



Adventures in Podcasting

*Incredible Lesson Plans for Your
Classroom*

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Bonus Planning Chapter from <i>Simple Guide to Podcasting</i>	On CD
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All Worksheets in Editable Format	On CD
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You Must Choose...

Grade Level 3-12

"As you emerge from the cloud forest, there's a canyon ahead of you. You creep closer to the edge of the canyon and peer down to see a raging river. There is a small, crumbling path winding down into the canyon and a tiny red boat. Do you try climbing down the path, or do you go back to the forest to continue your search for the Masked Avenger? Email us your choice!" Your students can write their own interactive adventure story podcast and invite their audience to choose what happens next!

Story Planning

As a class, discuss possible story lines to follow in your serial adventure. Write out the first chapters of your story, and then brainstorm the choices that can be made by your audience. Create a map of the whole story with every choice the audience might make, and many possible outcomes.



All kinds of adventures await Keme and his Algonquian tribe. You decide where the adventure will take him!

Keep all of the story possibilities a secret so everyone is surprised as new episodes are published. When your first big adventure podcast ends, have your audience choose which adventure they would like to go on next!

Tool Factory Tip: Read a book from the *Choose Your Own Adventure* series for inspiration and ideas for setting up your own adventure storyline.

Cross Curriculum Ideas

History classes can write their own adventure stories from a historical perspective. How would history change if *you* were the one making all of the important decisions?

