



The Cradle of Humanity

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Social Studies
Grades 9–12



Introduction

Ethiopia has been attributed as being the place where the very first humans lived. In this lesson, students will conduct research on Ethiopia using information from the internet and other resources. They will publish their research with a multimedia presentation.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- ([CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.7](#)) Integrate quantitative or technical analysis (e.g., charts, research data) with qualitative analysis in print or digital text.
- ([CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.7](#)) Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem.

Materials Needed

- Access to computers/laptops
- Access to multimedia programs (MS Word, MS PowerPoint, etc.)
- [Ethiopia: The Cradle of Mankind \(video\)](#)

Procedure

1. At the start of the lesson, ask where students think the first human beings lived in the world. Create a tally of these places for everyone to see as they provide their responses. Highlight any patterns in the data after tallying it. Share with the students that historians have reported that Ethiopia as the location of the first humans. Take a moment to show the students or have them locate where Ethiopia is in the world.
2. Show the students the video “Ethiopia: The Cradle of Mankind”. Because this video is lengthy (20 minutes), feel free to choose a similar video or show an excerpt of the video based on the length of time that you have available. This video provides an overview of Ethiopia that will serve as background knowledge for the students.
3. As the students are viewing the video give them the task of jotting down interesting facts that they learn about Ethiopia. After the video, have the students share these facts with a partner and allow volunteers time to share with the class.

Continued on page 2



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Continued from page 1

4. Challenge the students to research information regarding Ethiopia as it relates to culture, population, geography, commerce, agriculture, political leadership, and technology. Depending on the amount of time, you may extend this by providing them with additional topics or challenging students to add their own topics of interest to research.
5. The students will utilize the internet as a resource to gather this information. They will have to then publish this research in the form of a multimedia presentation. This could be with PowerPoint, Google Slides, Prezi, or another similar format. This may take the students time to complete. As they are working, it will be important that you facilitate this learning by conferring with the students along the way and providing tips and strategies as they experience challenges.
6. The students should be given an opportunity to present their presentations to the class.

Evaluation

The students should be evaluated using a multimedia presentation rubric. Here is a [sample rubric](#) to consider. It is advised to review this grading process with the students prior to them starting their work.