

**Lesson Title:** Watershed Documentary

**Curriculum:** Science, Social Studies, Art and Language arts

**Grade-Level Span:** 6 -12

**Prerequisites**

- Basic knowledge of *iMovie* software. Students will need about 60 minutes of direct instruction and then about 60 minutes to explore the program before beginning this project.
- Completion of a science unit on water resources.

**Washington State EALR Correlation**

Science – 2.1, 2.2, 3.2

Arts – 1.1, 3.3, 4.1, 4.4

Communication – 2.5

Writing – 3.1, 3.5

**National Educational Technology Standards for Students – Performance Indicators**

Grades 6-8: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Grades 9-12: 5, 8, 10

**Purpose**

Students research and produce an iMovie documentary about human and natural history of a stream basin (watershed)

**Description**

As a culminating activity to a poetry unit, students work in groups of three to five researching and gathering data relating to the history of a local watershed using the following methods:

- Interviews with long-term residents
- Visits to local and regional historical societies to review primary historical documents
- Interviews with natural resource agency representatives
- Collection of water quality data from creeks and comparison with historical data

**Activities**

1. Using the information from: interviews with long-term residents, visits to local and regional historical societies, reviews of primary historical documents, interviews with natural resource agency representatives and collection of water quality data from creeks and comparison with historical data students write a storyboard and script for an iMovie project that documents the human and natural impact on the creek and the watershed over the last 200 years.
2. Students shoot video footage using a digital video camera.
3. Students import the footage into iMovie and edit the clips, record narration, add a soundtrack from their iTunes library, and add text and other elements.
4. Students export the completed movies to QuickTime and burn them on a CD, export them to videotape, or use iDVD software and a SuperDrive to include them on a DVD.
5. When their projects are complete, students present their documentaries at a community forum.

## **Tools and Resources**

- iLife Software (iMovie, iTunes, iDVD)
- One Computer per student group.
- One computer located in a quiet place for voice recording.
- Digital video camera
- Internet connection.
- Word processing software.

## **Assessment**

The students can be assessed using the following criteria:

- The finished movie can be assessed using a rubric that addresses ideas and content, organization, and the appropriate and skillful use of technology.
- Students can also be evaluated based on the public showing of the movies to community members. They can articulate their understanding of the project outcomes as they answer questions posed to them from the audience.

## **Credits**

This lesson was authored by Mike Freeborn, Andrew Gilford, and Lee Ann Norbury.  
Original lesson posted at: [http://ali.apple.com/ali\\_sites/ali/exhibits/1001111/](http://ali.apple.com/ali_sites/ali/exhibits/1001111/)

## **Links and Resources:**

iMovie at a glance, Mac 101 basics and Hot Tips from Apple

<http://homepage.mac.com/eportfolios/Public/iMovie4AtAGlance.pdf>

<http://www.apple.com/support/mac101/work/13/>

<http://www.apple.com/support/imovie/hottips/>

## **iMovie tutorials:**

11 video tutorial clips

<http://www.apple.com/support/imovie/tutorial/index.html>

Lesson 1: Getting your video into iMovie

<http://manuals.info.apple.com/en/iMovieLesson1.pdf>

Lesson 2: Removing unwanted scenes

<http://manuals.info.apple.com/en/iMovieLesson2.pdf>

Lesson 3: Adding transitions and photos

<http://manuals.info.apple.com/en/iMovieLesson3.pdf>

Lesson 4: Adding motion and video effects

<http://manuals.info.apple.com/en/iMovieLesson4.pdf>

Lesson 5: Adding titles and chapter markers

<http://manuals.info.apple.com/en/iMovieLesson5.pdf>

Lesson 6: Working with sound

<http://manuals.info.apple.com/en/iMovieLesson6.pdf>

Lesson 7: Watching your finished movie

<http://manuals.info.apple.com/en/iMovieLesson7.pdf>