

How to Use the OurStoryBridge Teacher's Guide

What is an OurStoryBridge project?

OurStoryBridge is the free resource and tool kit for producing a crowdsourced, community, online story project emphasizing audio history collecting and sharing based on the Keene Valley (NY) Library's **Adirondack Community** model, but adaptable for any community or topics. Communities across the country are starting their own, local *OurStoryBridge* story projects. Over 300 three-to five-minute stories with accompanying photos and podcasts from **OurStoryBridge** projects are suggested for classroom use and more are added frequently.

Why should I use these stories in my classroom? What do they add to current resources?

Meet your students in the media that compels them. Use these continually updated stories and podcasts from *OurStoryBridge* projects across the country by assigning stories relevant to a lesson as homework, playing them in the classroom, or suggesting them for activities or projects. Use them to introduce a topic, make a concept memorable, or stimulate discussion, making your classes appealing and memorable.

Bring your lessons to life. As primary sources with audio and visual content, lessons come alive. Students connect what they are learning in the classroom to the real world, past, and present.

How can I use *OurStoryBridge* project stories and podcasts in my classroom?

1. All stories and podcasts currently catalogued are in **Story Summaries**; click the hyperlinked title for each story to play it.
2. For middle and high school classes, click on the **Story Selection Chart**. Review categories like Social Studies, STEM, or English. Under those categories find courses closest to what you are teaching. Click the hyperlinked title for each story or podcast to play it.
3. For stories that may have specific interest for elementary school or college classes, go directly to **Story Summaries** to make your story and podcast selections from the final column. Click the hyperlinked title for each story to play it.
4. In both the **Story Selection Chart** and **Story Summaries**, stories and podcasts are identified by the same number.
5. In addition to building the stories into your lessons, you can give students instructions on how to find and listen to specific stories and podcasts or you can construct assignments for them like in this **Sample School Assignment**.
6. You and the students can also go directly to the local story project websites listed at the top on **Story Summaries**.

Why are there so many Adirondack Community stories?

Adirondack Community is the first *OurStoryBridge* project and serves as the model. As with all the *OurStoryBridge* projects, the stories and podcasts have relevance beyond each local community's borders, in any classroom.

What are the podcasts?

At this time, podcasts are only available on **Adirondack Community**, the original *OurStoryBridge* project. Other projects will create their own podcasts and all will be linked as produced. Podcasts of about 20- to 25-minutes combine stories on a specific topic, often timely, and include narration.

Who told these stories?

The storytellers are from communities across the country and their stories teach universal lessons. The challenges residents have faced, historical relevance of residents and visitors, cultural and outdoor activities, and surprises have meaning beyond their location. Stories recently added include those from the Igiugig indigenous tribe in Alaska, Tremonton, a community near Salt Lake City, Utah; and Lake Placid, New York, from the North Elba-Lake Placid Historical Society.

For more information email createyourstoryproject@gmail.com.