



Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center  
1725 State Street  
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601  
Phone: 608-785-6473  
Web site: <http://mvac.uwlax.edu/>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UWLMVAC>



The following lessons were created by **Russell Torkkola**, a teacher participating in the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for Teachers entitled Touch the Past: Archaeology of the Upper Mississippi River Region.

Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

### **The Zombie Apocalypse - Design a Culture**

Grade Level	11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Subjects	Technology Education, American Government, and Economics
Objectives	To create a functional culture after the zombie apocalypse. Faced with limited resources, a non-functional government, and the need to defend and feed themselves, students will begin the journey from anarchy to a functional culture and society.
Standards	MN Govt Standards - 9.1.4.7.1 & 9.1.5.12.1 & 9.1.1.1.4 MN Economic Standards - 9.2.1.1.1
Duration	12 class periods
Materials/Supplies	Their laptop computer
Vocabulary	Terms and concepts typical to American Government, Economics, Technology, Anthropology, and Archaeology.
Background	Students will have an understanding of economic principles and an understanding of the United States Constitution. Tools and items needed to assist the group in survival will be constructed with the resources in the Technology Education lab.

Students will understand the differences between the cultural taxonomies of Bands, Tribes, Chiefdoms and States.

**Setting the Stage** How did societies in the past utilize limited resources (economics), create a system of group decision making (government), and take those resources and use them in the most efficient manner (technology education).

**Procedure** At St. Clair High School we run a blended schedule with students. M-W-F the students are in class with the instructor. On T-TH the students are completing assignments online that are assigned by the instructor. Monday class periods would be used to introduce students to the information they will need to complete their culture. Different scenarios can be introduced on these Mondays and the group will record their solution to the situation. How to acquire resources? Is there a written law or one based on group consensus? How about marriage? How to defend the culture? Questions like these will need to be answered by the group.

Students will be asked to live without technology for 4 days. The level of technology they live without can vary from the loss of phones and modern communication methods to actually giving up all of the comforts of life and having to actually find their own food for these 4 days. Students can prepare with family and friends before engaging in this activity to coordinate life without modern conveniences.

**Closure** Does the group have a system in place at the end of the 12 classroom sessions that is able to deal with whatever scenario is brought before the group? A written record of the culture/society will be kept on file with the student's essays to review in later years to see how societal values change from year to year.

Students will write an essay on what it was like to live without technology for 4 days.

Students will write an essay on what they value as an 18 year old student. What is important in America now and what is important in their lives? These essays will be kept by me for the remainder of my time at St. Clair and will be released upon my retirement, giving us a written cultural history of St. Clair.

By keeping the student essays and the culture/society notes and writings, we should be able to create a historical account of how culture/society changed over 20 to 25 years.

Evaluation      An individual analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the culture the students have created. Completed essays on the students values, taboos, and expectations of the future and the essay on living without technology.

Links/Extension      From Hunters/Gathers to Farmers  
Part 1 -      <http://youtu.be/CJLHewx6PHQ>  
Part 2 -      <http://youtu.be/iDxDpvkzr1s>  
Part 3 -      [http://youtu.be/lv\\_AaR6SRII](http://youtu.be/lv_AaR6SRII)  
Part 4 -      <http://youtu.be/PLnFp8JFxCg>