

Additional Questions & Answers from “Telling your Geoscience Story with Story Maps” webinar

**Can you share any tips on creating StoryMaps that will be viewed by users in connectivity-poor areas? Like a "low bandwidth" mode?**

Story maps do consume a fair amount of bandwidth. For low bandwidth, keep the image sizes small and the number of images small; and consider not using any 3D scenes. Also consider using ArcGIS Online map presentations instead of story maps for some of the same effect.

**Are there any guides or walk throughs online that show us step by step how to create a Story Map?**

My step by step activities, 2 of which I showed during the webinar, are here:

<https://esri.app.box.com/s/nvmhxggziejmdh6fe53osfwl3hqvwuvt>. There are more on

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com>.

**Can a Story Map be made into a PDF?**

You cannot convert directly to PDF but you can screen capture, save to PPT, and then convert PPT to PDF.

**Can I create Story Maps within ArcGIS Pro? Or export ArcGIS layers to online Story Map?**

You can upload all of your Pro layers and maps to ArcGIS Online, from where you can make the story map. Yes, it is all the same platform so this is what we encourage people to do.

**Can images be downloaded into a Story Map directly from my desktop or phone?**

Story maps are meant to be online. You can screen capture each section and download as image files, though, if you wish.

**Can maps made in ArcGIS desktop or ArcGIS online and then be used in an ESRI story map? Are they fairly easy to incorporate if made in different places?**

Yes, see Line 5 answer above.

**Can you add your own commentary within the Story Maps?**

Yes, you can include your own captions, narrative as text, voice narrative, etc.

**Can you build a story map with the Story Map builder and then host it on your own website? Or do you have to use an entirely different method to create it?**

Not that I am aware of. The builder mode places it on the Esri ArcGIS.com site. You have to use method 3 to host them on your own website OR use builder mode and just embed the map onto your own web page. If you did the latter, the map is still on arcgis.com but it looks like it is on your own web page.

**Can you discuss ArcGIS Online credit usage? Are credits consumed when users hit our story maps?**

Most credits are consumed in geocoding and analysis in ArcGIS Online. Only a small amount of credits are consumed when people view your maps - a tiny amount.

**Can you integrate Story Maps with operational dashboard and embed it within CANVAS or MS TEAMS?**

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Yes, most definitely you can use Ops Dashboard. I have embedded Story maps into Canvas and other LMS. I have not tried embedding into Teams yet.

**Can you upload your own images/maps for your own use? Or does everyone have access to the images?**

Yes, you can upload your own images. If you share the maps, then everyone will see them - or just the people in your own ORG or groups.

**Do you recommend any processes (such as sketching maps or creating a storyboard by hand) before initiating the building phase online? How do you refine the "art" of story map telling?**

Yes, storyboarding, using MindMapper or other planning tools, is a great way of starting the planning process.

**Geologic Field trip story maps...where is a go to location for examples?**

Geology - one starting point for maps is here: State Geologic Story Maps:

<https://blogs.agu.org/sciencecommunication/2018/01/05/oh-storymaps-where-to-from-here/>

**Has Crowdsorce been deprecated? It is not offered when I click on My Stories.**

I have crowdsorce documentation here:

<https://community.esri.com/blogs/josephkerski/2018/11/21/how-to-use-the-crowdsorce-story-map>

Yes, it not on the main storymaps page any longer and I'd only use it for small projects.

**How do you upload the short video loop?**

See the tutorials on the video loop on <https://storymaps.arcgis.com>

**I am an 8th grade science teacher. Would you recommend Method 1 for this age group to introduce them to Story Maps? Would high end students be able to tackle Method 2?**

Yes, I have used Builder mode 1 with MS students and also Method 2 once they become familiar with ArcGIS Online.

**I tried to have students create Story Maps using maps created in ArcGIS Pro. They have a lot of issues sharing those so they can be used in Story Maps. Any hints for how to help them?**

Hmm... they have to upload the map layers to ArcGIS Online. Then go to ArcGIS Online, open the map, share, then make story map from that. They cannot use the builder mode if they are using the workflow; they must use method 2: ArcGIS online - share - make story map.

**Is it easy/possible to export a Story Map created from the Story Map Builder into hosted platforms? (e.g., the USGS pubs warehouse)**

You can link from pubs warehouse to a story map but I'm not sure what you mean by export.

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**Is there a good way to print Story Maps in order to create a hard copy now? This was an issue for my team ~6 months ago when a client asked for a hard copy of our presentation.**

Not really! Workaround: Try saving screen shots to JPGs, stitching them into a DOC or PPT, and converting to PDF, and printing.

**Is there a way to combine layout elements from multiple templates into one Story Map? If not, which Story Map template is the most versatile?**

Yes, you can combine story map apps. Map Journal and Cascade in my view are most versatile.

**Is there any way to tell who has viewed your Story Map?**

You can get metrics for number of views via ArcGIS Online but not which logged in user or any other more detailed information. Unless, perhaps, if you hosted on your own web site with your own metrics.

**This question relates to the functionality across device types and screen resolutions: One issue I've experienced with the tabbed Story Map is that the indicator or rich text boxes are sized based on my desktop monitor, but when I open the Story Map on a small screen resolution (laptop), the boxes don't resize to fit the new resolution (so the boxes end up scrolling etc.). Is there a way to set these to automatically resize by screen resolution (that's not just enabling the use the ability to resize elements)?**

When you create a story map, there is a way for you to view in different screen sizes.

**What are the costs associated with creating a Story Map if I'm just a private citizen wanting to make one of these?**

If you get a free ArcGIS Online account via <https://developers.arcgis.com/>, this is just for non-commercial use, and it is free.

**What if you can't use Flickr or YouTube for images?**

You can use Flickr. You can embed YouTube videos. I used Flickr in my webinar.

**What is the minimum ArcGIS version, do you need ArcGIS Pro?**

You do not need Pro. You need an ArcGIS Online account to make one.

**What strategies do you recommend for evaluating the credibility of the data used in Story Maps and other ArcGIS platforms?**

See <https://spatialreserves.wordpress.com> - for my discussions on evaluating data.