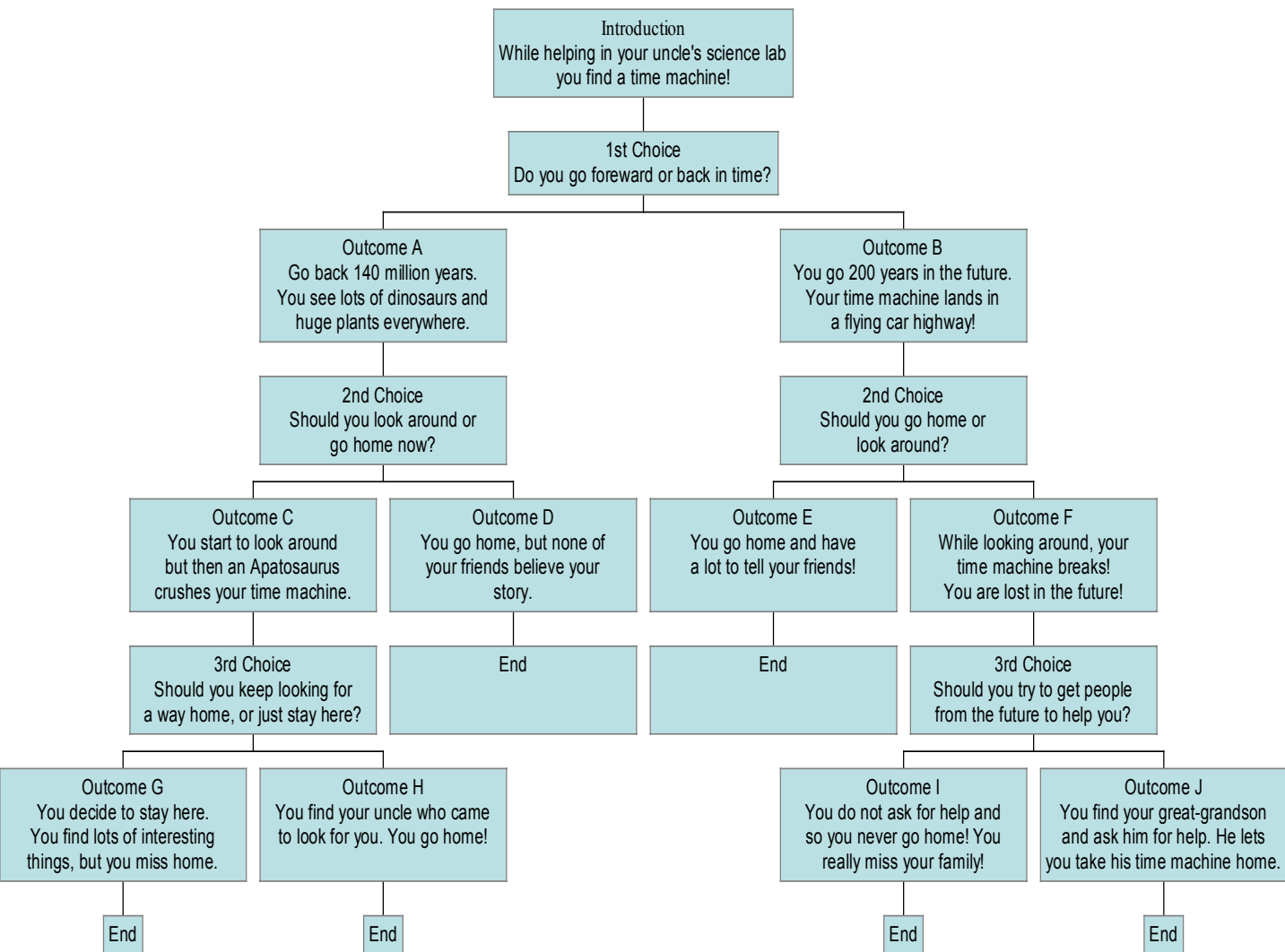
Learning Objectives

- Create a setting, characters, and plot to write stories and narratives.
- Use descriptive words and narrative structures.
- Create tone and voice using precise vocabulary.

Take an Adventure...

- In the time of the ferocious dinosaurs.
- Scouring the ocean floor for treasure in sunken ships.
- In an international race around the world.
- Into outer space to save Earth from dangerous Martians.
- Battling vicious vampires on the prowl in Transylvania.
- Being shrunk down to the size of a mouse.
- Starting your career in the competitive world of professional skateboarders.

Directions: Read through this sample storyline planner, then brainstorm your own plan on the chalkboard with your class. Adjust this plot summary to be longer or have more choices if you want a more complicated adventure. Refer to the chart to guide your episode writing after your audience decides the next step in the adventure.



The Homesick Kitten Catastrophe...

Grade Level 3-8

“We know that 13 kittens went missing last Wednesday, but yesterday, when I was exploring in the Old Forest, I saw only 5 sets of kitten tracks wandering around the trees. We’ve already sent Officer Simpson out to find those 5 kittens, but there are still 8 kittens missing without a trace...” Create mathematical mystery podcasts that will set your student’s imaginations in motion and help them use math in creative new ways.

Mathematical Whodunits

Spark your students’ interest in math by helping them write their own mathematical mystery stories. Brainstorm potential mysteries in class, and assign your students roles such as detectives, villains, or innocent bystanders. Students then write the stories incorporating the math concepts learned in class. The whodunits can range from simple puzzles such as “were cookies stolen from the cookie jar?” to complicated bank heists with many possible suspects. Challenge students to make each mystery solvable only by applying mathematical concepts learned in class.

On the Web

Get ideas for your mystery story by checking out these lesson plans by MysteryNet.

www.mysterynet.com/learn/lessonplans/



Who will discover the whereabouts of the eight missing kittens? Tune in next week to find out!

Tool Factory Tip: Read Nancy Drew, Hardy Boys, or other mysteries as a class to learn how to create suspense and excitement in your own mystery podcasts.

Learning Objectives

- Represent and analyze patterns and functions.
- Design investigations to address a question and collect data using observations, surveys and experiments.
- Use literary devices to create suspense in a mystery story.

More Mystery Ideas

- Was the ramp at the skate park steep enough to make Betty fall and break her leg?
- Did Count Barkov have enough time to steal the 24-carat diamond from the museum?
- What fraction of cakes were stolen by the Bakery Thieves before the Master Chef caught them?

