

# EXERCISE 1

## Creating a Story Map



### Introduction

Story Maps are immersive narrative based presentation tools. Esri markets them as “effortless storytelling” and provides easy to use templates and app builders that walk you through the steps for creating your “story”. In addition to text, the app builder allows you to easily add multi-media content to your story including photos, videos, and gifs.

Whether you are mapping native trees, wildfire impacts, or how plant communities will be impacted by climate change, story maps will enable you to show deeper insights and more detail than you could otherwise show.

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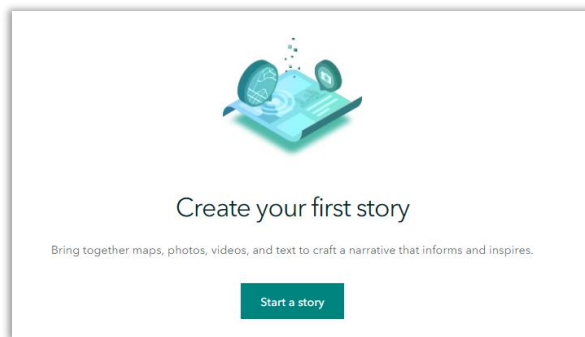


## Part 1: Create Your Story Map

We are going to start building a story map. Note that the story map will auto save every few seconds. Also, don't use the back button on your browser or you will close your story map.

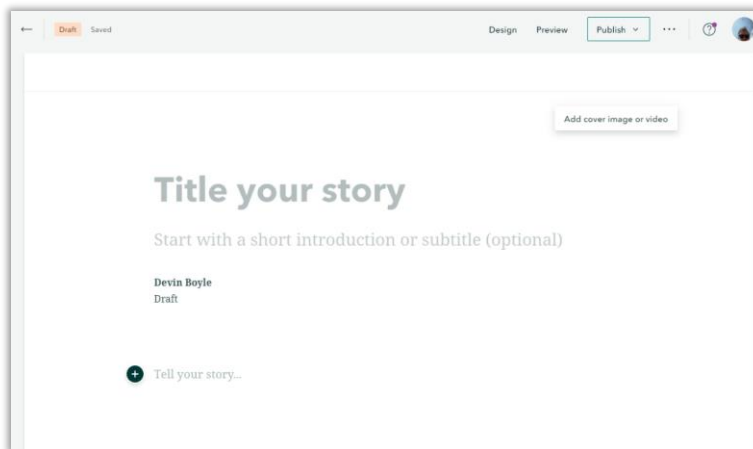
### A. Start a story

1. Go to <https://storymaps.arcgis.com> and sign in.
2. If you haven't created any stories with ArcGIS Story Maps, you will only see the 'Create new story' box with the plus sign or Create your first story. (image on next page).
3. Click 'New story' or 'Start a story' button.



### B. Create a cover

1. Click on 'Title your story' and type the following: "Mountains: Moody and Mysterious"



2. Click below the title to add a subtitle. Type: "What could these mountains be hiding?"
3. Click "Add cover image or video" then "Browse your files" to add an image to the title page.
4. Navigate to the content folder in the story maps folder you downloaded for the class.
  - i. Add Mt\_Moran.jpg to the cover. (Images and videos are found in your exercise folder).

Any video must be smaller than 50 mb. Click the 'Add image' or 'Add Video' button, navigate to the location of the images and click 'Open'. Your image will fill the page.

5. Click the "Design" button at the top of the page.
  - i. Select the Cover arrangement.
    - (a) Since we are trying to really evoke the feelings of our mountain pictures, we are going to use the full screen option. But try clicking on the others to see how they fit.
  - ii. Choose a Theme:
    - (a) Click the Slate theme but be sure to click on the others to see how they look.

The different themes change the font pairings as well as the background and accent colors.

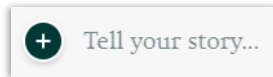


- iii. Click "Upload logo" under the Logo section
    - (a) Select "USDA\_FUS\_Logo\_2"
6. Close design sidebar

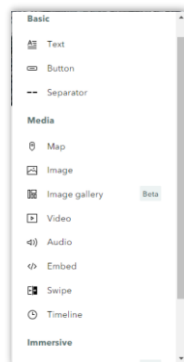


## Part 2: Build Your Narrative

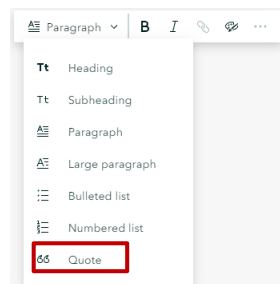
1. You now see a small plus sign below the cover.



