

ARG

Background

All the students are taking their courses online.

Narrative:

Every week an email message will be sent to students with a link that will take them to a virtual world containing a time machine which will give them access to the week's lesson.

Objective:

At the end of this ARG the students will learn about the Oil Shale Industry, its rise and fall and recent developments.

Week 1. Entering the time machine will take the students to the scene with people in a busy town people are declaring owning every cliff around.

Challenge: The students will be given a choice whether to buy a claim or walk away. If they walk away they won't lose money. If they decided to finance a claim they will find out that another person already has a legitimate title to it.

Artifacts/Clues:

1. clicking a stack of paper in the background will give them this clue -Petroleum Placer Act of 1897 (<http://www.centerwest.org/publications/oilshale/print/2-2mineral.html>), a law that extended the basic principles of the 1872 Hardrock Mining Law to oil development

2. clicking another stack of papers will take them to this clue - US Supreme Court the year before in *United States v. Midwest Oil Company*.
<http://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/236/459/case.html>

3. clicking a book in the background will give them this clue
<http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG414.html>

4. clicking newspaper in that scene will take them to this clue- Federal optimism was broadcast and amplified by effusive articles that appeared in influential popular publications
http://books.google.com/books?id=mQgVAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA195&lpg=PA195&dq=Billions+of+Barrels+of+Oil+Locked+Up+in+Rocks.+national+geographic&source=web&ots=9cthi-8JJI&sig=AnEG9Dq6bqgNr09pi5fpBnhuXgY&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=1&ct=result#v=onepage&q=Billions%20of%20Barrels%20of%20Oil%20Locked%20Up%20in%20Rocks%2C%20national%20geographic&f=false

Tech Tools: Kitely, Google sites, Google + Hangout, Google docs, Photoshop, e-mail messaging

Assessment: Students will email their professor about their analysis of what's happening in the scene.

Week 2 - Entering the time machine will take the students to a scene with people selling their claim to long term prospectors and business are closing.

Challenge: Students will be given a choice whether to stay in the town or to abandon ship.

Artifacts/Clues:

1 - a radio message about the Bureau of Mines, which opened an experimental mine and processing facility on Naval Oil Shale Reserve land near Rulison (about 11 miles west of Rifle) in 1925, closing its operation in the summer of 1929.

2 - clicking a newspaper Teapot Dome Scandal concluded with former Secretary of the Interior Albert Fall going to prison for accepting bribes in exchange for leasing the strategic oil reserves at Elk Hills and Teapot Dome.

3- A TV news saying that companies shutting down and abandoning Shale country

Tech Tools: Kitley, Google sites, Google + Hangout, Google docs, Photoshop, e-mail messaging

Assessment: Students will email their professor about their analysis of what's happening in the scene.

Week 3 - Entering the time machine will take the students to a scene of engineering boom in Shale Country.

Challenge: Students are going to choose whether to invest or not

Artifacts/Clues

1. news about Carter saying that Americans "must start now to develop the new, unconventional sources of energy we will rely on in the next century."

2. Andrus vs. Shell Oil Company <http://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/446/657/>

Tech Tools: Kitley, Google sites, Google + Hangout, Google docs, Photoshop, e-mail messaging

Assessment: Students will email their professor about their analysis of what's happening in the scene.

Week 4 - Entering the time machine will take the students to a quiet scene on the mines. Machineries on the side. Business Closing. People leaving town. 2100 people became unemployed, locked out and not even allowed to retrieve their personal belongings when they showed up at the job site the next morning. Even construction workers, bus drivers and area

business owners are asking each other what will happen to them.

Challenge:

Artifacts/Clues

1. Evening news in Colorado - Exxon's board of directors announced that they would pull the plug on the Colony Project, effective immediately.
2. Newspaper - Other energy companies followed Exxon out of town.
3. http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/wrfo/oil_shale_wrfo/chevron_u_s_a_inc.html
4. <http://amso.net/Our-plan/The-concept.aspx>
5. http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/wrfo/oil_shale_wrfo/e_g_l_resources_inc0.html

Tech Tools: Kitley, Google sites, Google + Hangout, Google docs, Photoshop, e-mail messaging

Assessment: Students will email their professor about their analysis of what's happening in the scene.

Week 5 -

Challenge:

Artifacts/Clues

- 1.

Tech Tools: Kitley, Google sites, Google + Hangout, Google docs, Photoshop, e-mail messaging

Assessment: Students will email their professor about their analysis of what's happening in the scene.

**Entering The Time
Machine to access
week's lesson**

