



LEGENDS

THE LEGENDS FACILITATOR'S TOOLKIT

4. Exploring Local Stories: Urban Storytelling

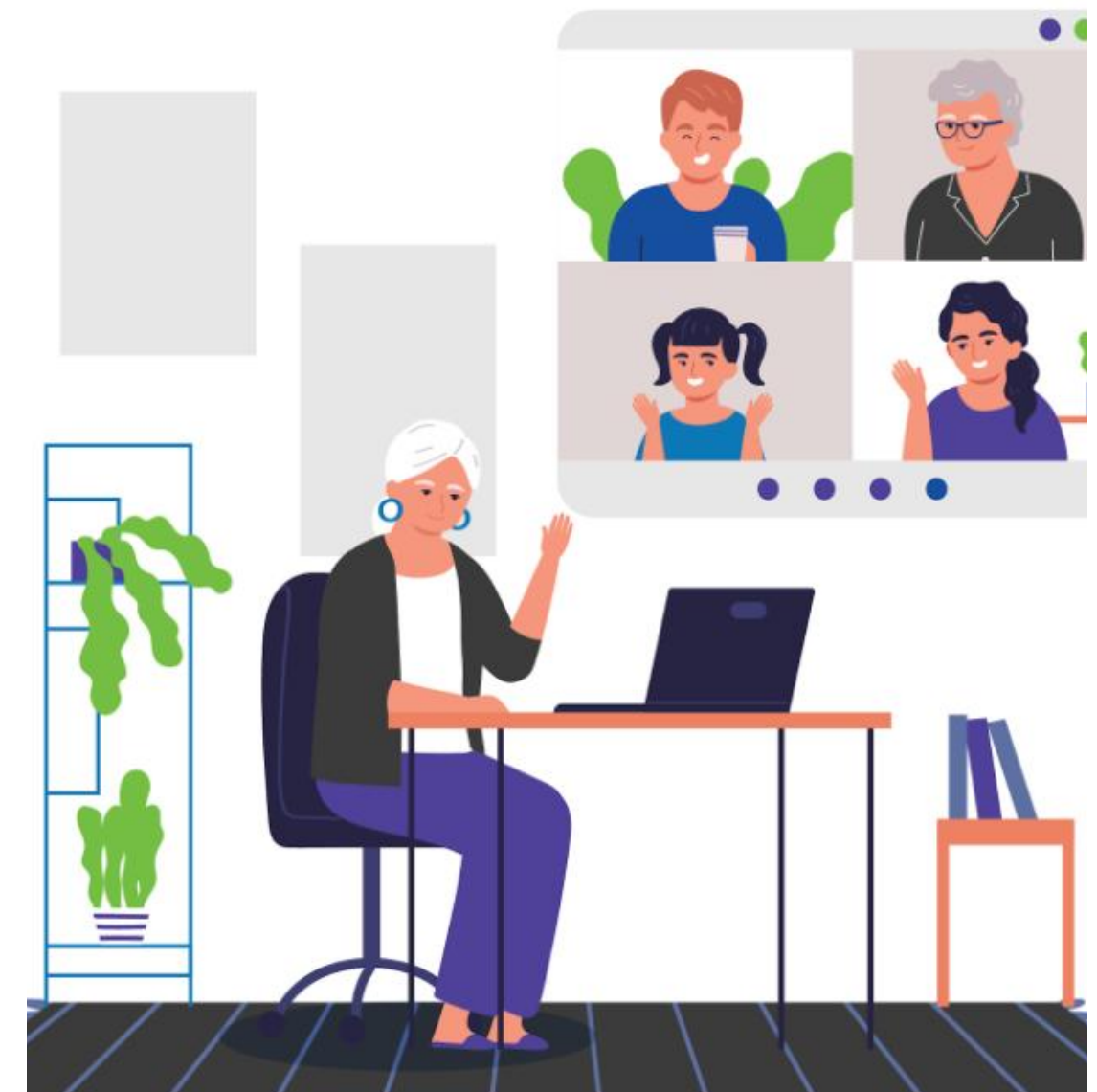


**Co-funded by
the European Union**

Funded by the European Union. However, the opinions expressed are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union or the Erasmus+ National Agency (INDIRE). Neither the European Union nor the funding authority can be held responsible for them.
Project Number: 2025-1-IT02-KA220-ADU-000352101

How to use this Resource

This guidebook is a practical companion to the **Urban Storytelling** module. It gives the facilitator everything they need to understand, teach, and troubleshoot each digital tool used in the activities. Facilitators do not need to be technology experts to use this guide. Each section is written in plain language and structured so you can find what you need quickly.



How to use this Resource: A note on skill levels

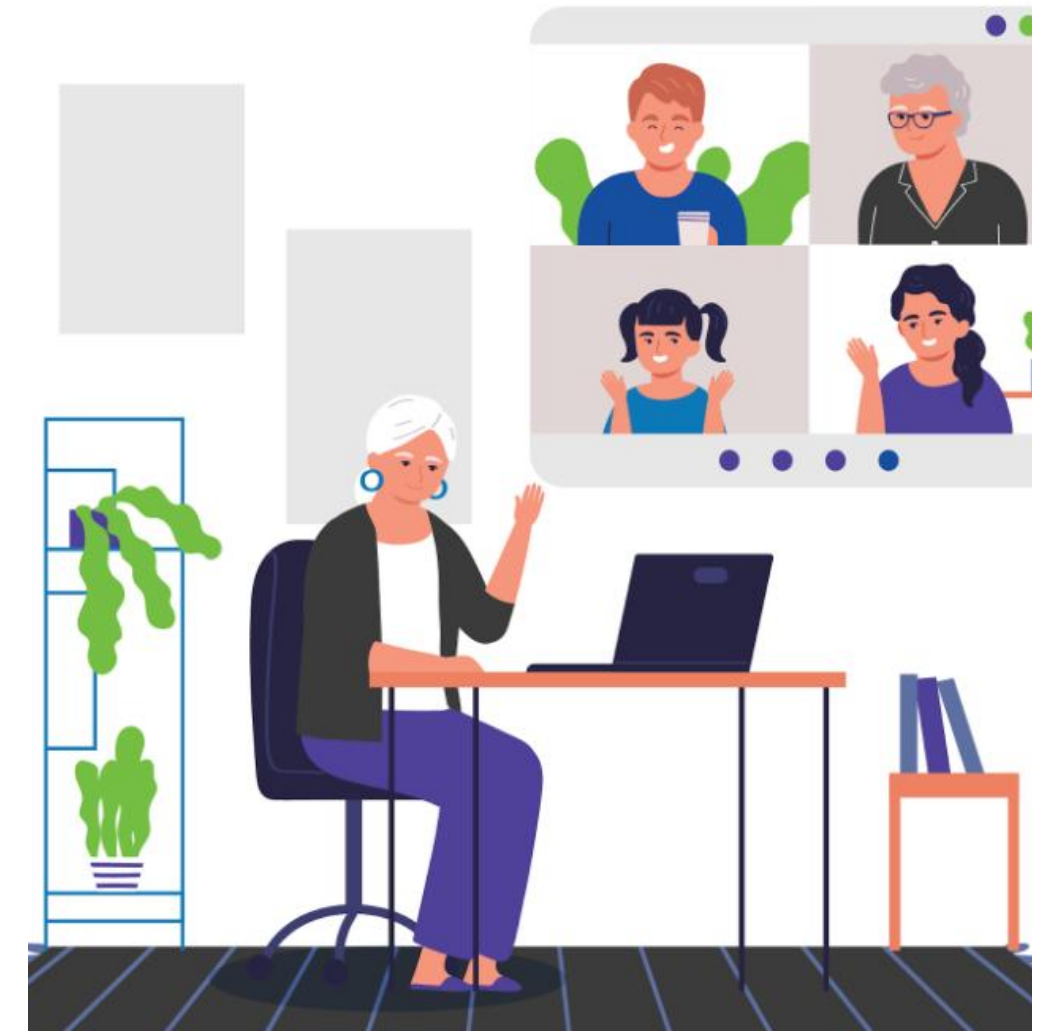
The module defines three skill levels for each activity: Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced. The tools in this guide map onto those levels as follows:

Basic: Paper maps, printed screenshots, verbal narration, no app required

Intermediate: Google Slides or Canva, simple drag-and-drop tools, free accounts

Advanced: ArcGIS StoryMaps or Google My Maps, more features, slightly steeper learning curve

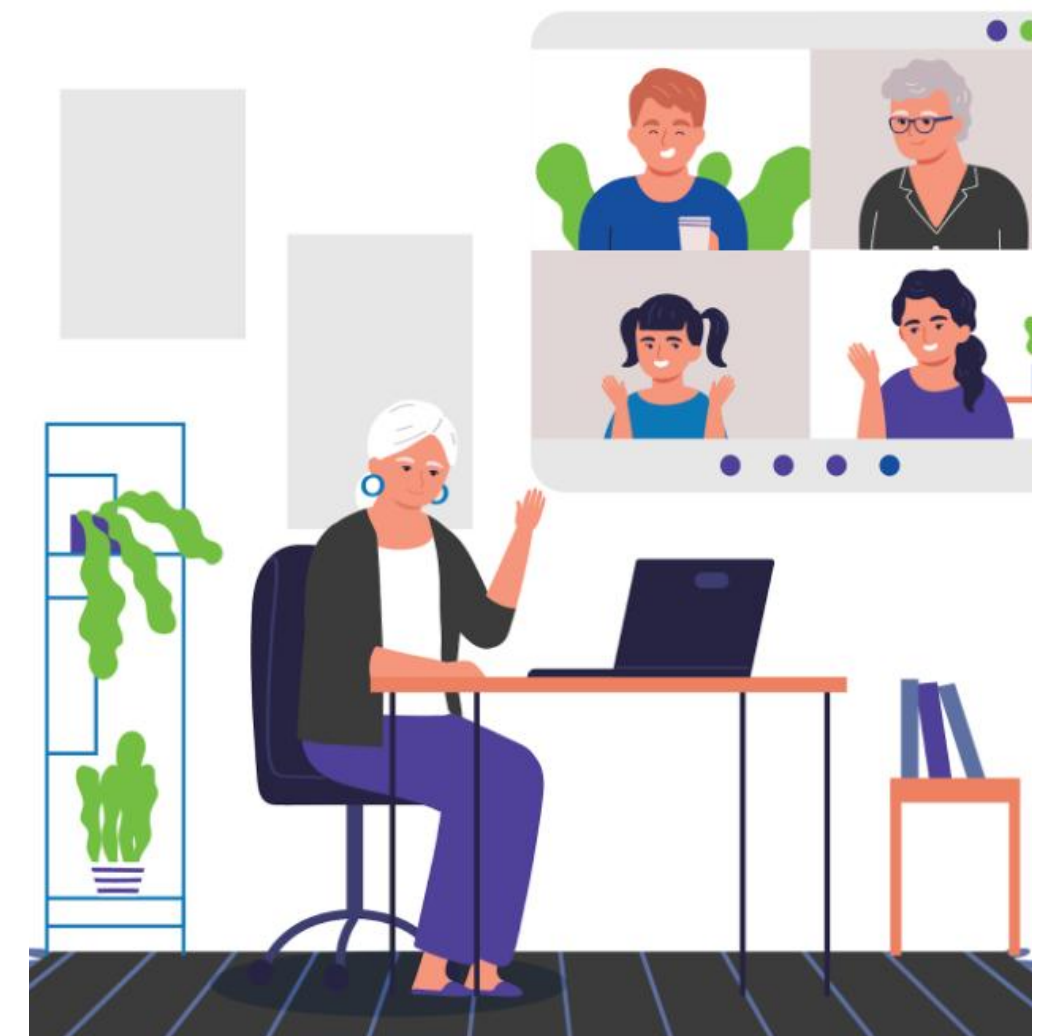
“Remember! There is no need to use every tool. Read through each section, decide which fits your group's comfort level, and focus your preparation there”.



How to use this Resource: How each tool section is organized

Every tool section follows the same structure:

- **What it is:** a plain-language description of the tool and what it is designed for
- **At a Glance:** key facts such as platform availability, account requirements, and pricing at a single glance
- **Why it matters for Urban Storytelling:** how the tool connects to the activities in the module
- **Tips for facilitators:** tested advice for smooth sessions
- **Pricing overview:** a clear breakdown of free and paid options
- **Helpful links:** curated tutorials, help pages, and video guides



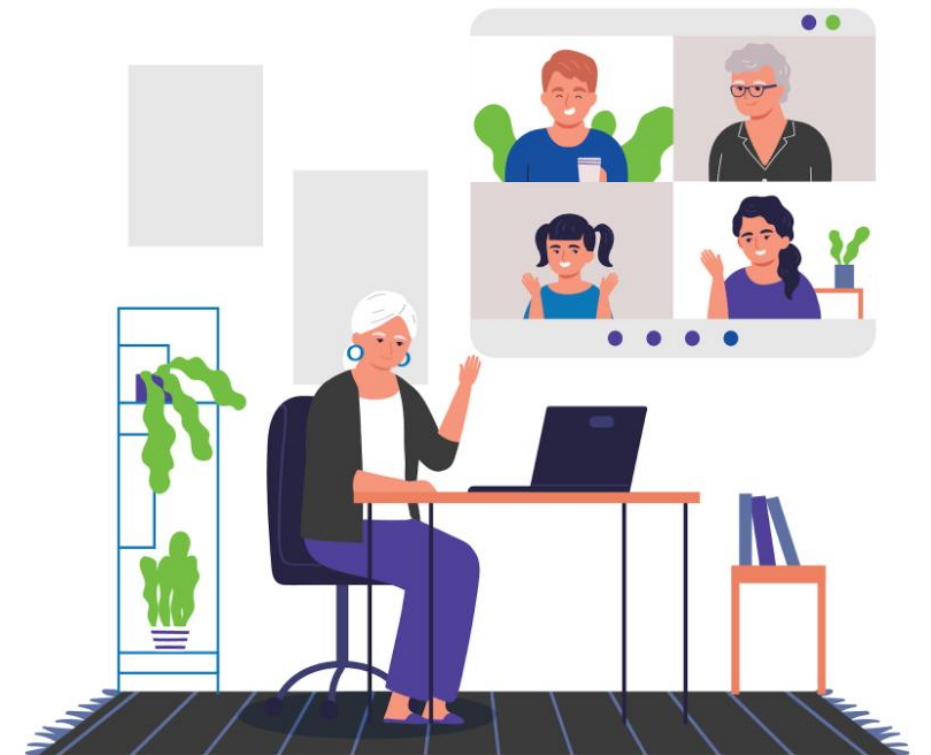
Create and share custom interactive maps. No GIS expertise needed

What is Google My Maps?

