



December 2019

A monthly newsletter for social studies educators

## Updates from the Ohio Department of Education

### Resources for Ohio Social Studies

The [Resources for Social Studies](#) webpage provides links on the importance of elementary social studies, professional organizations, tips on using primary sources, making connections with social studies and careers and more. Be sure to check out the [Pearltrees for Social Studies](#). This is a collaborative website to store thoughts, links, videos and notes. Teachers can easily post ideas or "pearls" on specific topics or series of topics.

### State organizations offering opportunities and resources

#### Holocaust & Humanity Center provides professional development opportunities for Ohio educators

[Finding Home: Refugees, Resilience & Rebuilding](#) is a workshop that will explore the hardships of emigration/immigration in Western Europe beginning in 1933 and later in Eastern Europe after the beginning of World War II. Participants will use hands-on activities and lessons that can be easily integrated into the classroom. The workshop also will examine refugees in the aftermath of the war and connections to today's world. It will take place Dec. 7, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Nancy and David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center in Cincinnati. Certificates for eight contact hours will be provided. The \$10 fee includes parking and lunch.

#### Ohio Center for Law-Related Education provide programs for teachers and students

- **Observe the *We the People* State Competition**  
[We the People](#) teaches students about the history, philosophies, changes, and application of the U.S. Constitution and other founding documents. The [Ohio Center for Law-Related Education](#) invites interested teachers to observe students in action and talk with experienced teachers about classroom implementation. The competition takes place Friday, Jan. 24, at the Ohio Statehouse. Contact Kelly Masterson at [kmasterson@ocle.org](mailto:kmasterson@ocle.org) or (614) 485-3515 for more information.
- **Ohio Government In Action**  
Experience state government 'live' and behind-the-scenes! Join the [Ohio Center for Law-Related Education](#) for [Ohio Government in Action](#), Feb. 11-12. Teachers will observe oral arguments before the Supreme Court of Ohio and meet with leaders from each of Ohio's three branches. Teachers will take home ready-to-use lessons and connect with government teachers from around the state. For more information contact Ryan Suskey at [rsuskey@ocle.org](mailto:rsuskey@ocle.org) or visit the website.

### Other opportunities

#### American Lawyers announce nomination process for Teacher of the Year Award

For the past 60 years, the [American Lawyers Alliance](#) has been active in its support of public education, citizenship awareness and various service programs. Recognizing the vital role that teachers play in law-related education, the alliance began in 1985 to sponsor [Law-Related Education Teacher of the Year](#) awards. The purpose of these awards is to honor public and private high school teachers who have made significant contributions in law-related education. Nominations for the 2020 Law-Related Education Teacher of the Year Awards may be submitted by the applicant, school administrators, other teachers, students, lawyers, judges, professional members of the community or any other interested parties by March 15. Visit the [Law-Related Education Teacher of the Year](#) website.

#### Constitutional Rights Foundation offers student programs

The [Constitutional Rights Foundation](#) provides the youth of today and leaders of tomorrow programs that provide the skills and confidence to engage actively in civic life.

- **Civic Action Project (CAP)** This cutting-edge program is used in all 50 states and many countries. CAP students, many of whom live in low-income communities, learn civics by addressing real issues and problems that matter to them. They work with government officials and community agencies to achieve real policy change, from improving public transportation to instituting anti-bullying policies at schools. CAP reaches well over 96,000 students each year.

- **Amplifying Youth Voice** The foundation has partnered with Empower the People, founded by two students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Sari Kaufman, a senior at Douglas High School, and Casey Sherman, now at Duke University, are leading a new national CAP Youth Board. Together, they are planning and hosting Citizen Debates where policymakers and experts share different perspectives on key issues and have civil dialogue with CAP students around the nation. Its first Citizen Debate event was held in partnership with Duke's Fuqua School of Business with hundreds of CAP students from Durham, NC, Los Angeles, CA, Spokane, WA, and Longmont, CO. Next up, an online event for more CAP classes, then on to Los Angeles.

