Esri Story Maps Overview

Logging in to Esri Story Maps
Go to https://storymaps.arcgis.com/en/ and click Sign In. Enter the username and password provided.

Once you have signed in, either click on My Stories or go to https://storymaps.arcgis.com/en/my-stories/.

Creating a new Story Map or Editing an Existing Map
Click on Create Story to start creating a new map. If you have already created a map, locate it in the list and click on it, then click Edit Story to begin editing it.

Creating your First Map
After creating a new Story Map, select the Map Tour option.

The Map Tour Builder will appear. For the purposes of this exercise, you will be uploading your own images, so select I need to upload my images. You will be asked to name the map layer, so call this whatever you want to. Leave Folder alone, then click Create the Layer. You can also connect a Flickr or Picasa (Google Photos) account, or use YouTube if you are using videos.

You will be taken into the Builder Mode at this point, where you will create your points and add media.

For the purposes of this activity, you will create 4 markers, each at a unique geographic location, using images you find from the Internet. If you don’t want to be creative, you can use the following points: Where you were born, your favorite vacation spot, your currently location, and a place you would like to visit in the future.

Remember to Save often!

Map Title and Subtitle
Click on the pencil/edit icon next to the Title and Subtitle of the map at the top left to change them.

Adding Markers
Click Add to add markers to your map. There are three components to a marker:

- **Media**: If uploading your own images, you will need to drag and drop each image here.
- **Information**: Add a name and caption for your media here.
- **Location**: Drag and drop the marker to place it where your marker goes. You can zoom in and out here. You can also search for locations, or click the target icon to take you to your current GPS location. There are only 4 options for colors with this particular map tour. If you took the images with a phone, they may have EXIF data attached, meaning Story Map will try to locate the images on the map automatically.

Settings
There are a few settings you can adjust in Map Tour.
- **Layout**: Pick one of the layout options. Checking the **Display a locate button box** will put a button on the map that will check your GPS location and take you to your coordinates on the map.
- **Colors**: You can change the colors for the header, footer, and content if you want.
- **Header**: You can change the logo at the top, add links, and social media sharing.
- **Data**: Normally you will not want to adjust these settings.
- **Extent**: After all of your markers have been placed, click the **Use Map Tour extent** option and click **Apply**. This will make sure your map encompasses all of your points.
- **Zoom level**: While this may seem like something to play with, generally you want to leave it alone.

**Editing the Map**

On the map, click the **Change Basemap** button and change to a map option you think looks well.

Markers can be moved after you have added your images. To move a marker, click on the image corresponding with the marker at the bottom of the screen, then click and drag the marker to a new location. You can zoom in and out to help place markers, but this will not affect the presentation of the final map.

Marker colors can be changed as well.

**Editing Markers**

To change the order the markers appear when clicking through, click **Organize**, then drag and drop the markers in the order you want.

Click on the **pencil/edit** icon next to the title and description of the marker image to update them. Do not use too much text, as it will force your audience to have to do a lot of scrolling. The default title of the image will be the filename of the image, and the description will say **Edit me!** until you change it.

**Image Orientation, or, Why Doesn't it Look Right?**

Horizontal pictures seem to work best with Story Map. If your image is more vertical than horizontal, you may want to use an image editing software to crop the image in a horizontal/landscape manner. Pixlr is a free, online image editor if you don't have access to Photoshop or similar program.