Google My Maps is a free, browser-based tool that lets anyone build a personalized, shareable map on top of Google's familiar satellite and street-level imagery.

Unlike the standard Google Maps application, which is for navigation, My Maps is a creation tool. You can add pins, draw shapes, write descriptions, attach photographs, and embed links, turning a map into a layered, visual story about a place.

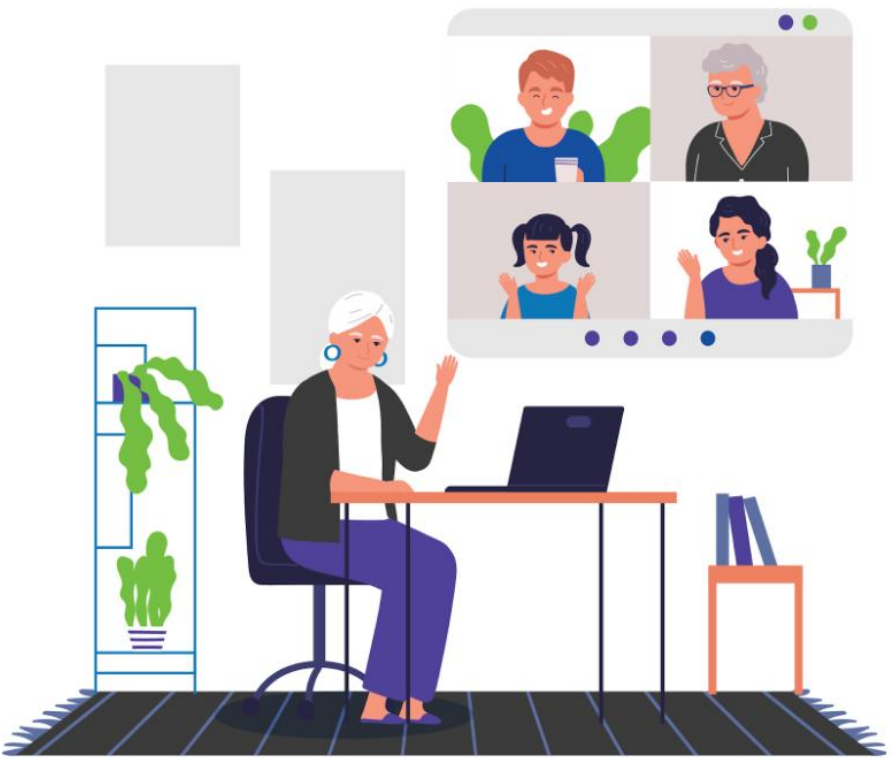
For urban storytelling, My Maps is ideal because it requires no installation, works on any device with a browser, and produces maps that participants can view on their own phones without needing an account. A facilitator can create a 'base' map before the session, then invite participants to add their own story pins during the activity.



Create and share custom interactive maps. No GIS expertise needed

At a Glance

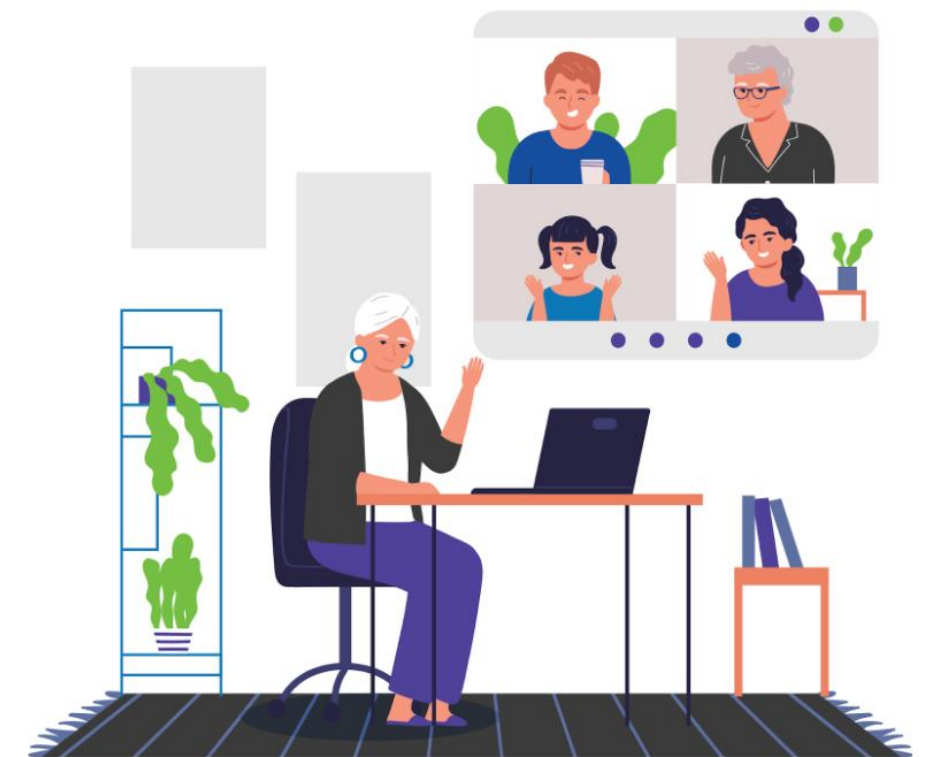
Website	mymaps.google.com
Platform	Web browser (Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Edge) + Google Maps mobile app
Account required?	Yes (a free Google account is required to create and edit maps)
Cost to create	Free
Cost to view	Free (shared maps can be viewed without an account)
Offline use	Limited (maps must be prepared online; viewing offline is possible via the mobile app)
Best for	Intermediate to Advanced skill level; also accessible to Basic users with facilitator support



Create and share custom interactive maps. No GIS expertise needed

Why It Matters for Urban Storytelling?

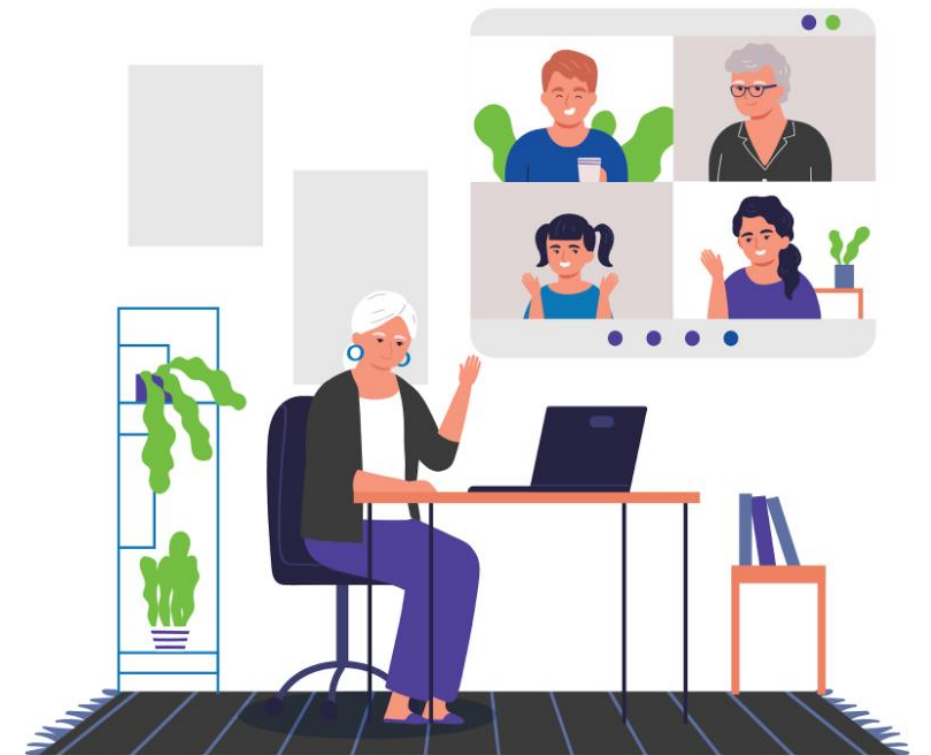
Story mapping is one of the core methodologies in the module. Google My Maps allows participants to physically place their personal narratives on a geographic canvas. A story about a demolished building becomes a pin on the block where it once stood. A memory of a market stall is anchored to the street corner it occupied. This spatial anchoring makes abstract memories tangible and reveals how different generations experienced the same city from different vantage points, the central insight of the module's intergenerational activities.



Create and share custom interactive maps. No GIS expertise needed

Tips for Facilitators

- Create the base map with the key neighborhood locations before the session. Participants should spend their time adding stories, not learning navigation.
- Test the share link on a mobile phone before the session. Some network configurations block Google services.
- If participants do not have Google accounts, they can still view the map via the share link, and you can add their story pins on their behalf during the session.
- Print a screenshot of the map as a backup for participants who have difficulty with devices or connectivity.



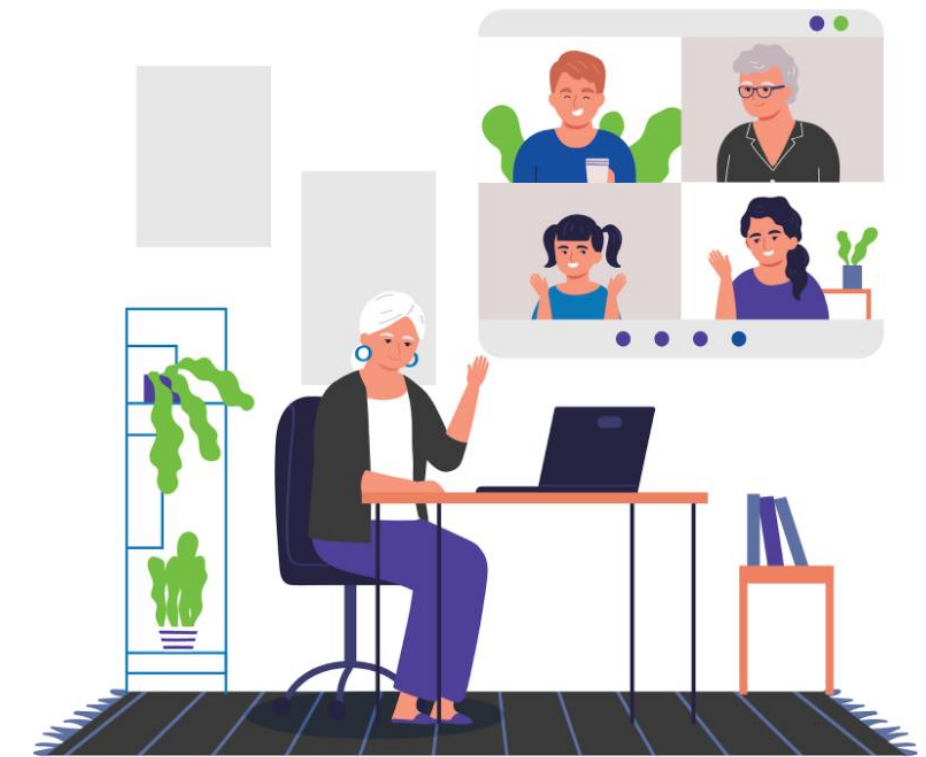
Create and share custom interactive maps. No GIS expertise needed

Pricing Overview

- ✓ FREE — Google My Maps is completely free for all users. There is no paid tier.
- ✓ FREE — Viewing shared maps requires no account and no payment.
- ✓ FREE — Embedding maps on websites is free.
- i The only requirement is a free Google account to create or edit a map.
- i Google Workspace (paid, for organizations) offers additional collaboration features, but is not needed for this module.

Helpful Links

-  Google My Maps homepage: <https://mymaps.google.com>
-  Official Google My Maps Help Centre: <https://support.google.com/mymaps>
-  Getting started tutorial (Google): <https://support.google.com/mymaps/answer/3024454>
-  Video: Create a custom map in My Maps (YouTube):
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=google+my+maps+tutorial+beginners



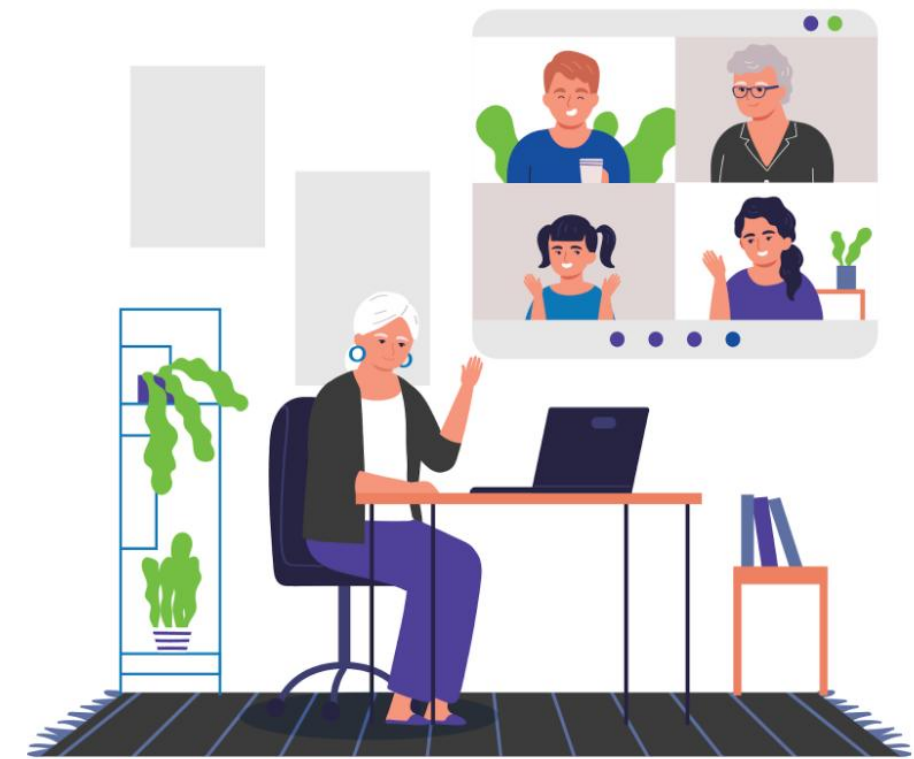
Craft immersive, map-centered narratives that combine text, media, and geography

What is ArcGIS StoryMaps?

