Design Thinking in the History Classroom

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Introductions

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World Cultures

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WHAT is design thinking?

...is human-centered problem solving with an emphasis on collaboration, creativity, & empathy. The key to the process is empathizing with the user's needs to solve the problem.
The Design Thinking Process: Create EDU.org

1. **Empathy**: Learning about the audience for whom you are designing.

2. **Define**: Redefining and focusing your question based on your insights from the empathy stage.

3. **Ideate**: Brainstorming and coming up with creative solutions.

4. **Prototype**: Building a representation of one or more of your ideas to show to others.

5. **Test**: Returning to your original user group and testing your ideas for feedback.
World Cultures Curriculum Overview

World Cultures is an exploration of different civilizations around the world. We study these civilization within the framework of a set of cultural universals that are common to all human societies.

Ancient Egypt
Ancient Mesoamerica
Middle East
Japan
China
Silk Roads
Design Thinking in the History Classroom

• The Shops at Nihonbashi: design thinking in 19th century Edo
  • Summer 2014 – East Asia Center – Jackson School of International Studies
  • Teaching Japan and China in the Classroom
  • Center of Edo
  • Mile Zero
  • Castletown Roads
  • Vibrant Commercial District
Design Thinking in the History Classroom

- Primary Source Document – A Glimpse of Life in Japan 200 years ago
- Kidai Shoran: Excellent View of Our Prosperous Age
- Painted in 1805 by an unknown artist
- Connection to design thinking
Empathize - Research

• Goal – to learn your artisan product, process, and stall well enough to explain it to a partner, who will design your Market Stall.
  • Involves taking on a role
  • Involves developing another perspective than your own
  • Involves seeing / “reading” a primary source document
Interview Questions You Will Answer:

What should your shop look like?

What resources and materials do you need to have in the shop? Where should they be placed?

Is there any special equipment that you use? Where should it be in the shop?

Where will you stand or sit?

How will you display your merchandise for your customers to view?

Do your customers need any space? If so, what for?

Are there any other details that you want me to include?
Ideate/Prototype - 1

01 Interview your Partner

02 Then:

03 Search for images on the Kidai-Shoran Scroll to help you get appropriate ideas.

04 Draw a sketch of their shop on the Prototype 1: Building Plan First Sketch page.

05 Annotate the diagram to help you explain it to your partner tomorrow.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Things that I liked most......</th>
<th>Things that could be improved.....</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>? Things that I don’t understand......</td>
<td>New ideas to consider......</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Direct Instruction on how to give feedback- Mini Lesson
- Present prototypes to partners
- Each partner completed this chart to provide feedback to partner.
Prototype 2

• Utilizing the feedback, each student made changes to their original design.
Sharing/Writing

• Write a paragraph, from the first person perspective, describing a typical scene in your Merchant Stall along Nihonbashi main street in 19th century Edo.

• Use the following questions to help you plan and then write your paragraph.

  • What activities are you doing in your shop? How do you produce your product? *Empathize/Research*
  • Are any other people present? (assistants, shoppers, passers-by) *Ideate*
  • What are the sights and sounds of your shop? *Ideate*
  • What textures, colors, materials? *Ideate*
  • What is the overall emotional feeling of your business on this day? *Empathize/Ideate*
Video of NihonBashi Project at Cary Academy
2018 Changes to the project....

Teaching Brainstorming

Emphasizing the iteration/prototype process in the final product

Incorporate Arasma Software
Resources

• http://www.designthinkingforeducators.com/
• http://createdu.org/design-thinking/what-is-design-thinking/
• Nihonbashi Edo’s Contested Center http://www.eastasianhistory.org/17-18
• Kidai Shoran Scroll http://muza-chan.net/japan/index.php/blog/kidai-shoran
Questions? Feel free to contact us!

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