### **The U.S. Census Bureau provides program to increase awareness of the 2020 census**

**Statistics in Schools (SIS)** is a U.S. Census Bureau program that uses census statistics to create classroom materials for grades pre-K through 12. Teachers and subject matter experts nationwide helped develop each Statistics in Schools activity to increase awareness of and overall public response to the decennial census. The Statistics in Schools program includes more than 200 activities and resources that enhance learning and engage administrators, teachers, students and their parents or guardians in public conversations about the census. Resources include lesson plans, data tools, fun facts and more.

### **Education Week: Call for Civic Engagement Ideas**

As part of its ongoing Citizen Z initiative, **Education Week** is seeking 100 good ideas for teaching civics. These can be quick lessons, after-school activities, community projects, tips and more.

### **National Council for History Education Conference coming to Cleveland**

The **National Council for History Education** is coming to Cleveland on March 19-21. The conference hotel is the Hilton Cleveland Downtown and the **room block** currently is open. The conference is offering eight Enrichment Excursions, including our highlighted excursion this month, the Cleveland History Center. Join the Cleveland History Center, the headquarters of the Western Reserve Historical Society, for an afternoon exploring everyday objects and their roles in history. The day will include a highlight tour of the History Center, a ride on its 109-year-old Euclid Beach Grand Carousel and an immersive curator-led, behind-the-scenes experience. The afternoon will end with a short professional development activity that will give educators a hands-on way to explore how everyday objects can bring history to life for learners of all ages. **Registration** is now open.

### **Gilder Lehrman Institute seeking 2020 National History Teacher of the Year**

The **Gilder Lehrman Institute** is accepting nominations for the **2020 National History Teacher of the Year**. The award will be given to a full-time, K-12 educator who teaches American history, including state and local history, as either an individual subject or as part of other subjects. The 2020 award will honor exceptional elementary and secondary teachers who are generalists or specialists. Teachers in each of the 50 states, District of Columbia, Department of Defense schools and U.S. territories are encouraged to apply. Deadline for nominations is March 31.

### **Online courses**

#### **Facing History and Ourselves offers webinar and online courses for educators**

- **A New Approach to Teaching *To Kill a Mockingbird***. This online course will provide a fresh approach to exploring Harper Lee's classic work with students. Using free, accompanying resources, *Teaching Mockingbird*, participants will learn how to incorporate historical context, literacy strategies and moral development theory into teaching in ways that deepen students' understanding of the novel, enrich their knowledge of history and illuminate fundamental questions of human behavior. It will take place from Jan. 30 to March 4. The registration fee and event fee for this online course have been waived thanks to generous funding from *Facing History and Ourselves* donors and partner organizations.
- **Democracy at Risk: Holocaust and Human Behavior**. Studying the Holocaust and human behavior allows students to wrestle with profound moral questions raised by this history while fostering their skills in ethical and moral reasoning, critical analysis, empathy and civic engagement—all of which are critical habits of mind for sustaining democracy. Participants will increase their abilities to facilitate respectful classroom discussions on difficult issues such as racism, antisemitism and other forms of exclusion in a way that invites personal reflection and critical analysis. They will learn a new way of structuring curricula to help students connect history to their own lives and the choices they make.

#### **Bowling Green State University offers online graduate course on Imperial Rome**

*Imperial Rome* is graduate-level course on the Roman Empire, focusing on 27 BCE to 395 CE. The course progresses chronologically, covering major historical events and rulers but also thematically discussing cultural, social and economic realities of this period. Students complete lesson plans as their final course project that will facilitate their teaching of world civilizations. The course will be from Jan. 27-May 15. For more information, email Dr. Ben Greene at [greeneb@bgsu.edu](mailto:greeneb@bgsu.edu) or visit the [CCP certificate website](#).

## **Summer Opportunities**

### **Heart Mountain, Wyoming and the Japanese American Incarceration Teacher Workshop**

Teachers of grades 5-12 from around the country are invited to attend the [Heart Mountain, Wyoming and the Japanese American Incarceration Teacher Workshop](#). Participants will learn about the first immigrants from Japan, through the Pearl Harbor attack and wartime hysteria and their incarceration to the apology and redress payments by the federal government in 1988. Teachers will be guided in developing dynamic lessons using primary and secondary source materials such as newspapers, artifacts and oral histories. Professional development contact hours will be provided, as well as university credits for a fee. The workshop will take place July 19-24 and July 26-31 at the WWII Heart Mountain confinement site in Wyoming. Successful participants will be awarded a \$1,200 stipend to defray transportation and lodging costs upon completion of all parts of the workshop. There are no workshop fees. Applications are due March 1.