2. Click the plus
3. You will see options – this menu is called the block palette. This is the main way you will add new content to your story map.

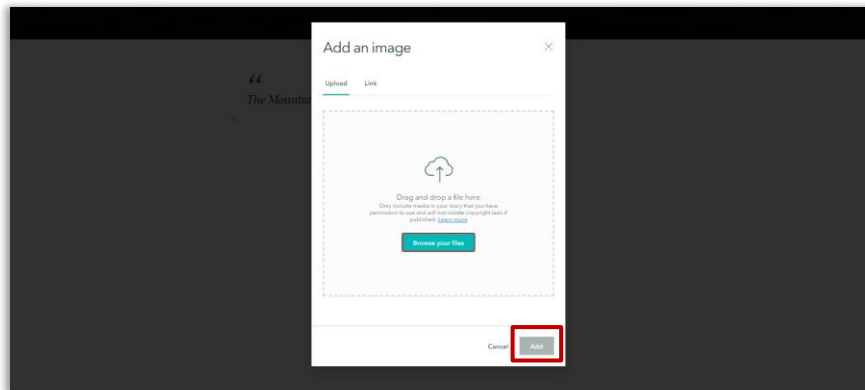


4. Choose the "Text" option.
  - i. Click the Text Type dropdown and select "Quote"



- ii. Type: 'The Mountains are calling, and I must go.' – John Muir"
5. Click just below your new quote block to make the plus sign appear again.
    - i. Choose to add an image.
    - ii. Click Browse Your Files and find the Grandfather\_Mountain.jpg
    - iii. Then click Add.





*Feel free to play around with adding blocks. You can easily remove and rearrange blocks. To delete text just highlight and delete. To delete graphics, click on the little trash can symbol adjacent to the item.*

*You can also edit text by adding bold or italic and other options. By highlighting text, you will see a text editor. Select any of the options to modify your text.*



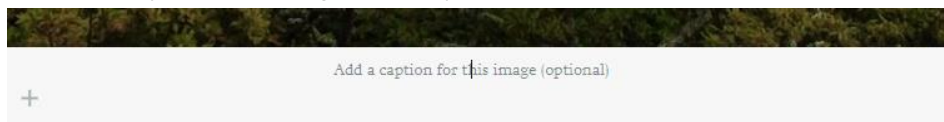
6. Click on the image you just added, notice that a box appears above the image.



i. This box allows you to control how large your image will appear. The two button on the left will insert the image into a block of text like a newspaper. The others will make the image larger. The largest option on the right is the one we will choose. This will make it an immersive image. The Gear allows for more image options. The “...” allows you to replace the image.

7. Click the largest option for your image.

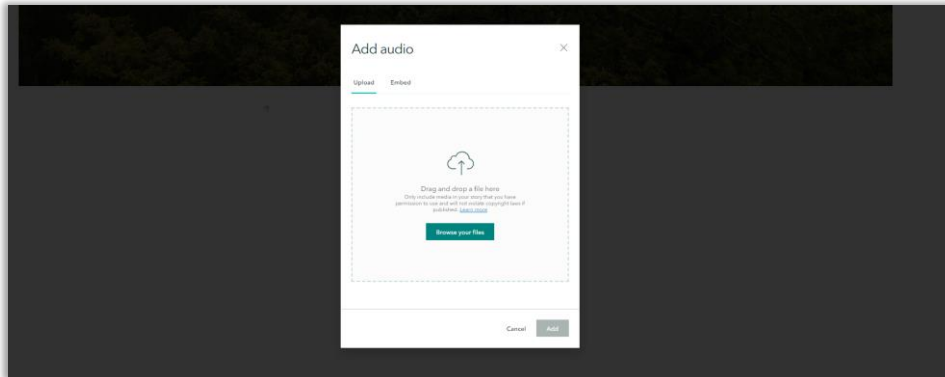
8. Click just below the image to add a caption



9. Type: “Afternoon thunderstorm of Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina”



10. Next, why don't we add an audio file of rain sounds to make us really feel like we are there on Grandfather Mountain.
11. **Click** the plus sign again and choose Audio.



