

Storytelling Digital Story Project: Guiding Questions

Stories can take so many formats, and use many different methods. We would love to receive many different versions of stories: audio podcasts, video day-in-my-life stories, re-told fables and fairy tales, and family histories. Because of the global nature of ePals, we have the ability to share culture and information about different ways of life through stories.

When creating your story project, we suggest that stories address one of the following areas:

- **Culture:** Tell a story from your country, or set in your country. Help students who don't live there learn and understand something new about your culture, traditions and day-to-day life.
- **Classic Stories:** Cinderella is told in many versions around the world. Re-tell a classic with a modern twist, or tell a version that comes from your country.
- **Myths:** Write your own myth, creating your own explanation for how some part of the natural world came to be.
- **Day-in-your-life:** Digital stories that show a day in the life of your students are a wonderful way for ePals around the world to learn about students around the world.
- **History and Tradition:** Storytelling is an ancient art. Important values have been passed down through the generations via storytellers. Continue this important tradition by sharing stories with a new generation of listeners.
- **Family Histories:** Help students preserve family histories by interviewing family members and writing their stories.

Important items to remember:

- ✓ Digital stories and videos should be no more than **five minutes**.
- ✓ We accept the following video formats: mpg, .mp3, .mp4, .mov, .wma, .avi, .flv. We cannot accept .mswmm (Microsoft Windows Movie Maker).
- ✓ **Maintain ePals Privacy Regulations.** Do not include student last names, cities or ages in your stories. When telling family histories, be careful not to reveal personally identifying information.
- ✓ Please cite all sources at the end of your video.
- ✓ Where possible, let your students do the talking. Young ePals around the world are most interested in listening to their peers.
- ✓ If your students are under the age of 13, please be sure that you have parents sign permission slips that permit their children's likenesses to be posted on our website. [Click here to download the form.](#)
- ✓ Please feel free to have students speak in your native language. But remember, many students who are not native speakers will be watching the video. Speak clearly. English subtitles are a great addition if your video is completed in another language.