

Google Tour Builder as a Platform for Social Studies Engagement

© Kathryn V. Dixon

Texas A&M University—Commerce

Abstract

Google Tour Builder is a free digital storytelling tool originally created by Google. Using Google Earth as a platform, creators are able to pinpoint an exact location on the map, add text, and link photos, videos, and online resources to help tell their stories. In this article, I outline how I used Google Tour Builder to create a virtual field trip during a recent trip to Europe in an effort to enhance my students' (preservice teachers) knowledge of the Holocaust. I provide feedback from my students and recommendations for the use of Google Tour Builder to create virtual field trips in any level classroom.

Keywords: Google Tour Builder, virtual field trips, technology in social studies, technology tools