12. **Click** "Browse your files" and add the "rain-01" mp3 file to the story.

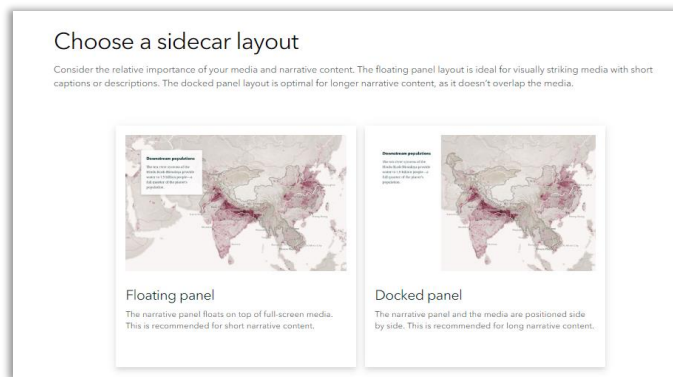
*Adding audio files to your story can be a powerful way to make the reader feel like they are immersed into your story map. You can try to record your own audio, but there are also tons of free websites that have short audio files for download. I just did an internet search for "Mountain Rain" to find the one we are using here.*

## Part 3: Explore content displays

Now that we have learned how to set up our story map and add images and text, why don't we explore how to create more complicated data displays. We can add Maps, sidecars, slideshows, and swipe tools to give our data and content more life. In this next section we will add a sidecar to the story to create a scrolling narrative about the moody mountains around the world.

1. **Click** on the plus sign again to open context menu.
2. **Click** on "Sidecar"

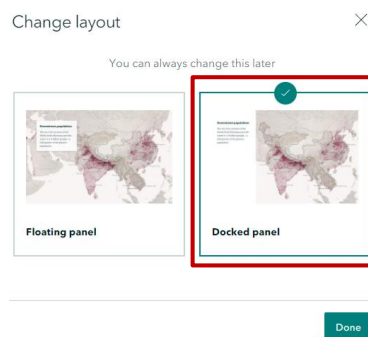




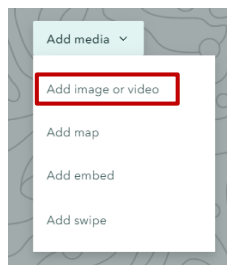
3. Next you need to pick a sidecar layout.

- i. Sidecars allow you to create a scrolling slideshow that has a sidebar or window with text, images, videos, or maps. This allows you to have important information in the main window with lots of context along the side.

4. Pick "Docked panel" and the sidecar will be added to your story.



5. Click "Add Media" at the top of the window, choose "add image or video".

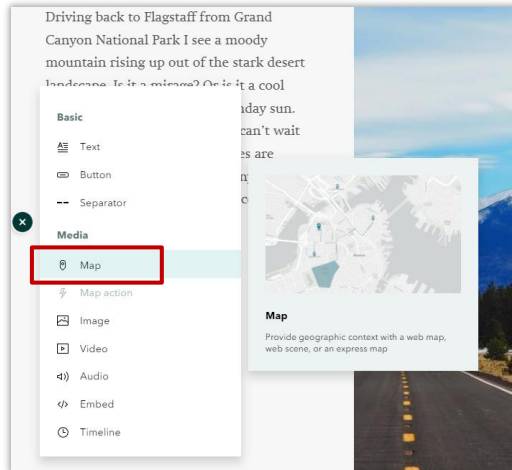


6. Click "Browse your files" and select "SanFrancisco\_Peaks" image and add it to the sidecar.

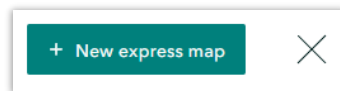


7. Now we can add context to the side panel. You can choose to add a paragraph to the side panel, or you can just start typing.
8. Copy and paste the following:
  - i. "Driving back to Flagstaff from Grand Canyon National Park I see a moody mountain rising up out of the stark desert landscape. Is it a mirage? Or is it a cool respite from the scorching noonday sun. I'm not sure at this point, but I can't wait to find out what moody surprises are waiting as I race through the pinyon and juniper towards the San Francisco Peaks."
9. Next, we can add an express map to show where this image was taken.
10. Click on the plus sign below the text we just added, remember sometimes you must click in a few different places below your last content to find the hidden plus sign.
11. Click Map.

