History and Social Studies Education: A Guide to Online Resources

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History and social studies teachers searching the World Wide Web for multicultural curricular materials will find a plethora of resources ranging from primary documents to divergent perspectives on contemporary social justice issues. The following is a vetted guide to some of the most progressive, powerful, and multicultural of these resources.

360degrees
(http://www.360degrees.org/)

Picture Projects hosts a collection of the stories and experiences of inmates, guards, parents, and others who have been impacted by the criminal justice system in the United States.

1492: An Ongoing Voyage
(http://metalab.unc.edu/expo/1492.exhibit/Intro.html)

This Library of Congress exhibit addresses the questions and controversies surrounding the year 1492 by exploring the cultures existing in the Western Hemisphere before the arrival of European explorers, then examining how these were changed by the explorers’ arrival.

African American Holocaust
(http://www.maafa.org/)

Milford F. Plaines created this important and chilling Web production using photographs, narrative text, and other media to expose the atrocities African Americans have faced in the United States. The presentation is overtly blunt and will lead to deep processing and dialogue.

African Voices
(http://www.mnh.si.edu/africanvoices/)

The Smithsonian Institute put together a wonderful multimedia and interactive site that deeply explores the history of Africa. Topics include “Africans in Spain,” “Slave Trade,” and “Colonialism.”

American Memory
(http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/ammemhome.html)

Part of the Library of Congress, American Memory houses an online collection of historical documents, maps, motion pictures, photographs, and sound recordings, all organized into content areas, including “Art and Architecture,” “Education,” “History,” and “Social Sciences.”

American Women in Uniform
(http://userpages.aug.com/captbarb/)

“Captain Critic” hosts this set of interesting and informative resources about women in the military. Features include “Women in Vietnam,” “Women in Combat,” and “Myths, Fallacies, and Urban Legends about Military Women.”

American Women’s History: A Resource Guide
(http://frank.mtsu.edu/~kmiddle/history/women.html)

This guide was designed by Ken Middleton to help those searching for information and resources on women’s history. Although it is primarily an index of other sites and print materials, American Women’s History stands out because it is organized by resource type, including “General Reference and Biographical Sources,” “Finding Primary Sources: Tools/Formats,” and “Digital Collections of Primary Sources.”
Anti-Slavery Homepage
(http://www.antislavery.org/)

Founded in 1839, Anti-Slavery International, the sponsor of this site, is the oldest surviving international human rights organization. The site contains resources and advocacy information for ending slavery and related abuses worldwide.

Asian Nation: The Landscape of Asian America
(http://www.asian-nation.org/index.shtml)

Asian Nation is a source guide for political, social, and cultural issues in the lives of contemporary Asian Americans.

Beyond Face Value
(http://www.lib.lsu.edu/cwc/BeyondFaceValue/index.htm)

The U.S. Civil War Center hosts this project revealing depictions of slavery in Confederate currency. View images of the currency along with statements putting the images in historical context.

Black Facts Online
(http://www.blackfacts.com/)

This online resource guide includes tools for education and research related to African American history. Users can search facts by date.

Black Resistance: Slavery in the United States
(http://www.afro.com/history/slavery/main.html)

Carolyn L. Bennet compiled and wrote a series of stories about the history of slavery and resistance to slavery in the United States. The stories are wonderfully written and illustrated.

Born in Slavery
(http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/)

The Library of Congress offers an online collection of the slave narratives collected between 1936 and 1938 by the Federal Writers’ Project.

Children of the Camps: Internment History
(http://www.children-of-the-camps.org/history/index.html)

Based on the film documentary of the same name, Children of the Camps provides a photographic and narrative history of the experiences of the young people who comprised most of the 120,000 Japanese Americans interned after Pearl Harbor. The site also includes copies of important documents like Executive Order 9066, which permitted the internment for the sake of “national defense.”

CIA World Factbook

The Factbook is a collection of raw data compiled by the CIA on various countries around the world. Each country listing contains subcategories of information, including “Geography,” “People,” “Government,” “Economy,” “Communications,” “Transportation,” “Military,” and “Transnational Issues.”

Columbus and the Age of Discovery
(http://www.millersv.edu/~columbus/)

Millersville University of Pennsylvania hosts this collection of more than 1,000 articles, speeches, and other documents related to Columbus from a diversity of perspectives.

Cyber Newseum
(http://www.newseum.org/cybernewseum/html/index.htm)

The Newseum, a museum about the people who research and report the news, put several of its multimedia exhibits online, including “Holocaust: The Untold Story,” “Every Four Years,” and “The Berlin Wall.”

Cybrary of Holocaust
(http://remember.org/)

A site of Remember.org, the “cybrary” gives Web users access to a database of research, books, people, and discussion forums.
A Deeper Shade of History
(http://www.seditionists.org/black/bhist.html)

This site serves as a clearinghouse for Black History resources, but does so in a way that is not limited to Black History Month or special celebrations. The site includes a “This Week in Black History” feature.