ArcGIS StoryMaps is a web-based platform developed by Esri, the world's leading GIS (Geographic Information Systems) company. It allows users to weave together maps, photographs, videos, audio clips, and written text into a single, scroll-based digital narrative, a 'StoryMap'. The result is a rich, immersive presentation that is far more geographically expressive than a slide deck.

Unlike a standard website or blog, a StoryMap places geography at the heart of the story. As a reader scrolls through the narrative, the map automatically pans, zooms, and highlights relevant locations, giving the reader a genuine sense of moving through urban space.

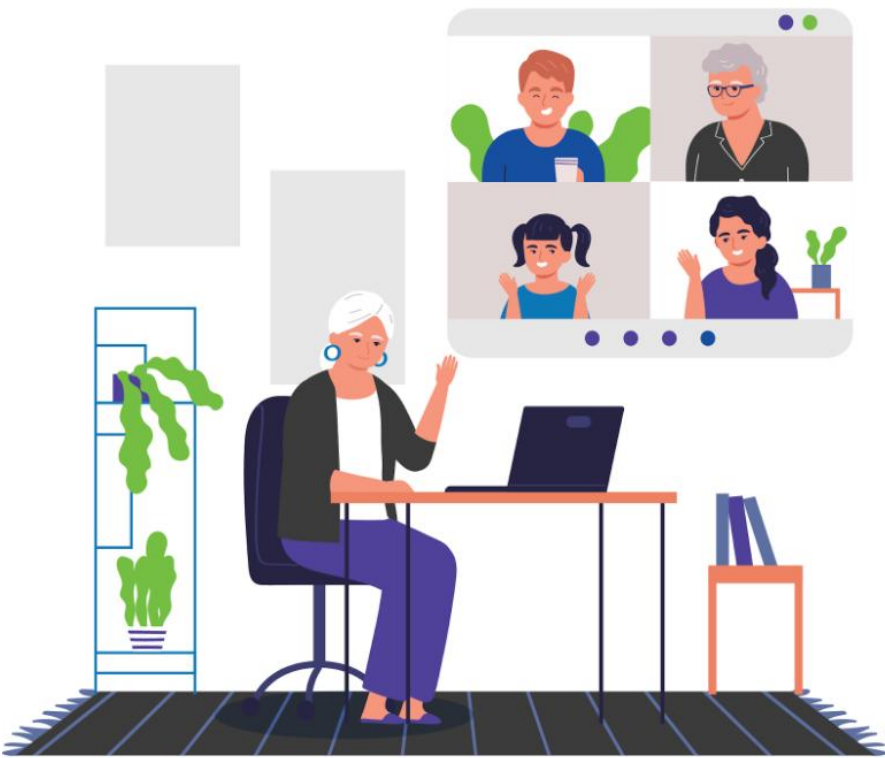
For experienced participants, StoryMaps represent the most powerful storytelling format in the module's Advanced skill tier.



Craft immersive, map-centered narratives that combine text, media, and geography

At a Glance

Website	storymaps.arcgis.com
Platform	Web browser (best on Chrome or Edge); tablet-friendly; no app download required
Account required?	Yes (a free ArcGIS public account or an organizational account is needed to create)
Cost to create	Free tier available (ArcGIS public account); paid options for advanced features
Cost to view	Free (published Story Maps can be viewed by anyone without an account)
Offline use	No (requires an internet connection to create and view)
Best for	Advanced skill level; intermediate users can engage with simplified story sections

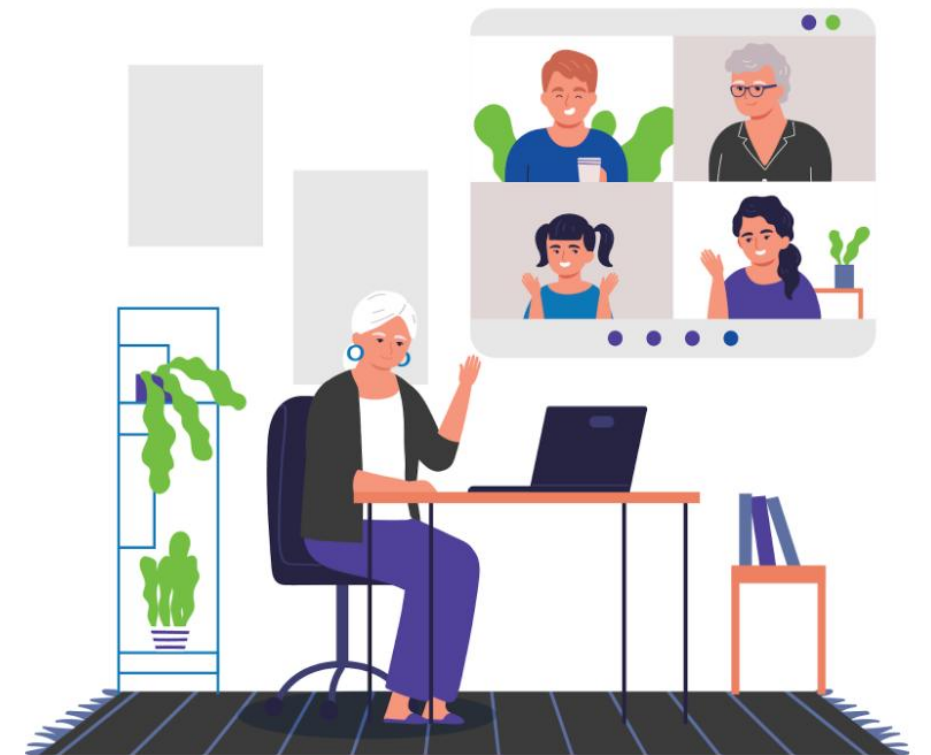


Craft immersive, map-centered narratives that combine text, media, and geography

Why It Matters for Urban Storytelling?

ArcGIS StoryMaps is the most sophisticated tool in the module's toolkit. It directly supports the section on Mapping and Visual Storytelling (section 4.1), which describes how mapping reveals the polyvocal nature of urban experience by allowing multiple temporalities and perspectives to coexist in the same geographic frame. A StoryMap can hold a participant's audio narration, their photograph of a current street scene, a historical archive image of the same location, and a precise geographic pin, all in a single, scrollable, shareable URL.

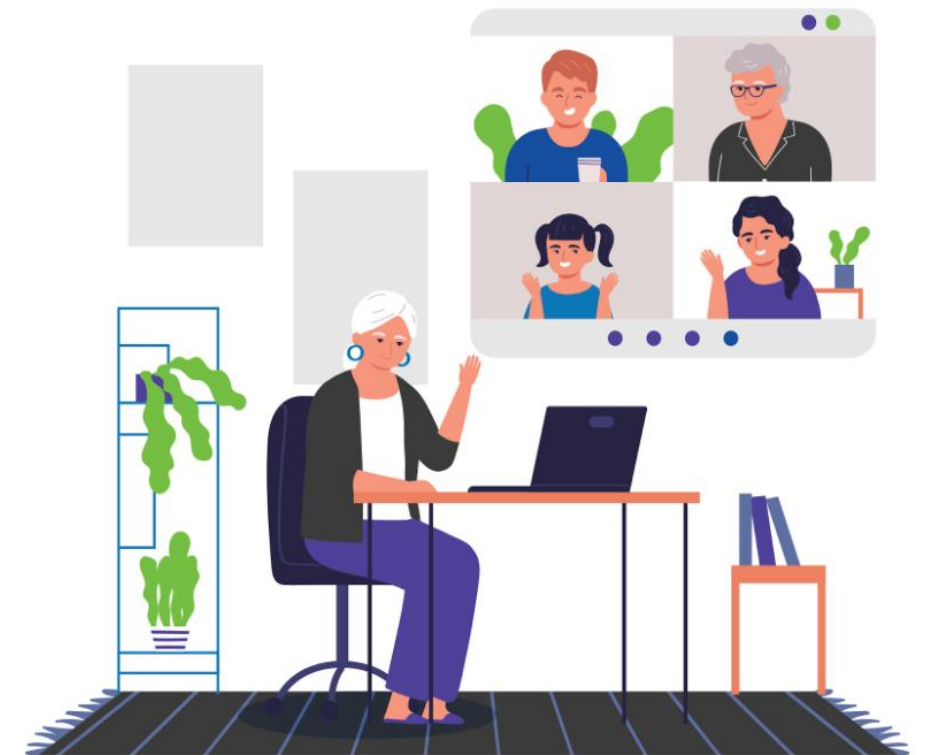
The Advanced version of both activities in the module (Activity 1 and Activity 2) asks participants to create a StoryMap with a location pin, photo, audio clip, and short caption. This is achievable within a 60-minute session if participants have a brief orientation to the tool beforehand.



Craft immersive, map-centered narratives that combine text, media, and geography

Tips for Facilitators

- Create a sample StoryMap before the session and share the link with participants as a model. Seeing a finished example dramatically reduces setup anxiety.
- The 'Guided map tour' template is the fastest way to create a location-based narrative. It generates a side-by-side layout of map and content automatically.
- Audio files must be uploaded as MP3 or M4A. iPhone voice memos export as M4A by default. Android recordings are usually MP3. Both work well.
- If participants struggle with account creation during the session, one facilitator account can be used to publish stories on participants' behalf, with their names credited in the text.
- Esri offers free educational licences for schools and non-profit organisations. Apply at esri.com/en-us/industries/education



Craft immersive, map-centered narratives that combine text, media, and geography

Pricing Overview

☑ FREE — ArcGIS public account: create and publish stories with core features. Limited cloud storage.

☑ FREE — Viewing published stories requires no account.

💰 PAID — ArcGIS Online subscription (via organizational account): full GIS capabilities, team management, advanced map layers. Pricing varies — contact Esri.

🎓 FREE for education — Esri offers free organizational accounts to qualifying schools and non-profits.

ℹ For the activities in this module, a free public account is fully sufficient.

Helpful Links

- 🔗 ArcGIS StoryMaps homepage: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com>
- 🔗 Create a free ArcGIS public account: <https://www.arcgis.com/sharing/rest/oauth2/signup>
- 🔗 StoryMaps tutorial library (Esri): <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/cea22a609a1d4cccb8d54c650b595bc4>
- 🔗 StoryMaps Help documentation: <https://doc.arcgis.com/en/arcgis-storymaps/get-started/what-is-arcgis-storymaps.htm>
- 🔗 Esri education programme: <https://www.esri.com/en-us/industries/education/overview>

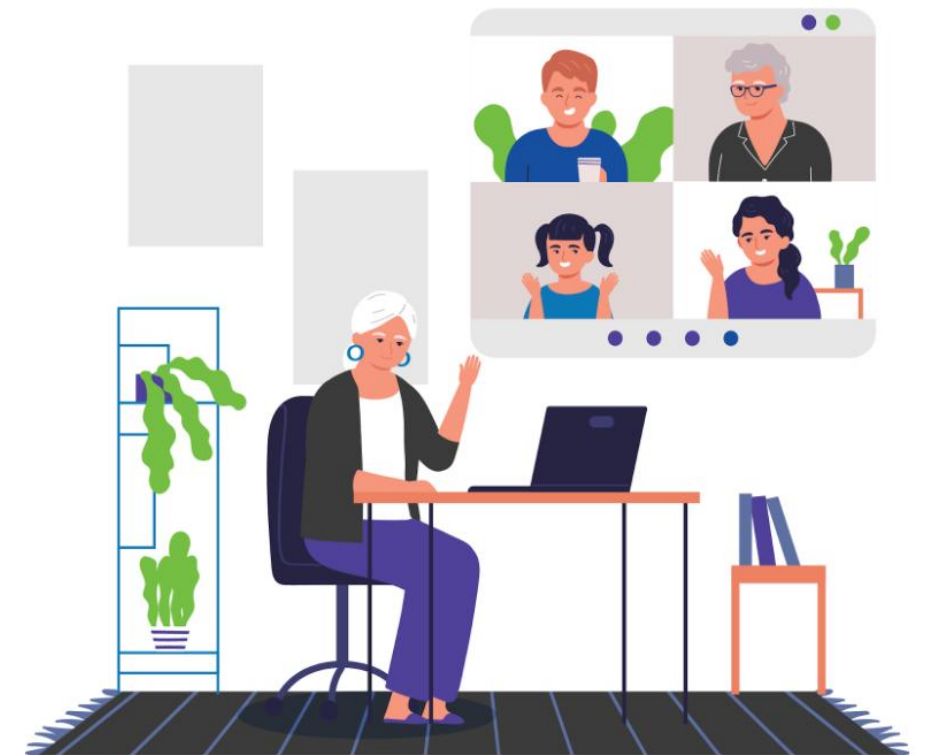


Design beautiful visual stories without any graphic design experience

What is Canva?

Canva is a free, browser-based graphic design platform that allows anyone to create professional-looking visual content without any prior design experience. It offers thousands of customisable templates for presentations, posters, social media posts, infographics, photo collages, and much more. Users simply drag and drop images, text, and design elements onto a canvas and export their finished work as a PDF, image, or shareable link.