Commented [ML-FSLCU1]: Maybe instruct them to use the add a paragraph function



12. This will open a new page. Here you can choose from any map you already have created or published to ArcGIS Online. Or, you can create an express map which is a quick simple map that only exists in your story.
13. In the top right corner of the map window click "New Express Map".

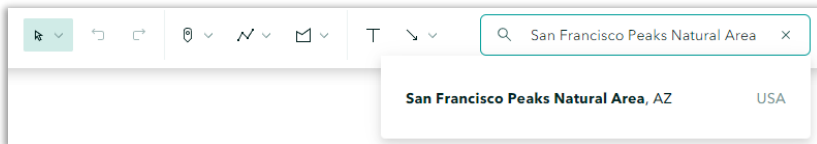


- i. This will allow us to create a quick map that can give some geographic context to our image.





14. The quickest way for us to find our location will be to do a search. In the top right corner **click** in the search bar and type: “San Francisco Peaks Natural Area” and press enter to zoom to Arizona.

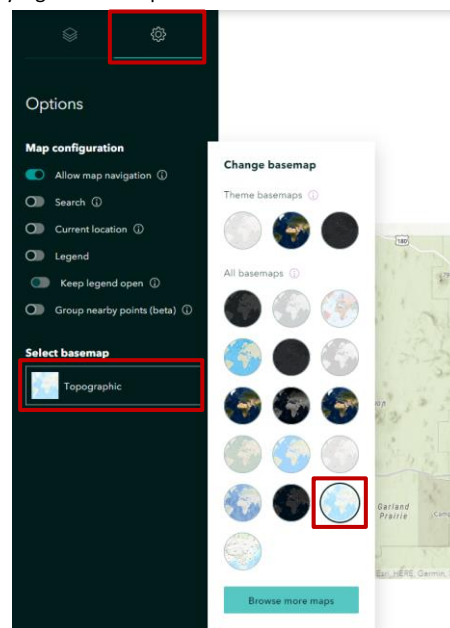


15. That identifies our location for us, but the default base map doesn't really have the peaks marked. We need to switch to a base map that has more geography.

16. **Click** the Gear (Options) symbol in the top left corner of the window.

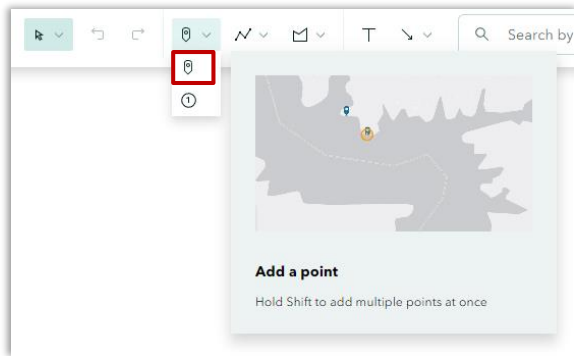
17. Then **click** on the base map button in the sidebar and choose the “Topographic” base map. If you hover over a base map icon the name appears.

i. Feel free to play around with the others. I really like the “Ocean”, “Modern Antique”, and “Human Geography Light” basemaps.

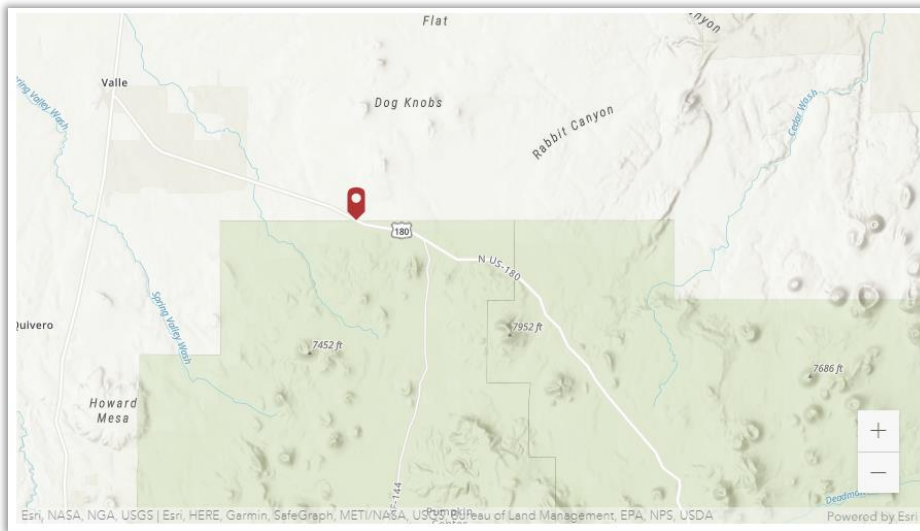


18. **Click** the Layers button next to the Gear button.