Diotima: Materials for the Study of Gender and Women in the Ancient World
(http://www.stoa.org/diotima/)

Diotima is an exploration of patterns of gender around the ancient Mediterranean. It provides related articles, course materials, and images. The site also helps facilitate collaboration among educators building curricula around this and related topics.

Documenting the Southeast Asian Refugee Experience
(http://www.lib.ucl.edu/libraries/collections/sea/seaexhibit/index.html)

The University of California’s Southeast Asian Archive includes this interactive, multimedia exhibit of the experiences, trials, and tribulations of Southeast Asian refugees to the United States.

First Nations Histories
(http://www.tolatsga.org/Compacts.html)

This site provides an examination of history by and about First Nations peoples.

A First-Person History of the Northwest Coast

Bruce Hallman combines maps, photographs, documents, and text to tell the history of the Canadian northwest from a Native American perspective.

Herstory: An Exhibition
(http://library.usask.ca/herstory/herstory.html)

The Canadian Women’s Calendar has been an ongoing feminist project for more than 20 years. This site tells the story of that project and includes images from the calendars.

Historic Audio Archives: Civil Rights
(http://webcorp.com/civilrights/)

This site presents a collection of audio clips from famous and infamous historical figures, including Nixon, John F. Kennedy, Hitler, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, G. Gordon Liddy, and others.

Historical Text Archive
(http://historicaltextarchive.com/)

Explore history through primary sources with this index of historical texts from around the world. Entries include political, social, governmental, judicial, and legislative documents and are organized by country/region or topic (including “African American” and “Native American”).

History and Politics Out Loud
(http://www.hpol.org/)

Jerry Goldman and Northwestern University host this extraordinary archive of historically significant audio bites. Listen to speeches by Martin Luther King, Jr., Nixon Watergate recordings, and many other materials.

History Matters
(http://historymatters.gmu.edu/)

A collaborative project between the City University of New York and George Mason University, this site is composed of a large collection of progressive, active teaching and learning resources for high school and undergraduate college students. Read articles, download monthly quizzes, search for classroom activities, and dialogue with other educators on topics of historical importance.

Holocaust Archive Project
(http://www.cs.brandeis.edu/~philip/holo.html)

By combining discussion forums, art, photography, research, and original documents, this site serves as both a virtual museum and virtual classroom.

Integrating Mexican American History and Culture Into the Social Studies Curriculum
(http://www.ericfacility.net/ericdigests/ed348200.html)

Kathy Escamilla offers practical suggestions for deep integration of the Mexican American voice and suggests ways of helping teachers do so successfully.
**Interactive Border Studies**  

*Border Studies* is a collection of multimedia learning resources, including nine graphical exhibitions and three slideshows, along with associated classroom activities “presenting the history and culture of the lands and nations bordering Texas and the United States from the 15th Century to the present day.” This site was developed by the Texas Humanities Resource Center.

**The Japanese American Internment**  

Photographs, articles, and intriguing quotes make this an interesting educational journey into a too-often not-talked-about piece of American history. It also includes an impressive index of links to important historical sites.

**Jim Crow Museum**  

Ferris State University offers a virtual tour of its museum of racist memorabilia. Accessible items include racist cartoons and descriptions and depictions of common African American stereotypes.

**The Latino History Project**  
[http://www.museumca.org/LHP/](http://www.museumca.org/LHP/)

The Oakland Museum of California’s Web site includes parts of its exhibits on Latino history, including “Striving for Equality,” “Latino Workers,” and “Community and Social Life.”

**Lesbian History Project**  
[http://www-lib.usc.edu/~retter/main.html](http://www-lib.usc.edu/~retter/main.html)

Yolanda Retter amasses links to numerous resources, articles, interviews, and bibliographies about lesbians in U.S. history.

**Lesson Plans and Resources for Social Studies Teachers**  
[http://www.csun.edu/%7Ehcedu013/index.html](http://www.csun.edu/%7Ehcedu013/index.html)

Marty Levine of California State University, Northridge, hosts an index of social studies resources, including lesson plans, online activities, e-mail discussion groups, and curriculum frameworks.

**Living the Legacy**  
[http://www.legacy98.org/](http://www.legacy98.org/)

The National Women’s History Project sponsors this site about 150 years of the women’s rights movement.

**Making of America**  
[http://www.hti.umich.edu/m/moagrp/](http://www.hti.umich.edu/m/moagrp/)

This digital library, sponsored by the University of Michigan, houses a collection of primary sources in U.S. social history from the antebellum period through Reconstruction.

**MidEast Web**  
[http://www.mideastweb.org/history.htm](http://www.mideastweb.org/history.htm)

This collection of resources on Middle East history includes excellent pieces about the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, Palestinian identity, and recent news about the region.

**A More Perfect Union**  
[http://americanhistory.si.edu/perfectunion/non-flash/index.html](http://americanhistory.si.edu/perfectunion/non-flash/index.html)

The Smithsonian explores the lines between national security and human rights through a multimedia exhibit about the Japanese internment.

**National Council for the Social Studies: Teacher Resources**  
[http://www.socialstudies.org/resources/](http://www.socialstudies.org/resources/)

NCSS assembles an extensive collection of organized resources for social studies teachers, including original materials related to “teachable moments.”