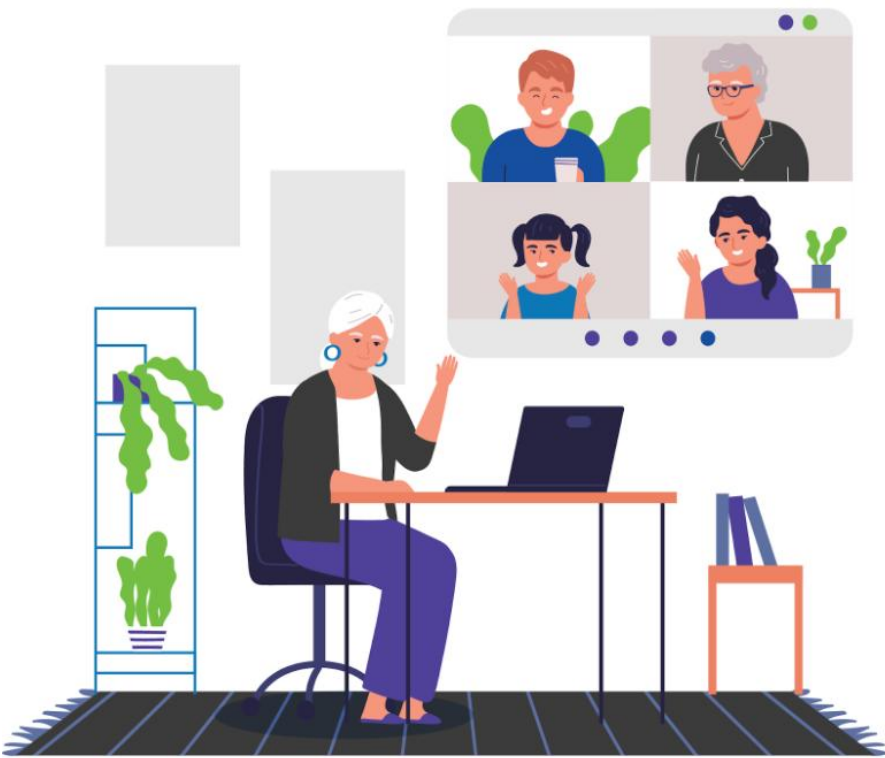
Canva is one of the most widely used tools in education and community settings precisely because its learning curve is very gentle. A participant who has never used design software can produce a polished two-slide visual story within 10 minutes of opening the tool for the first time.



Design beautiful visual stories without any graphic design experience

At a Glance

Website	canva.com
Mobile apps	Available on iOS (App Store) and Android (Google Play) (free download)
Account required?	Yes (a free account is required. Sign up with email, Google, or Facebook).
Cost to use	Free tier is generous and covers all module activity needs
Paid tier	Canva Pro (approx. €13/month or €110/year) (extra templates, brand kit, background remover)
Offline use	No (requires an internet connection; the mobile app has limited offline editing).
Best for	Intermediate skill level; accessible to all participants from about age 12 upwards



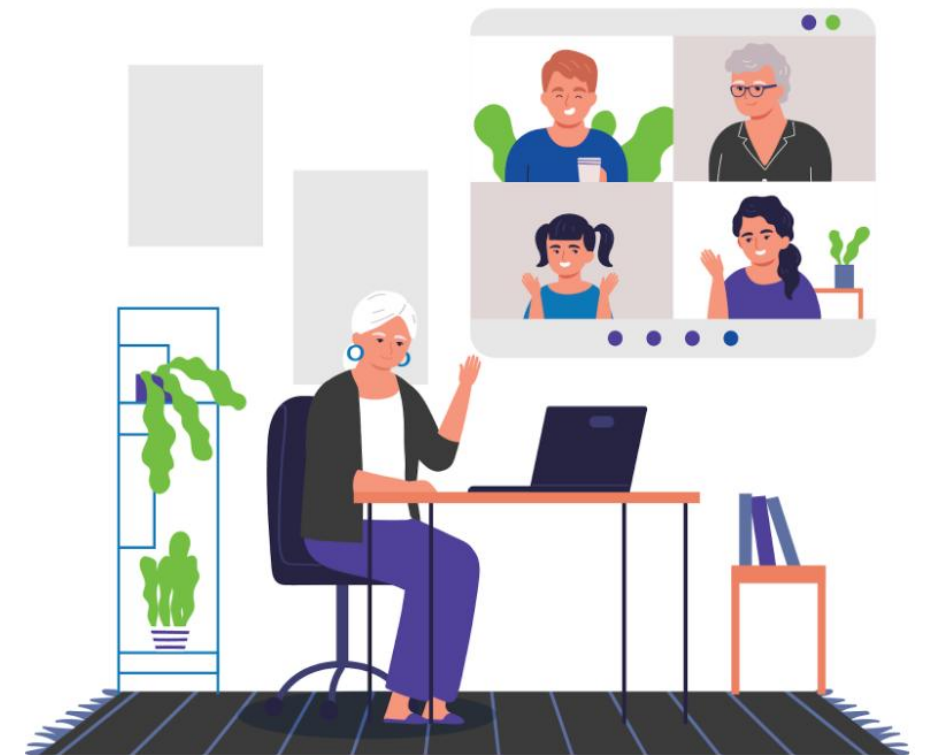
Design beautiful visual stories without any graphic design experience

Why It Matters for Urban Storytelling?

Both activities in the module ask participants to assemble a visual story from photographs and audio narration. Canva is the recommended tool for the Intermediate skill level in both Activity 1 (Streets I Know) and Activity 2 (The City Through Two Lenses).

The module specifically describes Canva as an accessible tool for creating simple two or three-slide visual stories that combine photographs with a short title, focusing on emotional and historical meaning rather than technical polish.

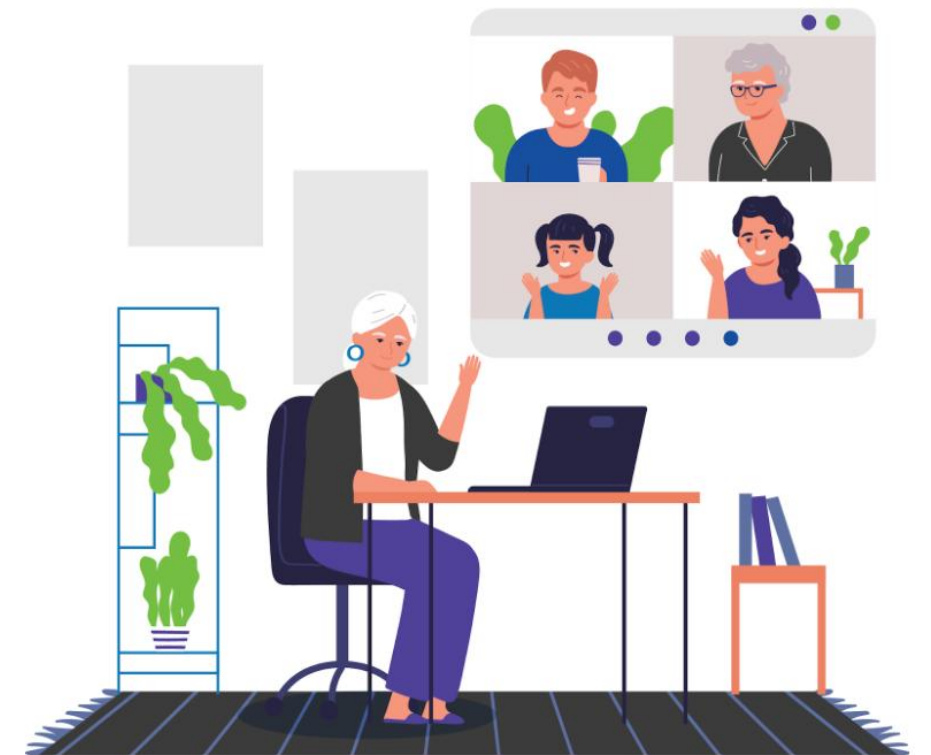
Canva's photo layout templates are particularly useful for Activity 2, where participants create a side-by-side 'then and now' comparison of the same urban space photographed at different times. A two-panel template can be set up in under two minutes



Design beautiful visual stories without any graphic design experience

Tips for Facilitators

- Before the session, create a blank two-slide template and share the edit link with participants. This removes the need for everyone to navigate templates independently and saves valuable time.
- Canva for Education is a free upgraded plan for teachers and educational institutions. Apply at canva.com/education, which includes all Pro features at no cost.
- If participants are working on shared devices, log into one Canva account per device and use the 'Duplicate page' function so each pair starts from the same template.
- Mobile users can work directly in the Canva app. The interface is slightly different from the desktop version, but the core steps are the same.
- The 'Photo collage' template category is especially useful for Activity 2. Search 'side by side photo' in the template search bar for ready-made layouts.



Design beautiful visual stories without any graphic design experience

Pricing Overview

✓ FREE — Canva Free: access to 250,000+ templates, 5GB cloud storage, basic design tools. Sufficient for all module activities.

💰 Canva Pro: approx. €13/month or ~€110/year. Extra templates, 1TB storage, brand kit, background remover, and premium media.

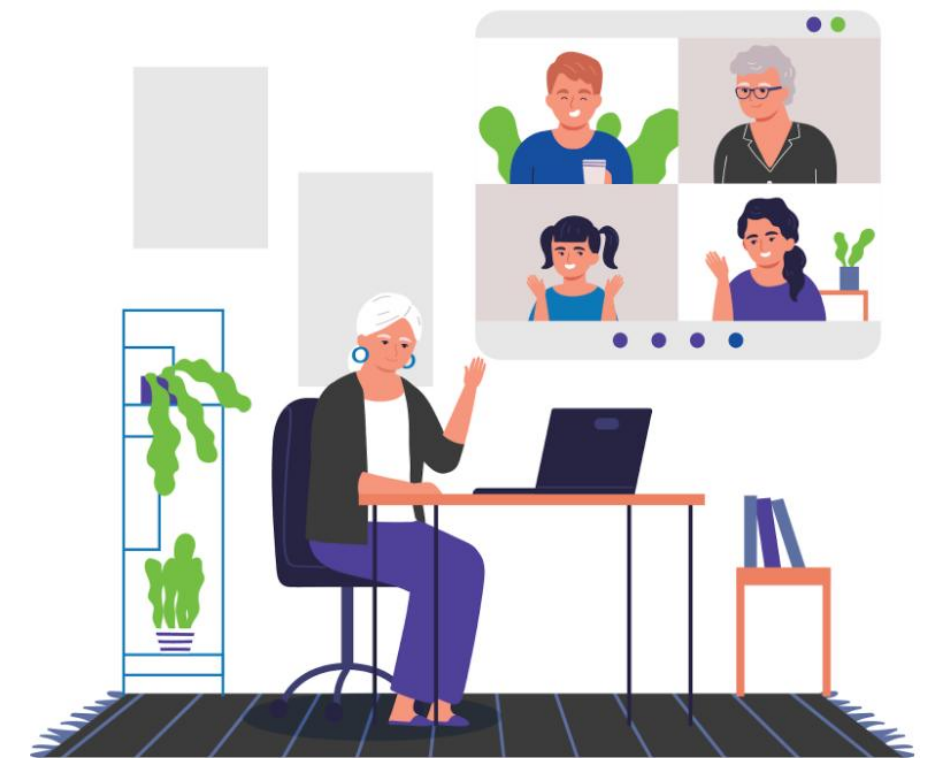
🎓 FREE for education — Canva for Education: all Pro features free for verified teachers and their students.

👥 Canva for Teams: from approx. €27/month for 5 users. Collaborative brand management.

ℹ️ The free tier is fully sufficient for all activities in this module. Pro is not required.

Helpful Links

- 🔗 Canva homepage: <https://www.canva.com>
- 🔗 Canva for Education (free Pro plan for teachers): <https://www.canva.com/education/>
- 🔗 Canva Design School tutorials: <https://www.canva.com/designschool/>
- 🔗 Canva Help Centre: <https://www.canva.com/help/>
- 🔗 Canva iOS app (App Store): <https://apps.apple.com/app/canva/id897446215>
- 🔗 Canva Android app (Google Play): <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.canva.editor>

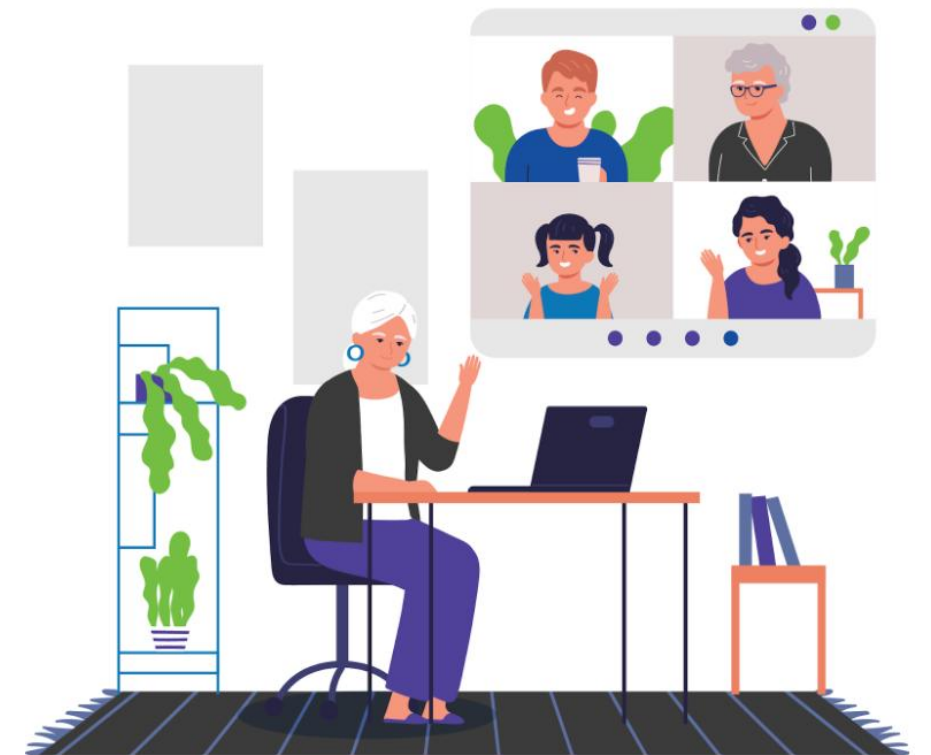


Collaborative, browser-based presentations; the simplest route from story to screen

What is Google Slides?