19. Next **click** “Add a Point” to allow us to indicate where the picture was taken.



20. **Click** along N US – 180 right where it enters the Coconino National Forest.

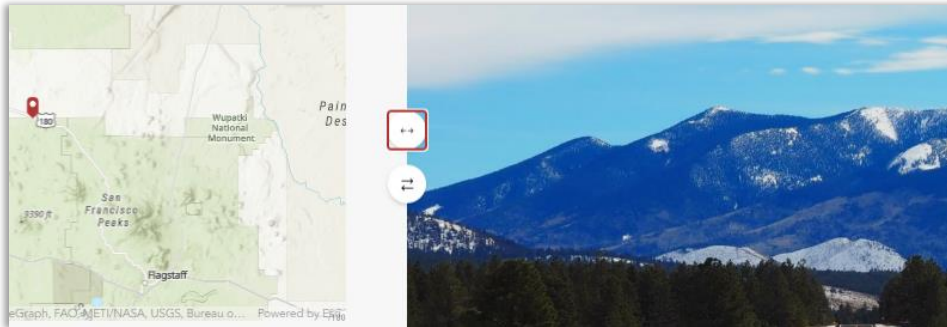


21. Then **click** “Done” at the bottom left to add your map to the sidecar. This express map we just created is an interactive map that readers can explore if they want to.

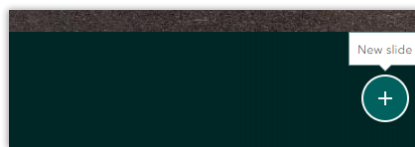
- i. In case you were wondering what the other tools do, simply hover your mouse over the tool for the tool name and description.
- ii. For an interactive explanation please view ESRI’s storymap on Express maps [here](#)

22. Finally, since the map is so small on the side panel, we should make the panel larger. **Click** the Change Panel Size arrow on the edge of the side panel to expand it.





23. Now we can add several more slides to the sidebar. Click the New Slide button to create a new slide.



24. On the new slide add the “Frery Peak” image to the slide and add the following text:
  - i. “Pondering life as I walk along the beaches of the Great Salt Lake. The towering Wasatch Mountains behind me fail to draw my attention, my gaze fixed on Frairy Peak rising out of the dusky saltwater of the lake. What might that island peak have looked like in the glacial waters of Ancient Lake Bonneville? We will never know.”
25. Add another express map, this time searching for Antelope Island State Park. Choose the base map of your choice, add a point on Frary Peak (the highest point on Antelope Island) and then add it to the sidebar.
26. Add one more slide to the sidebar. This time add the “Kessler\_Peak” image.
  - i. In the side panel add: “Birds sounds and crunching soil underfoot. I wander through the forest. A break in the trees reveals a treasure. God’s lawnmower gashed into Kessler peak. The avalanche must have destroyed everything in its path. All quiet now, but a reminder that nature is not always silent.”
27. Once more add an express map to the side car showing Big Cottonwood Canyon, Utah and put your point just south of the bend in Big Cottonwood Creek.

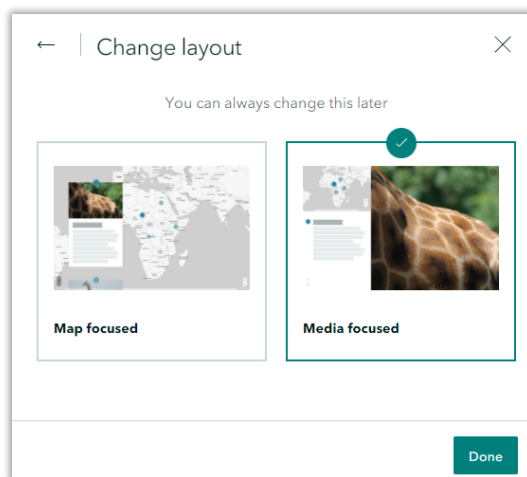




## Part 4: Create a Map Tour

Another way we can display content in a story map is by using a map tour. This is a way to add even more geographic context to your content. Map tour can be used to show interesting spots on your forest, or to show important projects completed during the field season on your forest.