Credits

Original idea by:
Patti Harju
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Episode Organization

- Each podcast episode tells a piece of the mystery story with a detective, villain, and cliffhanger to entice students to listen to the next episode.
- Every episode can encompass the math concepts learned each week from a completed chapter.
- The mysteries can take place in modern times or in ancient places and times, such as Ancient Egypt!
- Each episode can be a complete short word problem mystery.

Cross Curriculum Ideas

Science classes can podcast their own mysteries using chemistry and the scientific method to discover the culprits behind different science challenges.

Mystery Plot Sheet



Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Organize the plot of your podcast into chapters and episodes with a central, focused ideas. Target the math concepts used to solve each stage of your mystery.

Introduction

Characters:

Describe the scene:

What is the dilemma?

Beginning Investigation

Where does the detective or lead character go?

What kinds of clues does he or she find?

What math problems does he or she have to solve to help figure out the mystery?

Describe any new characters or suspects introduced:

The Plot Thickens

What happens to trip up the detective or lead character?

Identify the suspects and how they committed the crime. Include an explanation of how the math problems are solved and why they help to puzzle out the mystery.

Cliffhanger

What big problem trips up the detective or hero? Did he or she solve a math puzzle incorrectly, or did a suspect turn out to be innocent? Develop the cliffhanger and discuss what you think will happen in the next mystery episode.

The Tonight Show with Your Brain



Grade Level 7-10

Brain Entertainment

Brain: "So, Liver, you say you produce bile? What is bile?"

Liver: "Well, Brain, bile helps Large Intestine digest fats because he emulsifies them. That's just a big word for increasing the surface area of the fats so they can be digested easier."

Brain: "Wow, that's pretty interesting. You really do your part, Liver!"

Assign students different organs and systems of the body to research and impersonate in an exciting talk show podcast.

Body Broadcast

Invite students to select an interesting organ or body system. Research the functions of the organ, what it looks like, and how it interacts with other body parts and organs. Write a script for an interview between the organ and the show's host, the brain. Interview a different organ each episode. Make your anatomy and physiology lessons come to life in a fascinating podcast interview show.

Podcast Production

Write or record the interview between the brain and the organ. Here are some sample questions the brain could ask:

- Where do you live in the body?
- What do you do for work every day?
- What would happen if you stopped functioning?
- Are there common illnesses or injuries that you often sustain or prevent in the course of your daily duties?



What stories would these eyes tell your listeners about how they help this boy see every day?

Personality Traits

When creating the script for each organ, think carefully about the personality type each organ might have.

- Is the organ grumpy, lazy, happy, energetic, or goofy? Does the organ have a funny accent?
- How would the organ respond to different questions the brain might ask?
- Are there any weird or interesting facts the Brain can use in the interview with the organ?
- What is the relationship between the Brain and the organ? How do they work together?

One Step Further

Make a podcast where a variety of animal organs are interviewed. What would a platypus' bill have to say about its food? How would a bird's wing muscles feel about flying? Interview different body parts from the same animal, or talk to similar organs from many different animals.

Learning Objectives

- Understand chemical and biochemical principals essential for life.
- Classify cells, tissue, organs and systems.
- Investigate how organisms adapt to biotic and abiotic factors.

Interesting Interview Options

- Corpus Collosum
- Tonsils
- Appendix
- Eyes
- Pyloric sphincter
- Heart
- Skin
- Capillaries
- Sweat glands
- Tongue
- Eardrum

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: You've been invited to an interview on the *Tonight Show with Your Brain!* Don't be nervous because after filling out this worksheet you'll be prepared for any of Brain's questions.