Google Slides is a free, browser-based presentation application included in Google Workspace. It functions similarly to Microsoft PowerPoint but runs entirely online, which means participants can work on the same presentation simultaneously from different devices, a major advantage in collaborative workshop settings. There is nothing to install, and documents are saved automatically to Google Drive every few seconds.

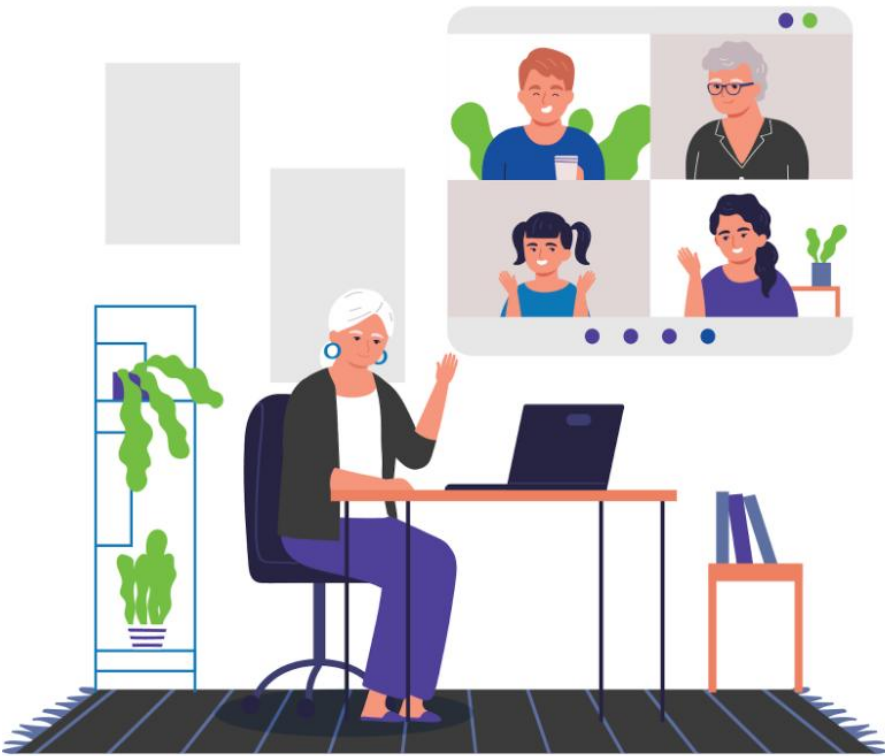
Google Slides is familiar to most participants who have used a school or office computer in the past decade. Its interface is intentionally simple, making it an ideal choice for the Intermediate skill level activities in this module, where the goal is to create a clear, two or three-slide visual story without the distraction of advanced design features.



Collaborative, browser-based presentations; the simplest route from story to screen

At a Glance

Website	slides.google.com (or access via Google Drive at drive.google.com)
Mobile apps	Google Slides app, free on iOS and Android
Account required?	Yes (a free Google account is required to create. Viewers do not need an account).
Cost	Completely free for individuals. Google Workspace (paid) for organizations adds admin tools.
Offline use	Possible with the Chrome browser extension enabled, or via the mobile app
Collaboration	Real-time multi-user editing, up to 100 simultaneous editors on one file
Best for	Intermediate skill level; also suitable for Basic users with facilitator support

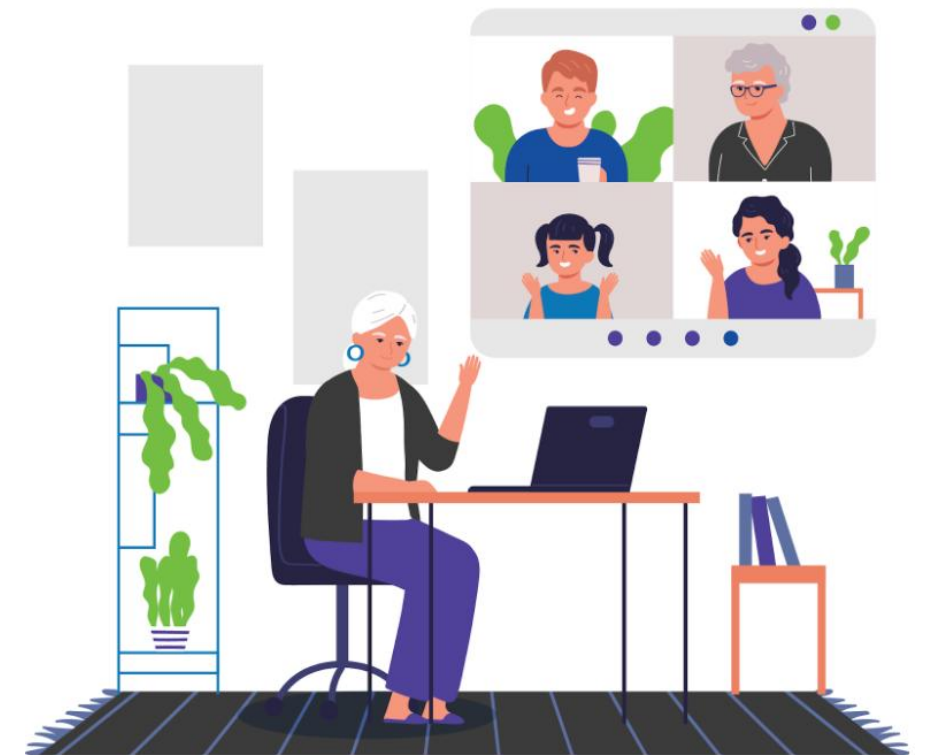


Collaborative, browser-based presentations; the simplest route from story to screen

Why It Matters for Urban Storytelling?

Google Slides is mentioned explicitly in both activities in the module as the primary tool for the Intermediate skill level. In Activity 1 (Streets I Know), participants use Slides to combine photographs taken during the walk with their audio narration and a short title. In Activity 2 (The City Through Two Lenses), Slides is recommended for creating a side-by-side presentation comparing two generational perspectives of the same urban space.

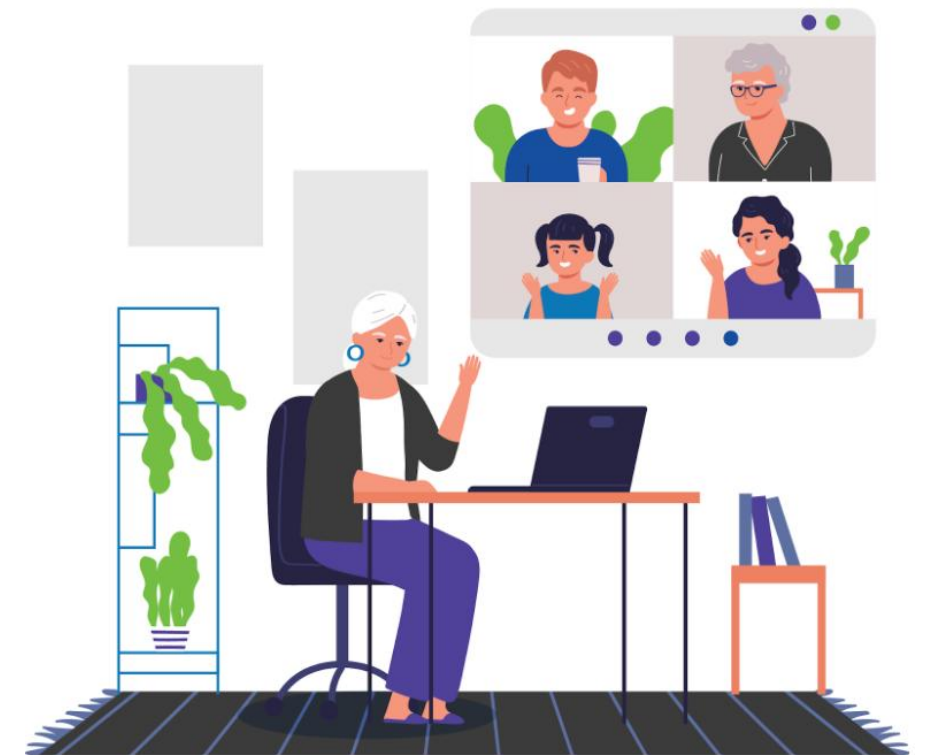
The real-time collaboration feature of Google Slides is particularly valuable. A facilitator can open a shared presentation on a projector and watch as pairs add their slides remotely from their own devices, creating a live, growing group storyboard without any file-sharing logistics.



Collaborative, browser-based presentations; the simplest route from story to screen

Tips for Facilitators

- Before the session, create one shared Google Slides file with a slide template for each pair. Share the edit link with all participants. This way, everyone works in the same file, and their slides are automatically compiled into a group presentation.
- Audio files must be in Google Drive before they can be inserted. If participants use iPhone voice memos, they will need to share the file via AirDrop or email to a device where they can upload it to Drive.
- If participants are unfamiliar with Google accounts, consider creating a single shared group account for the session and logging in on all devices.
- The 'Two content' layout is perfect for Activity 2 — it provides two equal panels side by side, ideal for the 'then and now' photograph comparison.
- Participants can add comments to each other's slides using Insert > Comment. This enables written peer feedback without altering the original content.

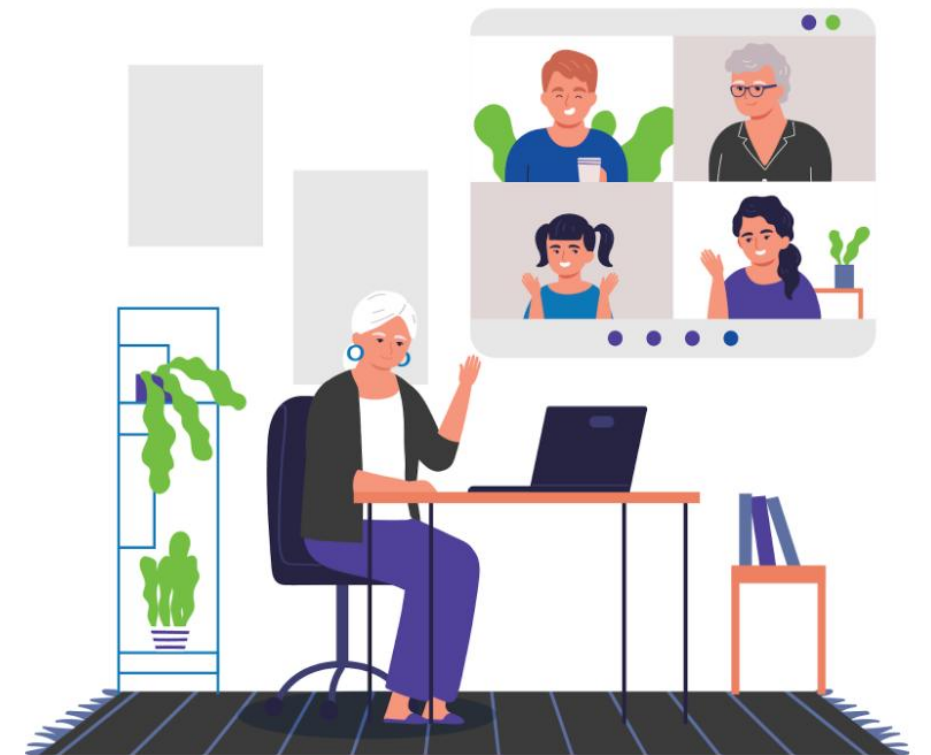


The world's most widely used presentation software, powerful, familiar, and versatile

What is Microsoft PowerPoint?

Microsoft PowerPoint is the industry-standard presentation software, first released in 1987 and now used by hundreds of millions of people worldwide. It allows users to create slide-based presentations combining text, images, video, audio, charts, and animations. PowerPoint files (.pptx) can be opened on virtually any device and operating system, making them one of the most universally compatible formats for sharing visual content.

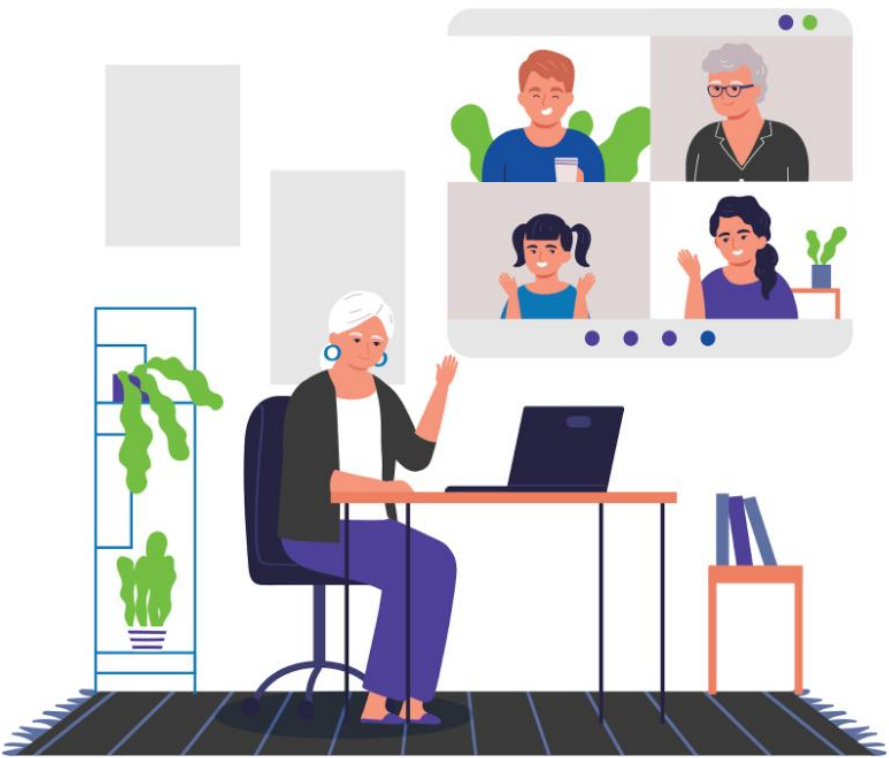
PowerPoint is available both as a desktop application (part of the Microsoft 365 subscription or a one-time purchase) and as a free web application at powerpoint.com. The web version works in any browser, requires only a free Microsoft account, and is sufficient for all the activities in this module