### **Monticello Teacher Institute accepting applications**

The Thomas Jefferson Foundation is offering the [Monticello Teacher Institute](#), an immersive professional development program that provides social studies teachers for grades K-12 the opportunity to research and study at Monticello and the Jefferson Library in Charlottesville, Virginia. Participating teachers engage in:

- A collaborative environment, facilitated by group excursions, discussions with leading Jefferson scholars and other focused workshops;
- Research to bolster their historical understanding, build resources for their classrooms and contribute to the resources available online at the [Monticello Digital Classroom](#);
- Tackling the complex and difficult history of Jefferson and Monticello, including race, slavery and freedom;
- Sharing their experiences as ambassadors to their students and fellow educators through conversations about Jefferson's ideas and the history of Monticello.

The sessions will be held July 11-17 and July 25-31. Application deadline is March 1. Applicants can note their preference for a particular session on the online application.

### **Updated summer professional development opportunities offered**

A list of [professional development opportunities for social studies educators](#) will be updated through the spring. This information was compiled by Stefanie Wager, social studies specialist for the Iowa Department of Education and president-elect of the National Council for the Social Studies.

## **Resources**

### **Americans and the Holocaust**

This unit, provided by [Facing History and Ourselves](#), shifts students' study of World War II and Nazism to the other side of the Atlantic.

### **American Panorama**

This website is an historical atlas of the United States for the 21st century. It combines cutting-edge research with innovative interactive mapping techniques designed to appeal to anyone with an interest in American history or a love of maps.

### **American Social History Project**

This website challenges traditional ways that people learn about the past with its print, visual and multimedia materials that explore the diverse social and cultural histories of the nation.

### **The Best Websites for Teaching & Learning about World History**

This is a blog with numerous links to websites and videos on world history.

### **8 Resources for Making Digital Maps**

This blog post shares eight free tools for creating digital maps. Resources include Scribble Maps, Thinglink, NatGeo MapMaker and more.

### **Google Earth Timelapses**

Google Earth provides the ability to take current events and access historical imagery. This site provides a tutorial on how to access this feature in Google Earth.

### **History Instruction Indicted: Too Much Memorization, Too Little Meaning**

This article from *Education Week* argues that history curriculum tends to focus too much on memorization and not enough knowledge building.

### **Educating About Immigration**

Educating About Immigration helps teachers and students address issues of immigration productively and critically. It is a one-stop informational and interactive clearinghouse on topics of U.S. immigration. It is primarily intended as a source for curriculum, but the general public is also invited to use it to learn more about immigration, its history, and current controversies. The site was initially funded by the Weingart Foundation.

### **Investigating the Lincoln Assassination**

Ford's Theatre has released new resources for teaching about the Lincoln assassination.

### **Model Diplomacy**

Model Diplomacy is a free simulation program that invites students, educators and professionals from a variety of backgrounds to step into the roles of decision-makers on the U.S. National Security Council (NSC) or U.N. Security Council.

### **National Geographic's Student Experiences**

This site provides National Geographic's flagship programs both inside and outside the classroom. Students can join virtual expeditions with National Geographic Explorers, and students can explore their own curiosity with innovative challenges and competitions.

### **20 YouTube Channels for Social Studies Teachers**

This blog provides 20 YouTube channels for social studies classrooms.

### **Strangers in Town Film**

*Strangers in Town* is a film about Garden City, Kansas and how global migration unexpectedly transformed the town.

### **10 Best Social Studies Tools for Elementary School**

This collection of elementary-level social studies tools will get kids digging into history and exploring places near and far, all while learning about different societies and cultures and how they fit into the big picture.

### **Voices of Democracy**

This huge collection of primary source documents provides a sound starting point for any historical research project.

### ***Send comments/questions to:***

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