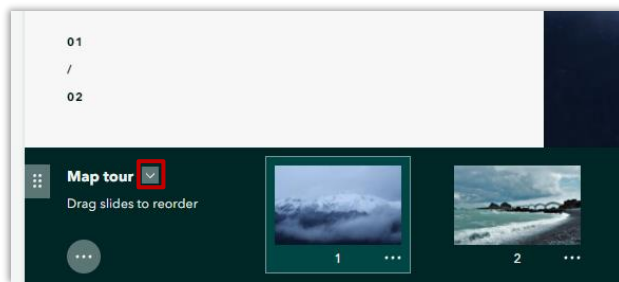
1. Click the plus sign below the sidebar we just created. Note that we are not adding another slide to the sidebar, be careful to click the plus sign below the whole sidebar panel.
2. Click on "Map Tour"
3. Select "Start from Scratch" then select "Guided", then finally select "Media focused"



4. Now add an image to the main window by clicking "add image or video" and finding the "Te\_Anau" image from the contents folder.



5. Then **click** “Add location” on the map window in the upper left.
6. Search for Te Anau, New Zealand in the search window on the map that appears.
  - i. In the text area add this paragraph: “Fighting wind on the Kepler Track, over your shoulder the lights of Te Anau fade into the distance. Wilderness surrounds you now, only the Wapiti and Southern Beech of Fiordlands National Park keep you company. But ahead of you the snow clouds part and another moody mountain rears its head.”
7. Now add another slide to the map tour.
8. Add the “San-hsien-t'ai Island” image to the story and search for San-hsien-t'ai Island, Taiwan on the map.
9. Add this text to the sidebar: “Salt spray on my skin. A moody Island mountain draws my attention. Standing sentinel rising out of the sea, watching the coast of Taiwan. Is it really a mountain? I bet it would say yes.”
10. In the bottom left of the map tour notice there is an arrow next the words “Map tour”.
11. **Click** the arrow to make the slides appear across the bottom.



- i. From here you can re-order slides if you want.

## Part 5: Make a Slideshow

For the next section you will experiment with creating your own slideshow.

### A. Add a slideshow block

With a slideshow you can create a series of presentation style slides that your readers navigate laterally. Unlike other story map elements, a slideshow is optional for the viewer. They can scroll past it without using it if they choose to. This can be a bad thing if you have important content essential for your story, but it can also be useful if you have additional content but have a story that is getting pretty long.

1. **Click** the green plus symbol beneath the Map tour section and then add a slideshow block.
2. At the top of the page **click** the ‘Add media’ button and select ‘add image or video’.
3. Select any remaining images you haven’t used yet and click open.
4. Fill in the slide title and reposition the title so it doesn’t interfere with your image.
  - i. **Click** inside the box to type in the title. Use the arrows to reposition the box under the ‘panel appearance’ button.



5. Add a second slide to the sidebar by **selecting** the plus symbol at the bottom right of the page.



6. At the bottom left of the page you will see small arrow. **Select** the arrow and it will expand the slide carousel. You drag your slides to reorder them. In addition, you can change the fade speed between them.

## Part 6: Finishing the Story Map

Esri has made it very easy to adjust the design of your StoryMap. You can rearrange blocks by dragging them around the site. Now that you have more of your story created it is also a good time to take a second look at the design page to see how the design options impact your story.

### A. Story Map Wrap Up

1. First why don't we add one more picture and a wrap up message. Add the "Linville\_Gorge" image to the bottom of the story map. Don't add it to the slideshow, just put it alone below the slideshow.
2. Add a caption to the image.
  - i. Type: "Just like moody sunsets over the blue ridge mountains, our story map must come to an end."
3. Finally, if you scroll as far down the story map as you can, you will see a section for credits. Feel free to put your name and your forest or unit name.
  - i. If not present make sure "Credits" are turned on in the "Design" tab

