Creating the Setting

Students create the setting by completing a frieze (mural) or other visual representation of the place.

Educational Purpose

• Introduces the narrative as an organizational schema for learning
• Establishes a common context for learning.
• Fosters student ownership for the learning connecting what students know to new information.
• Develops and reinforces common vocabulary through discussion
• Develops cooperation and negotiation skills.

Teacher’s role

• Introduces Storypath
• Facilitates discussion about place connecting what is known to new information
• Manages the learning environment to include all students in the construction and discussion of the setting.
Creating Characters

Students create characters for the story whose roles they will play during subsequent episodes.

Educational Purpose

- Personalizes the learning by creating believable characters
- Engages students in narrative and develops the need to know to move the story forward
- Integrates literacy skills through authentic activities.

Teacher’s Role

- Introduces Storypath
- Facilitates discussion about place connecting what is known to new information
- Manages the learning environment to include all students in the construction and discussion of the setting
Building Context

Students are involved in activities that stimulate them to think more deeply about the people and place they have created.

Educational Purpose
- Provides a meaningful purpose and context for investigations about the topic of study.
- Develops skills in context

Teacher’s Role
- Provides instruction to ensure students have skills to complete investigations.
- Scaffolds learning
Critical Incidents

Characters confront problems typical of those faced by people of that time and place.

Educational Purpose

• Fosters critical thinking and problem tackling
• Promotes collaboration and negotiation
• Develops analysis and evaluation of information and research to gain more information

Teacher’s Role

• Guides students to ask their own questions, rethink understanding of their world, and make sense of new ideas.
• Fosters examination of alternative viewpoints and predictions of problem resolution.
Concluding Event

Students plan and participate in an activity that brings closure to the story.

Educational Purpose

• Provides closure and reflection for learning.
• Applies learning to the “real world.”

Teacher’s Role

• Guides students through the closure and reflection process.