Academic
- Gale: Dictionary of Literary Biography
- Oxford Reference

[Due date]