**The National Women’s History Project**  

This, the official Web site of the NWHP, includes an interactive online quiz on women’s history and a host of practical suggestions for incorporating the voices and experiences of women into the curriculum.
Native American Documents Project (http://www.csusm.edu/nadp/nadp.htm)

California State University, San Marcos, hosts this impressive collection of documents related to Native American experience in the United States. Resources include a list of existing reservations, published reports, letters, chronologies, and maps.

Native American Website for Children (http://www.nhusd.k12.ca.us/ALVE/NativeAmerhome.html/nativeopeningpage.html)

With kid-friendly graphics and a simple navigation system, this site actively engages students in a multimedia adventure as they learn about the lives, cultures, and histories of Native American tribes.

Oneida Indian Nation Treaties Project (http://oneida-nation.net/treaties.html)

The Treaties Project provides all people access to historic treaties to help us better understand an Indian nation’s sovereign status.

Our Shared History: African American Heritage (http://www.cr.nps.gov/aahistory/)

The National Park Service developed this collection of text and photo exhibits related to African American history. Highlights include a piece about the Underground Railroad and a collection for teachers and students called “Tools for Learning.”

Pluralism and Unity (http://www.expo98.msu.edu/)

This site was designed to explore conflicts between American identity and the nature of cultural and political pluralism. Among its many resources are historic texts written by Jane Addams, W. E. B. DuBois, Margaret Mead, and Booker T. Washington.

Power, Politics, and Protest (http://learningcurve.pro.gov.uk/politics/suffragettes/)

Learning Curve explores the history of women’s rights in 19th-century Britain. The site includes wonderful historical photographs.


Kodak features Charles Moore’s photo exhibit from the civil rights movement.

Primary Source (http://www.primarysource.org/)

This nonprofit organization supports inclusive, accurate, and interdisciplinary social studies education. The Primary Source Web site includes lesson plans, curriculum ideas, and other related resources.

Social Studies and Multicultural Education (http://instech.tusd.k12.az.us/SS/SS.html)

Tucson Unified School District provides a compendium of links to multicultural resources by grade level.

Spartacus Educational (http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/)

This multimedia, online history encyclopedia focuses on specific eras, events, and issues. Entries include “Slavery: 1750–1870,” “Investigating the Vietnam War,” and “The Trade Union Movement.” All entries expand into several subentries focused on relevant people, subtopics, and issues.

Teacher’s Guide to the Holocaust (http://fcit.coedu.usf.edu/holocaust/)

The Florida Center for Instructional Technology offers an impressive collection of teaching and learning resources, including photographs, movies, music and sound files, art, classroom activities, and historical timelines.


Simone Arias, Marilynn Hitchens, and Heidi Roupp develop a humanistic conceptualization for world history in this article. They explore why world history is important and share effective instructional strategies for history teachers.
The Underground Railroad
(http://www.nationalgeographic.com/features/99/railroad/)

National Geographic produced this Web site in conjunction with its PBS program on the same topic. This site takes users through an interactive exploration of the Underground Railroad, employing art, artifacts, and text.

U.S. Labor History: Famous Strikes
(http://www.state.sd.us/deca/DDN4Learning/ThemeUnits/USL Labor/strikes.htm)

This online unit about labor history in the United States includes links to information about famous strikes. It also contains a section on “Women in Labor History.”

Voices of the Holocaust
(http://voices.iit.edu/education.html)

The Illinois Institute of Technology has collected and made available a series of interviews with Holocaust survivors. The site also includes audio clips.

War Relocation Authority Camps in Arizona
(http://dizzy.library.arizona.edu/images/jpamer/wraintro.html)

The University of Arizona library offers this look into the relocation camps through maps, stories, and photographs.

Wide Horizon Education Resources
(http://members.aol.com/WE REdu/)

Wide Horizon Education Resources is dedicated to providing teachers with creative ideas and resources for teaching world history in middle and high school. Sample lessons and archived editions of the Wide Horizon newsletter are available through the site.

Women and the Holocaust
(http://www.interlog.com/~mighty/)

This site incorporates poetry, art, personal reflections, biographies, and other ways of learning about the unique experiences of women victims of the Holocaust.

Women in World History
(http://www.womeninworldhistory.com/)

Directed by Lyn Reese, Women in World History provides resources for teachers, students, parents, and others interested in women’s experiences in a world history context. The organization’s Web site contains information resources, lesson plans, essays, and reviews of classroom materials.

Women’s Suffrage
(http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/suffrage.htm)

This site is a comprehensive timeline of women’s rights around the world.

World History Archives

Dedicated to understanding world history from a working-class perspective, World History Archives provides a collection of documents focusing on politics, society, culture, and telecommunications.

For more online resources, visit Multicultural Paths (http://www.edchange.org/multicultural/sites1.html) or NAME’s Multicultural Resource Center (http://www.nameorg.org/resources.html). This collection was pulled from Multicultural Education and the Internet: Intersections and Integrations, 2nd ed., by X. X. XXXXX, a new publication from McGraw-Hill.