The world's most widely used presentation software, powerful, familiar, and versatile

At a Glance

Website (web version)	powerpoint.com (free with a Microsoft account)
Desktop version	Included in Microsoft 365, subscription or one-time purchase
Mobile apps	Microsoft PowerPoint app, free on iOS and Android (editing requires Microsoft 365 on some devices)
Account required?	Yes (a free Microsoft account for the web version; Microsoft 365 for full desktop features)
Cost (web)	Free with a Microsoft account
Cost (desktop)	Microsoft 365 Personal from approx. €7/month or €70/year; one-time purchase also available
Offline use	Yes (the desktop app works fully offline. Web version requires internet).
Best for	Intermediate skill level; familiar to most adult learners

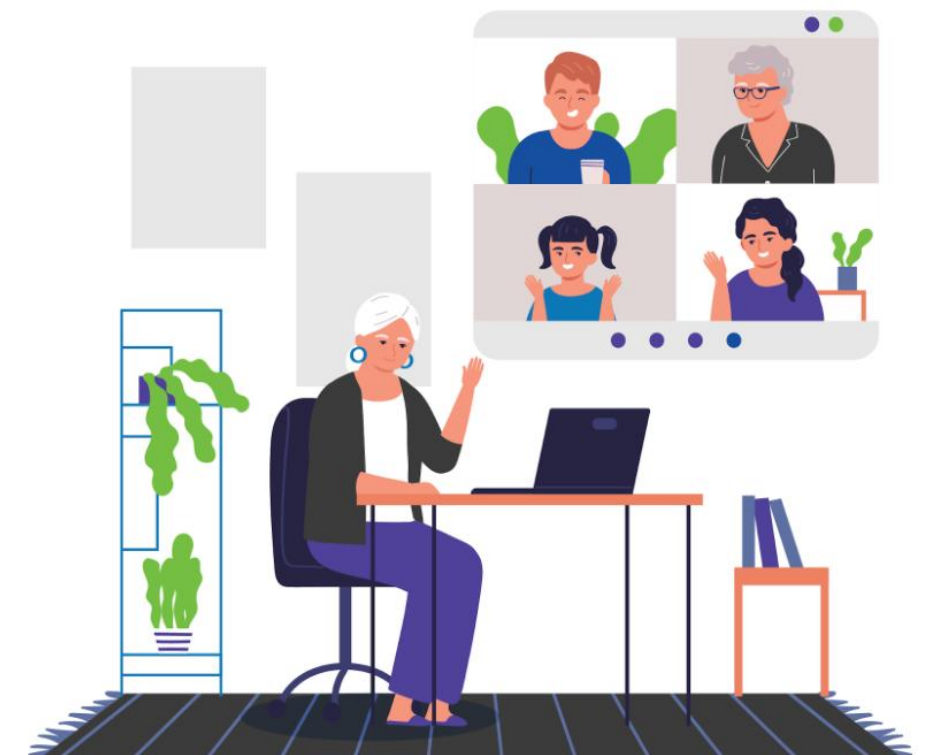


The world's most widely used presentation software, powerful, familiar, and versatile

Why It Matters for Urban Storytelling?

PowerPoint is listed alongside Canva and Google Slides as one of the three recommended tools for the Intermediate skill level in both module activities. It is included because many adult participants, particularly older adults, will already be familiar with PowerPoint from professional or educational settings. For these participants, using a tool they already know removes a significant barrier to participation and allows them to focus on the storytelling rather than the technology.

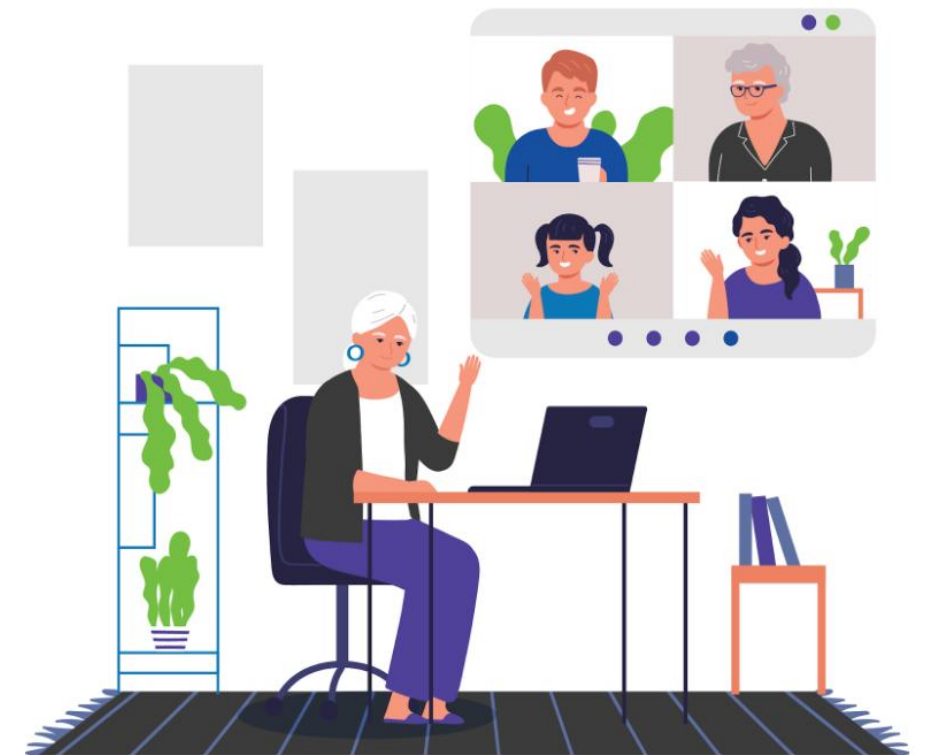
The module describes PowerPoint as suitable for creating simple side-by-side presentations for Activity 2 (The City Through Two Lenses), where participants combine two photographs of the same location at different times with short narrations from both generations. PowerPoint's robust audio insertion feature, which allows audio to play automatically or on click, is particularly well-suited to this format



The world's most widely used presentation software, powerful, familiar, and versatile

Tips for Facilitators

- If participants are using the web version for the first time, note that it has slightly fewer features than the desktop version but is fully adequate for all module activities.
- Audio files recorded on smartphones may need to be transferred to the computer via email, USB, or cloud storage (OneDrive, Google Drive) before they can be inserted into a desktop PowerPoint.
- Use the 'Rehearse Timings' feature (under Slideshow in the desktop version) if you want slides to advance automatically, useful for creating self-running exhibition displays of participant work.
- PowerPoint files are universally compatible. A .pptx file created in PowerPoint will open correctly in Google Slides and Canva, making it easy to transfer work between tools.
- Microsoft 365 Education is free for qualifying educational institutions. Teachers and students get access to the full desktop suite at no cost. Check eligibility at microsoft.com/education.



The world's most widely used presentation software, powerful, familiar, and versatile

Pricing Overview

☑ FREE — PowerPoint for the web (powerpoint.com): core features, requires a free Microsoft account.

💰 Microsoft 365 Personal: approx. €7/month or €70/year — full desktop apps for 1 user, 1TB OneDrive storage.

💰 Microsoft 365 Family: approx. €10/month or €100/year — full desktop apps for up to 6 users.

💰 Microsoft 365 Business: from approx. €6/user/month — organisational plans.

🎓 Microsoft 365 Education: FREE for qualifying schools and universities — full suite including PowerPoint desktop.

🛒 One-time purchase: Microsoft Office Home 2024 (no subscription) also available — check microsoft.com for current pricing.

ℹ For all module activities, the free web version at powerpoint.com is sufficient.

Helpful Links

- 🔗 PowerPoint for the web (free): <https://www.powerpoint.com>
- 🔗 Microsoft PowerPoint Help Centre: <https://support.microsoft.com/powerpoint>
- 🔗 Microsoft 365 Education (free for schools): <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/education/products/office>
- 🔗 PowerPoint iOS app (App Store): <https://apps.apple.com/app/microsoft-powerpoint/id586449534>
- 🔗 PowerPoint Android app (Google Play):
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.microsoft.office.powerpoint>



Explore streets at ground level and travel back in time with historical imagery

What is Google Street View?

Google Street View is a feature of Google Maps that provides 360-degree, ground-level photographic panoramas of streets, public spaces, and landmarks across the world. Users can virtually 'walk' through locations by clicking arrows on the screen to move along a street, rotate to look in any direction, and zoom in on details. Street View is embedded directly into Google Maps and is also accessible at street-view-dedicated URLs.

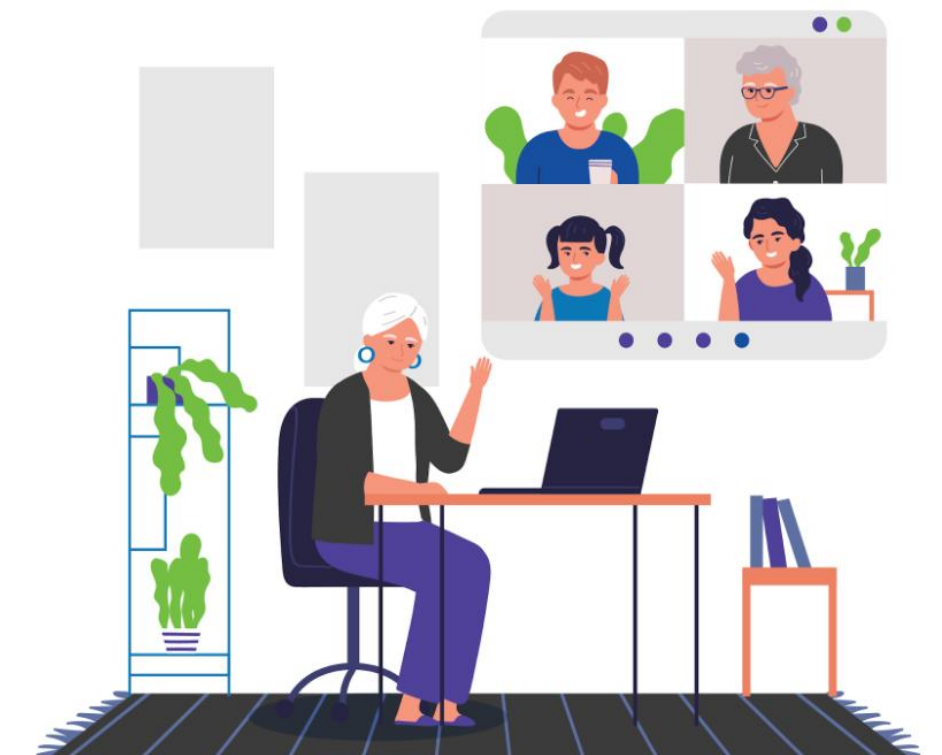
For this module, the most powerful feature of Google Street View is its historical imagery archive. By dragging a timeline slider in the top-left corner of the Street View interface, users can see what the same location looked like in previous years, sometimes going back to 2007 or earlier. This makes Street View an invaluable tool for the 'then and now' comparative photography activity at the heart of Activity 2.



Explore streets at ground level and travel back in time with historical imagery

At a Glance

Access via	maps.google.com (desktop/browser) or the Google Maps mobile app
Account required?	No (Street View can be used without a Google account. An account is needed to contribute photos).
Cost	Completely free
Mobile app	Google Maps (iOS and Android), free download
Offline use	No (requires an active internet connection)
Historical imagery	Available for most urban areas, going back to approximately 2007–2009
Best for	All skill levels: Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced



Explore streets at ground level and travel back in time with historical imagery

Why It Matters for Urban Storytelling?

Google Street View is explicitly recommended in Activity 2 (The City Through Two Lenses) as the primary tool for accessing historical and current urban imagery. The module instructs facilitators to begin the session with a brief live demonstration of how to navigate to a location in Google Street View and drag the timeline slider to access historical imagery, describing this as the main technical barrier for participants unfamiliar with the tool.

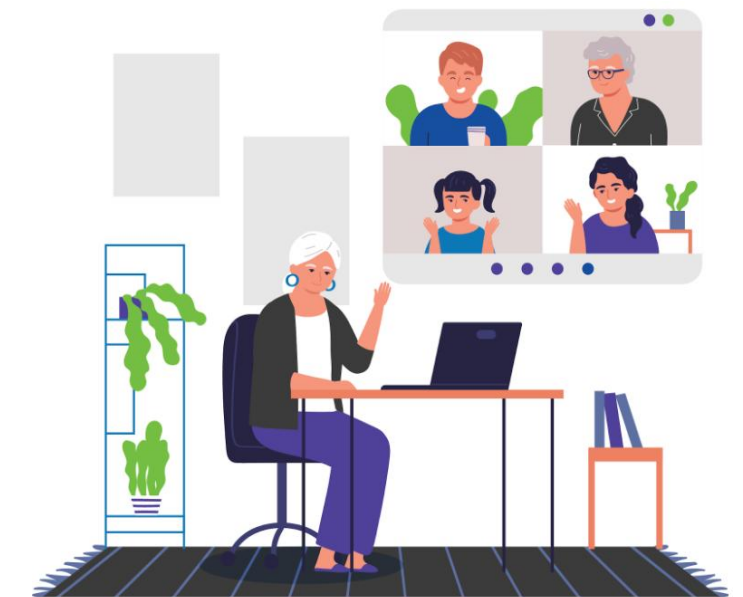
Street View addresses a common challenge in intergenerational storytelling activities: older participants may describe places that younger participants have never seen as they were, while younger participants may be unfamiliar with how a current location appeared in the past. Street View bridges this gap by making both perspectives visible on the same screen, at the same address. The module also suggests Street View as an offline alternative preparation tool: facilitators can prepare printed Google Maps or Street View screenshots in advance for groups without reliable internet, ensuring the comparative activity is accessible even in low-connectivity settings.