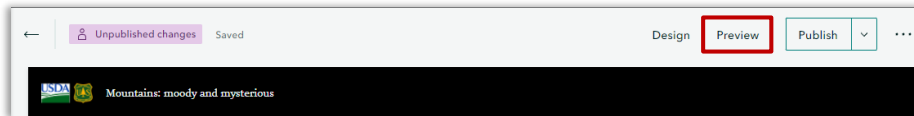


## Part 7: Publish

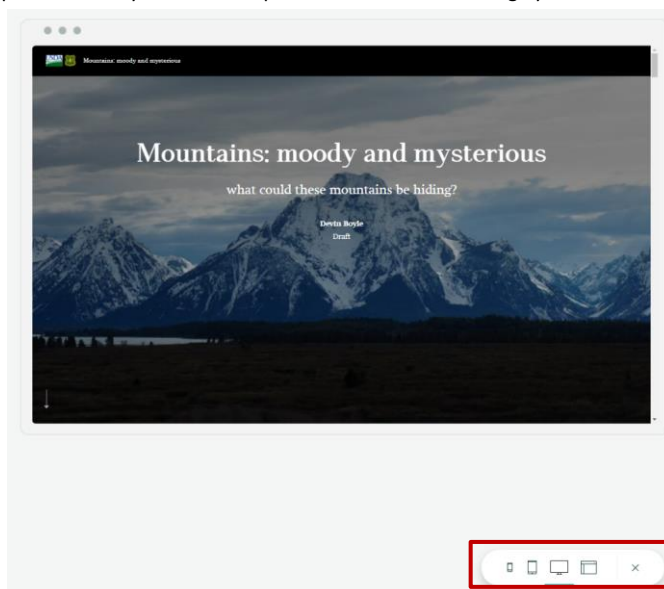
You may have noticed you have not been saving your StoryMap. StoryMap is now enabled with auto save. Your StoryMap has been saving the entire time you were working on it. One benefit is that if your browser crashes all your edits are saved. The drawback is that when you make changes they are saved, even if you didn't intend on keeping them.

1. You can now preview your story map. The preview option allows you to see how your story will look in different formats such as a phone or a tablet. **Click** on "Preview" at the top of the screen.





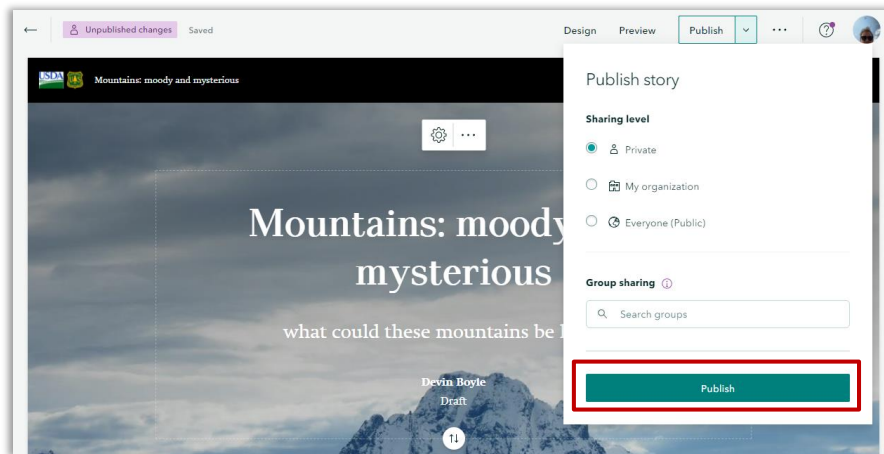
2. Once you enter Preview mode you have several options of how to preview the story map. The default is in your browser. But you also have the option of viewing on a mobile phone, tablet, and pc monitor. Try each of the options to see how the change your view.



*If this story map was something you wanted to publish, you could publish it using the publish button at the top of the webpage. When you do need to publish you can follow the directions below on how to publish to the organization and to the public.*

3. Click the “Publish” drop down.





*Depending on your role in AGOL you may have the ability to share to “My Organization” or “Everyone (public)”. In most cases you will only be able to share your story map within the organization. If you need to share your Story to the public, you will need to contact your regional AGOL coordinator and request permissions to allow you to share with the public. Even when your story is “Private” you can still share to a group in AGOL by going to your content page in your ArcGIS Online account and choosing a group that you are a member of.*

Congratulations! You have successfully completed this exercise. You now know the basics of creating a story map.

