

Narration Transcript for Instruction Design Assessment Video

Hello and welcome. I'm Thomas Robinson, a World History teacher at Hillcrest School, and this presentation shares my instructional design project titled Building a Significant Learning Environment: Blended Learning in World History. Over the next few minutes, I'll walk you through how I designed a six-week blended unit called From the Beginning of Time to Ancient Egypt.

This project represents my effort to create a student-centered, inquiry-driven environment where learners act as historians, exploring, questioning, and connecting past civilizations through both digital and classroom experiences.

This design was guided by three major frameworks: Competency-Based Education, which emphasizes mastery over seat time; Fink's model of Significant Learning, which reminds us that learning becomes meaningful when students apply knowledge, integrate ideas, and connect personally with what they study; and Harapnuik's COVA and CSLE frameworks, which stress choice, ownership, voice, and authentic learning in a significant learning environment.

This six-week plan intentionally blends face-to-face collaboration with online exploration through Google Classroom, Edpuzzle, Padlet, Gimkit, and Blooket. Each week follows a consistent rhythm: digital discovery, collaborative exploration, and reflection and assessment. The teacher's role shifts from presenter to facilitator and coach.

This Three-Column Design Map organizes the unit around learning outcomes, activities, and assessments, and it aligns directly with Fink's learning dimensions.

For example, in Week One, students analyze how early humans developed tools, language, and cooperation. Online, they watch an Edpuzzle video and share reflections on Padlet. In class, they participate in a Paleolithic survival simulation. Their learning is assessed through a concept map, a journal reflection, and interactive Gimkit and Blooket games. This sequence builds foundational knowledge and invites students to learn how to learn through self-reflection. By Week Two, students explore how agriculture transformed human society through a Design Civilization project.

Week Three investigates Mesopotamia, connecting geography, government, and culture through map analysis and Hammurabi debates.

Weeks Four and Five study ancient empires and Egypt's geography, combining inquiry, creativity, and collaboration.

Finally, in Week Six, students evaluate Egypt's legacy by designing virtual museum exhibits and reflecting through digital journals.

This design map connects directly to the Implementation Schedule, which details the week-by-week flow of topics, digital tools, and assessments. Google Classroom serves as the central hub, housing videos, discussion boards, and submissions. Gimkit and Blooket appear weekly as low-stakes formative tools.

Each week includes opportunities for assessment of, for, and as learning, from summative projects to interactive feedback and reflective journals. The teacher's role is to facilitate progress and reflection, ensuring each student demonstrates mastery before moving forward.

Designing this unit has deepened my understanding of how intentional instructional design shapes engagement and confidence. By blending CBE, technology integration, and reflection, I've seen how students evolve from passive listeners to active historians.

This experience also reshaped my leadership perspective. I've learned that creating significant learning environments means stepping back, allowing students to explore, question, and connect ideas in ways that are personal and relevant. Ultimately, this design is about empowering students to think critically, collaborate meaningfully, and apply digital tools responsibly — preparing them not just for a test, but for lifelong learning.

Thank you for exploring this design with me. Through blended learning, reflection, and authentic engagement, Hillcrest's World History students are discovering that history is not just something to memorize, it's something to experience.