Explore streets at ground level and travel back in time with historical imagery

Tips for Facilitators

- Before the session, check whether historical Street View imagery is available for your chosen neighbourhood. Coverage varies; urban centres in Western Europe typically have imagery going back to 2008–2010, while some suburban or rural areas may have fewer historical frames.
- The timeline slider is the most important feature to demonstrate at the start of Activity 2. Take two minutes to show the group how to drag it back in time before pairs begin working independently. The module specifically recommends this as a technique to 'remove the main technical barrier'.
- If the chosen location does not have historical Street View imagery, use a nearby main street or well-documented public space that does. Historical coverage is almost always better on major roads.
- For offline or low-connectivity situations, take screenshots of both the historical and current views of two or three key locations before the session and print or save them for distribution.
- Participants can also contribute their own 360-degree photographs to Google Street View using the Google Street View Studio, a free web tool at streetviewstudio.maps.google.com, making the activity a genuine contribution to public urban memory.



Explore streets at ground level and travel back in time with historical imagery

Pricing Overview

- ☑ FREE — Google Street View is completely free to use. No account is required to view.
- ☑ FREE — The Google Maps app (which includes Street View) is free on iOS and Android.
- ☑ FREE — Street View Studio (for contributing your own 360° photos) is free with a Google account.
- ℹ There are no paid tiers for the Street View features used in this module.
- ℹ The Google Maps Platform API (for developers building applications) is a paid service, but this is not relevant to the module activities.

Helpful Links

- 🔗 Google Maps (access Street View here): <https://maps.google.com>
- 🔗 Google Street View Studio (contribute photos): <https://streetviewstudio.maps.google.com>
- 🔗 Google Street View Help Centre: <https://support.google.com/maps/answer/3093484>
- 🔗 How to use Street View historical imagery (Google Help): <https://support.google.com/maps/answer/6394304>
- 🔗 Google Maps iOS app: <https://apps.apple.com/app/google-maps/id585027354>
- 🔗 Google Maps Android app: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.google.android.apps.maps>



How to use this Resource

Final Chapter: Additional Platforms

The final chapter of the Urban Storytelling module lists eight additional platforms and organizations that support facilitated storytelling, oral history, and cultural heritage work. This section gives you a brief profile of each one, what it is, how to access it, and how it connects to the module's themes , so you can direct participants and colleagues to the right resource with confidence.



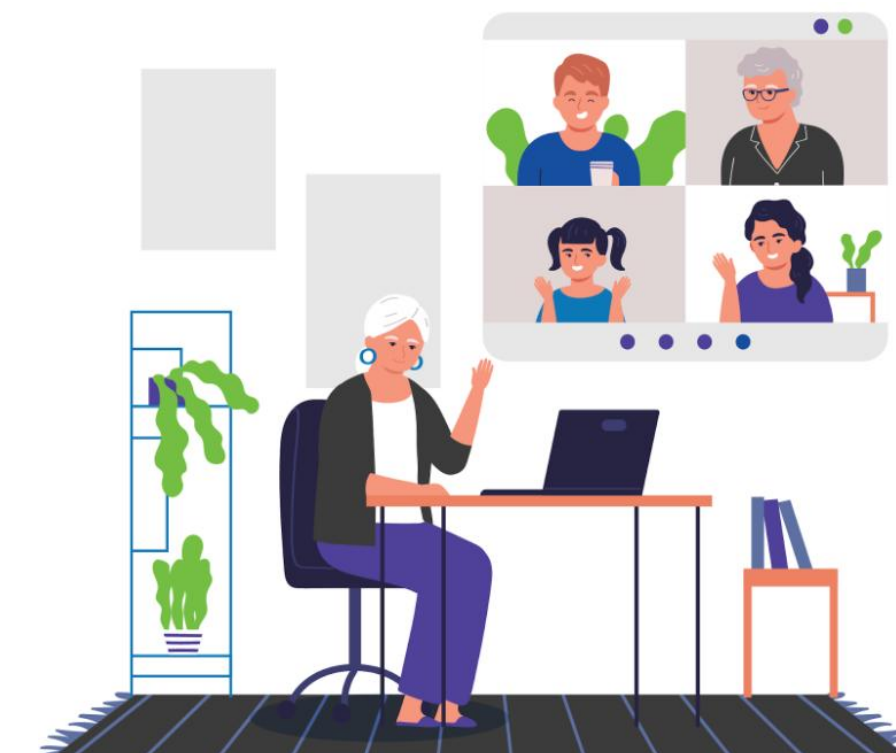
The founding organisation of the digital storytelling movement

What is StoryCenter?

StoryCenter is a US-based non-profit widely credited with creating the 'digital story' format: short, first-person multimedia narratives combining a personal recorded voice, still photographs, and simple video editing. Its methodology emphasizes the emotional and reflective process of storytelling as much as the technical output, and has informed facilitators across more than 30 countries.

At a Glance

Website	storycenter.org
Type	Non-profit organization; training, resources, and community projects
Account required?	No account needed to access free resources; registration required for workshops
Cost	Free articles and methodology guides online; workshops are paid (sliding-scale available)
Language	Primarily English
Based	Berkeley, California, USA but works internationally



The founding organisation of the digital storytelling movement

How to Use It for Urban Storytelling

StoryCenter's Seven Elements of Digital Storytelling (available free on its website) provide a practical framework that maps directly onto the module's activities. The elements, Point of View, Dramatic Question, Emotional Content, Gift of Your Voice, Power of the Soundtrack, Economy, and Pacing, can be used as a simple checklist when participants are assembling their visual stories in Canva, Google Slides, or ArcGIS StoryMaps.

The StoryCenter blog and resource library also contain numerous examples of community-based storytelling projects from urban and intergenerational contexts, useful as inspiration material to show participants at the start of a session.

Helpful Links

-  StoryCenter homepage: <https://www.storycenter.org>
-  Seven Elements of Digital Storytelling: <https://www.storycenter.org/history>
-  StoryCenter blog and resources: <https://www.storycenter.org/blog>
-  StoryCenter on YouTube (example stories): <https://www.youtube.com/@StoryCenter>

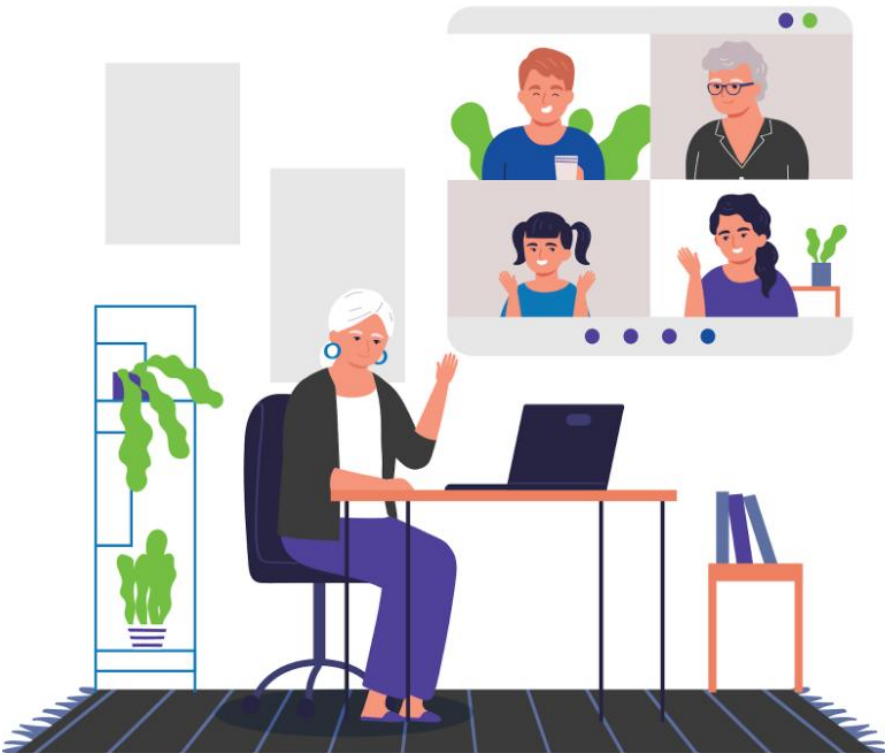
Professional standards and best practices for oral history collection

What is the Oral History Association?

The Oral History Association (OHA) is the leading professional organisation for oral history practice, publishing guidelines and best practices on conducting interviews, obtaining informed consent, and ensuring the dignity and privacy of narrators. Its freely accessible Best Practices document is an essential reference for any facilitator recording participants' personal stories.

At a Glance

Website	oralhistory.org
Best Practices document	oralhistory.org/best-practices
Type	Professional membership organization — standards, publications, events
Account required?	No — best practices and many resources are freely accessible
Cost	Free resources online; membership from approx. \$50/year for individuals
Language	English
Relevance	Ethical guidance for recording and storing participant narratives



Professional standards and best practices for oral history collection

How to Use It for Urban Storytelling

The OHA's Best Practices document addresses the questions that most commonly arise when facilitators begin recording participant stories: How do I obtain informed consent? Who owns the recording? Can I share it publicly? What do I do with the recordings after the session? These are questions the module's Reflection section asks facilitators to consider ('How did you ensure ethical practices around consent, privacy, and representation?'), and the OHA provides the professional framework for answering them. Facilitators working in educational, community, or research settings should review the OHA guidance before their first recording session and share the key ethical principles with participants in plain language as part of the session introduction.

Helpful Links

-  OHA homepage: <https://oralhistory.org>
-  OHA Best Practices (free PDF): <https://oralhistory.org/best-practices/>
-  OHA Principles and Standards: <https://oralhistory.org/principles-and-standards/>

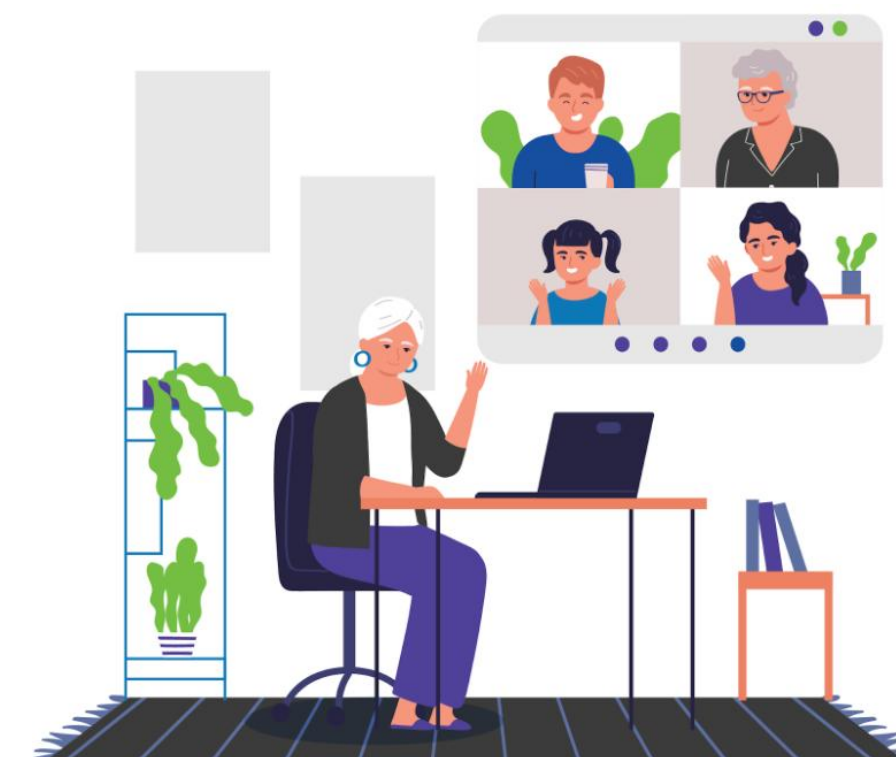
Europe's digital library of cultural heritage, millions of images, maps, and records free to explore

What is Europeana?

Europeana is the EU's free digital platform for cultural heritage, offering over 50 million digitized objects, photographs, maps, manuscripts, films, and more, from 3,000+ institutions across Europe. Many items are Creative Commons licensed, making it ideal for educational reuse, including 'then and now' comparative activities using historical city images.

At a Glance

Website	europaana.eu
Type	Public digital platform, funded by the European Commission
Account required?	No account needed to search and browse; a free account allows saving items to galleries
Cost	Completely free
Language	Available in all EU languages; content in many languages
Coverage	50+ million items from 3,000+ institutions across all EU member states



Europe's digital library of cultural heritage, millions of images, maps, and records free to explore

How to Use It for Urban Storytelling

Europeana is particularly useful for the preparatory phase of Activity 2 (The City Through Two Lenses). Facilitators can search for historical photographs of the specific city or neighbourhood they are working in and prepare a small set of comparison images before the session. Many major European cities have rich photographic archives on Europeana going back to the late 19th century.

The platform also allows community organisations to submit their own collections, meaning that stories and images produced through urban storytelling activities could potentially be contributed to Europeana as a permanent public record, a genuinely meaningful outcome for participants whose memories would otherwise remain undocumented

Helpful Links

-  Europeana homepage: <https://www.europeana.eu>
-  Europeana Collections (search): <https://www.europeana.eu/en/collections>
-  How to contribute to Europeana: <https://pro.europeana.eu/share-your-data>
-  Europeana for Education: <https://www.europeana.eu/en/use-our-api/education>

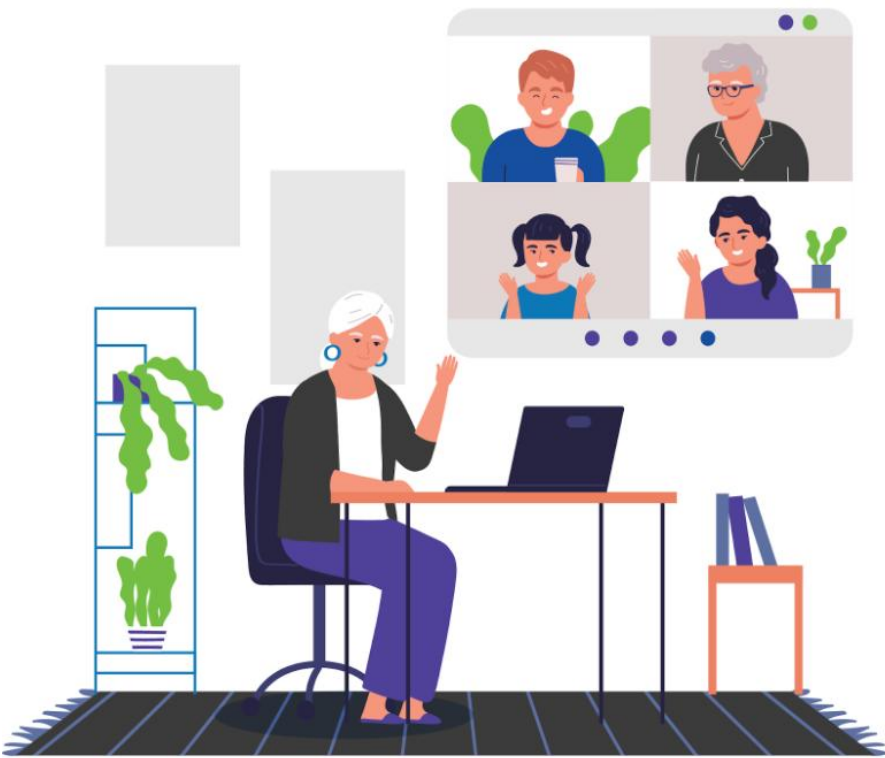
A free digital library of historical photographs, audio, video, and the full history of the web

What is the Internet Archive?