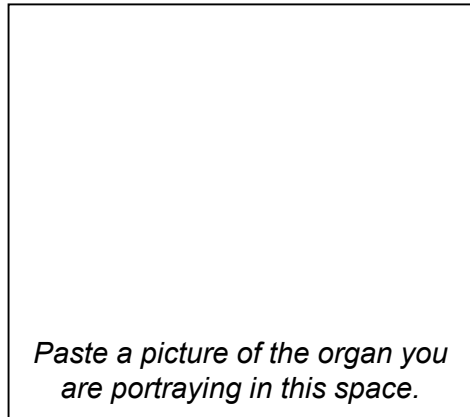
Organ name: _____

Function: _____

Location in the body: _____

What body system are you a part of? _____

How do you interact with other organs? Do you cooperate well or are there some organs that seem to do you harm? _____



What would happen if you stopped working? How essential are you to the body?

What common illnesses affect you directly and indirectly?

What situations are there where you might have a negative effect on the entire body?

What do you think is your most interesting trait or function?

Do you have an accent or make funny noises? _____

Describe your personality: _____

Journey Down the Nile



Grade Level 9-12

The Nile Files

“We have come to the *Mogran*, the place where the Blue and White Nile Rivers meet, a welcome calm after the tumultuous rapids already traveled. Here you can see Egyptian caravans carrying grain up the Nile to what they call Kush. The boats will return to Egypt laden with precious incense and animal hides for artisans to use in their craft and sell at market.”

Create a travelogue podcast of your journey down the Nile in ancient times, starting in Lake Victoria and careening downriver to the Mediterranean. Describe the sites, meet interesting people, and podcast your adventures along the way.



Imagine all the remarkable adventures you will encounter on your trip down the Nile!

Navigate the History

Students will research what life was like along the Nile in Ancient times and discuss the role the Nile played in the lives of Northeast Africans. Find out why so many cities sprang up along its banks. Research the similarities and differences between people who inhabit the land surrounding the Nile. Chronicle the rise and fall of the Egyptian Empire.

Tool Factory Tip: Watch the IMAX film *Mystery of the Nile* to see a modern journey from the source of the Blue Nile to the Mediterranean!

An Expedition, Nile Style

Work as a class to create a realistic historical podcast told from the perspective of an explorer traveling the Nile, stopping in cities and

meeting people along the way. Students become the explorers, traveling companions, ship’s captain, leaders and commoners from the cities visited. Where will you stop and explore? Will you see water buffalo and camels on river banks? What are the floodplains in Egypt and why would the Pharaoh purposely flood the Nile? What would be potential challenges to you as travelers? How will you traverse dangerously shallow cataracts? Will you see a pyramid being built? Each new episode will add a new chapter to the explorer’s story, taking the traveler deeper into the African continent.

One Step Further

After completing the journey in ancient times, travel the Nile in the 1800s when Europeans were first exploring the river. How have things changed since ancient times?

Learning Objectives

- Analyze physical, economic, and cultural characteristics of world regions.
- Use geography to make connections between the past and present.
- Interpret ideas and events from different historical perspectives.

Cities to Explore

- Alexandria
- Giza
- Memphis
- Abydos
- Thebes
- Edfu
- Aswan

Obstacles to Include in your Podcast

- Rapids.
- Battles fought on the shore.
- Nile crocodiles.
- Floods.
- Extreme heat.
- Whirlpools.
- Cataracts.
- Thieves.

Journey Planning



Names: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Plan out potential conflicts that could occur along the trail and people you will encounter at each way point. Work as a group to write your scripts for your podcasting episodes.

Starting Point Location: _____

Conflict: _____

People Met: _____

Waypoint #1 Location: _____

Conflict: _____

People Met: _____

Waypoint #2 Location: _____

Conflict: _____

People Met: _____

Waypoint #3 Location: _____

Conflict: _____

People Met: _____



BONUS ON CD!

Chapter 3

Prerecording and Planning

If you were inspired by our podcasting lesson plans and want to create your own, check out the bonus chapter included on your worksheet CD! This chapter is taken directly from *Tool Factory's Simple Guide to Podcasting*, a great resource for developing your podcasts. Look for brainstorming ideas and general planning worksheets for every step in the podcast building process.

Visit www.toolfactory.com for more information on the how-to book *Tool Factory's Simple Guide to Podcasting*.