The Internet Archive is a non-profit digital library founded in 1996, offering free public access to millions of digitized books, historical photographs, audio recordings, and video, alongside the Wayback Machine — an archive of over 900 billion saved web pages. For urban storytelling work, its real value lies in locating historical images and records tied to a specific street, neighborhood, or building.

At a Glance

Website	archive.org
Terms of Use	archive.org/about/terms
Type	Non-profit digital library and web archive
Account required?	No for browsing/streaming; free account to borrow digitized books
Cost	Free
Language	English (content spans many languages)
Relevance	Free access to historical photographs, audio, video, and archived web pages for local research



A free digital library of historical photographs, audio, video, and the full history of the web

How to Use It for Urban Storytelling

Facilitators can use the Internet Archive to source historical photographs of a neighborhood before a walk, giving participants something concrete to compare against what they see today. This is exactly the kind of material the module's Reflection section draws on when it asks facilitators to consider ('How has this place changed, and who gets to say how?'). The Wayback Machine is also useful for showing how a local organisation's or landmark's website looked years ago — a small but effective way to make change visible. Facilitators should search by neighborhood or landmark name before the session and save a shortlist of usable images, since results can be uneven in quality and coverage.

Helpful Links

-  Internet Archive homepage: archive.org
-  Advanced Search (filter by media type, date, collection): archive.org/advancedsearch.php
-  Wayback Machine: web.archive.org

UNESCO Greece — ICH National Inventory

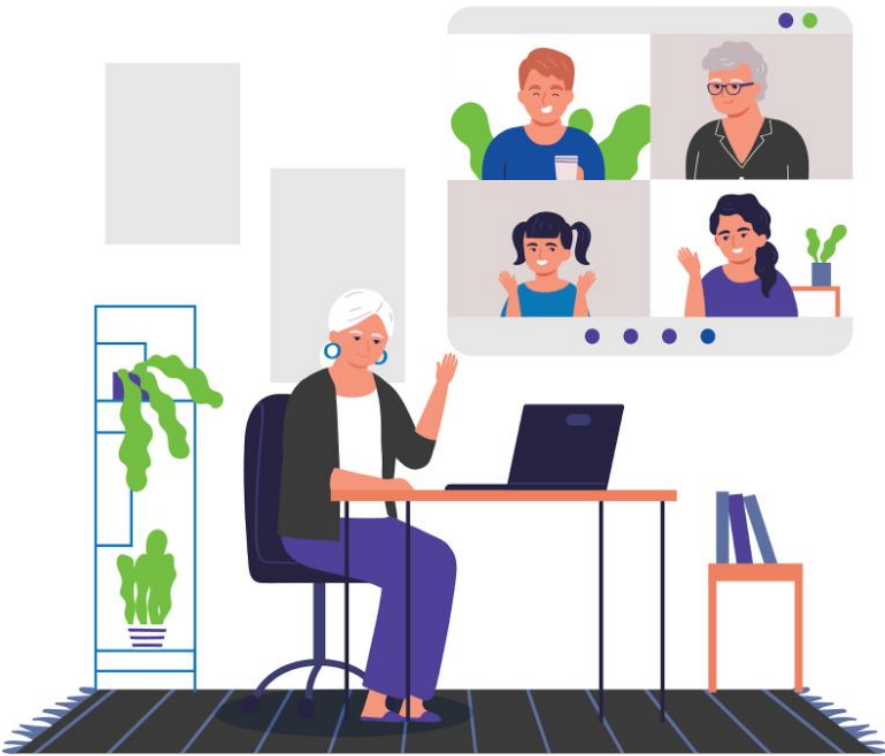
Greece's official inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage, maintained under the UNESCO Convention

What is the UNESCO Greece — ICH National Inventory?

The UNESCO ICH National Inventory for Greece is the official register of cultural practices, expressions, and traditions that Greece has committed to safeguarding under the 2003 UNESCO Convention, spanning performing arts, oral traditions, rituals, and craftsmanship. For facilitators in Greek urban contexts, it connects participants' personal stories to a recognised national and international heritage framework.

At a Glance

Website	ich.unesco.org/en/state/Greece-GR
Type	Official government/UNESCO registry — publicly accessible
Account required?	No
Cost	Free
Language	English and Greek
Administered by	Greek Ministry of Culture, in cooperation with UNESCO



Greece's official inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage, maintained under the UNESCO Convention

How to Use It for Urban Storytelling

This resource is particularly relevant when facilitating the module's discussion of intangible cultural heritage (section 1.2), which describes urban storytelling as directly contributing to the preservation of practices, memories, and lived experiences that UNESCO recognizes as essential to cultural identity. Showing participants Greece's ICH inventory and pointing out that their own neighborhood stories represent exactly this kind of heritage can powerfully motivate engagement with the storytelling activities. Facilitators can also use the inventory to identify whether any ICH elements are associated with the specific urban areas being explored in the session, providing a culturally grounded anchor for the activity.

Helpful Links

-  UNESCO ICH — Greece national inventory: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/state/greece-GR>
-  Greek Ministry of Culture — ICH programme: <https://www.culture.gov.gr>
-  UNESCO 2003 Convention (full text): <https://ich.unesco.org/en/convention>

Greek oral history collections on communities and urban transformation

What is the National Hellenic Research Foundation — Oral History Programme?

The National Hellenic Research Foundation (EIE) maintains an Oral History Programme that has collected testimonies and community narratives from Greek populations over several decades, documenting urban and social transformation across themes including migration, neighborhood change, and cultural memory.

At a Glance

Website	https://www.eie.gr/institoyta/iie/
Type	Public research institution — part of the Greek state research infrastructure
Account required?	No account needed to access public information; contact institution for collection access
Cost	Free (public institution)
Language	Greek (some content in English)
Based	Athens, Greece



Greek oral history collections on communities and urban transformation

How to Use It for Urban Storytelling

For facilitators working in Greek urban contexts, the EIE oral history collections provide a model and a reference point. Participants' stories can be framed not as informal anecdotes but as contributions to the same tradition of documented urban memory that the EIE has been collecting for decades. This framing can encourage participants, particularly older adults, to engage more seriously with the recording and documentation aspects of the activities.

Facilitators who are based in Athens or working with communities connected to specific historical periods of Greek urban development may also find it valuable to contact the EIE directly to explore whether any existing collections are relevant to their neighborhood and could be shared with participants as background material.

Helpful Links

-  EIE Institute of Historical Research: <https://www.eie.gr/institoyta/iie/>
-  EIE homepage (Greek): <https://www.eie.gr>

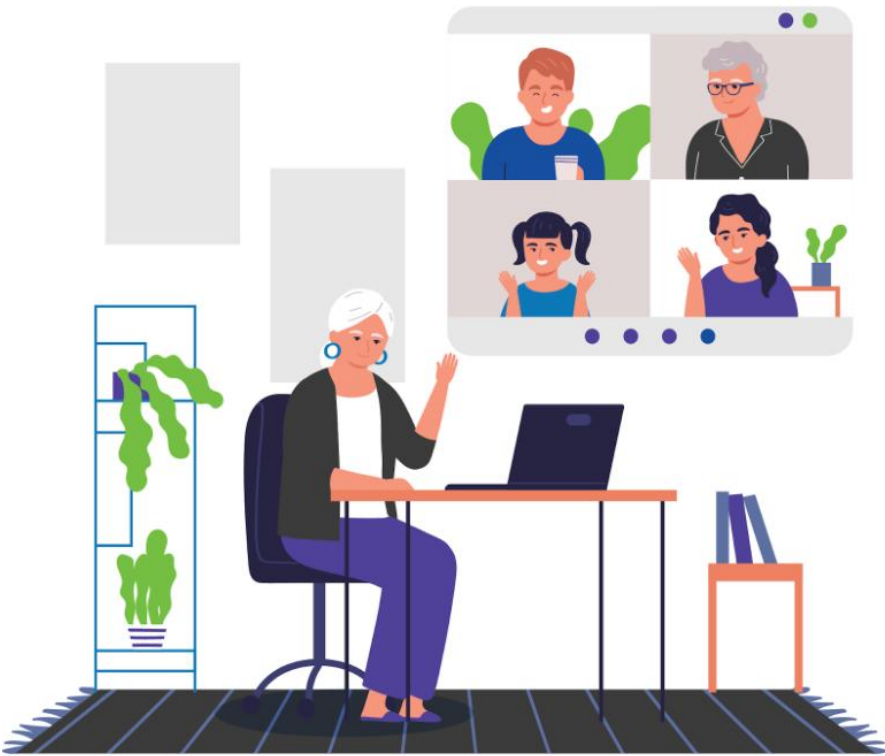
Greece's open-access institutional repository for research, culture, and heritage

What is the National Documentation Centre (EKT)?

The National Documentation Centre (EKT) aggregates, preserves, and provides open access to research outputs, cultural heritage data, and institutional collections from Greek universities, museums, and cultural organizations. Greece's node for European research infrastructures, DARIAH and CLARIN, contains digitized primary sources, datasets, and cultural documentation.

At a Glance

Website	https://www.ekt.gr/el/services
Type	Public research infrastructure — national service organization
Account required?	No account needed to access open-access content
Cost	Free (public institution)
Language	Greek and English
Based	Athens, Greece



Greece's open-access institutional repository for research, culture, and heritage

How to Use It for Urban Storytelling

EKT's open-access repositories can serve as a starting point for facilitators seeking digitized primary sources — historical documents, research publications, and datasets, related to Greek urban environments and communities. The platform aggregates content from institutions that might otherwise require direct institutional access.

For more advanced groups or for facilitators with a research background, EKT also provides tools and guidance for depositing community-generated content into open-access repositories, potentially giving the stories produced in Urban Storytelling sessions a permanent, citable, publicly accessible home, a meaningful form of legacy for participants.

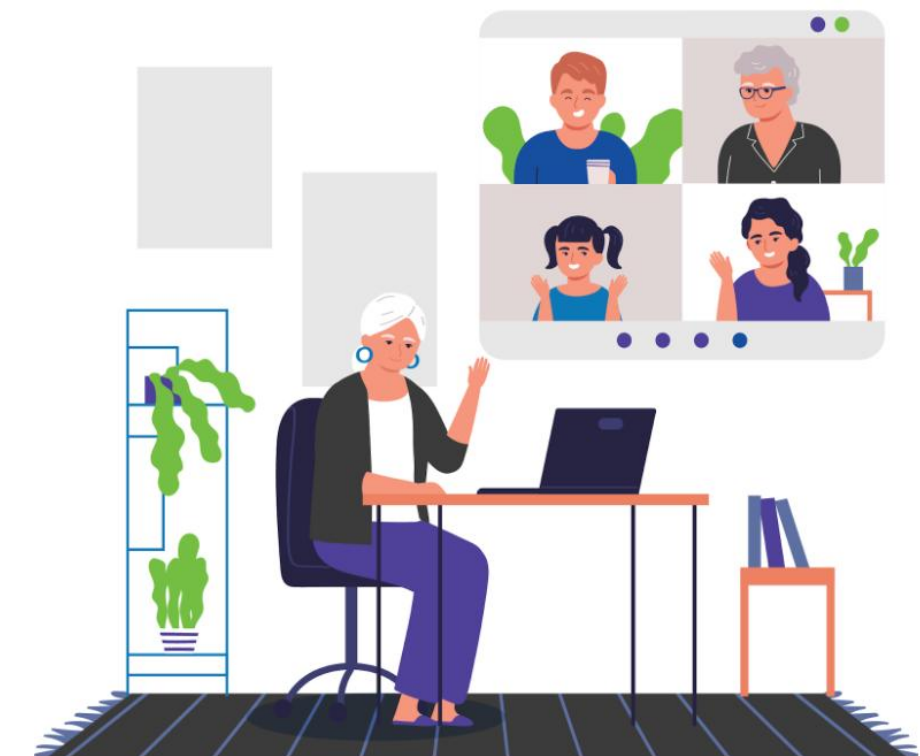
Helpful Links

-  EKT services and repositories: <https://www.ekt.gr/el/services>
-  EKT homepage: <https://www.ekt.gr>
-  EKT open access portal: <https://epublishing.ekt.gr>

A final note for facilitators

You do not need to master every tool in this guide before your first session. Start with the tool that matches your group's skill level and your own comfort. A well-facilitated session using a paper map and verbal narration is more valuable than a technically sophisticated session where participants spend most of their time troubleshooting software.

The tools in this guide are means, not ends. The end is the story, the memory of a demolished market, the sound of a familiar street, the moment when a younger participant sees a neighborhood they thought they knew through the eyes of someone who has known it for fifty years. Any tool that helps that moment happen is the right tool.





LEGENDS

Thank you very much
for your attention!



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

Funded by the European Union. However, the opinions expressed are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union or the Erasmus+ National Agency (INDIRE). Neither the European Union nor the funding authority can be held responsible for them.
Project Number: 2025-1-IT02-KA220-ADU-000352101