

The POINT!

E-Letter for Western Pennsylvania Social Studies Educators
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BIG HISTORY

Social Studies can be defined as the **interdisciplinary** study of **people**: in **time** (History), in **place** (Geography), in **groups** (Sociology), as **individuals** (Psychology), under **laws**, (Political Science), **working** and **sharing** (Economics), **believing, learning** and **creating** (Philosophy and Religion).

A recent book goes a little farther by adding **math** and **science** to the mix in such a way as to provide a solid background for investigating the history of the world today. Samplings of astronomy, geology, biology, and chemistry appear in *Big History, Small World* by Cynthia Stokes Brown, which provides a brief picture of the history of the world from the big bang until the present. The big picture comes into view, providing a solid base upon which to study world history and cultures. Students become aware of the vast ages that preceded written history as we know it and are better prepared to ask questions about the immediate past as well as present world events.

This book is designed for use in a high school classroom and would be an excellent introduction for any history class. This 300 page volume could be used in the first nine weeks of any history course to provide depth. The narrative flows and terms are defined and explained clearly. This would be a great addition to any course in history. Published in December 2016, the price of the paperback copy won't tax the budget at \$29.95. It is listed as #9781614720317 at www.berkshirepublishing.com.



BIG HISTORY,
SMALL WORLD
CYNTHIA STOKES BROWN

BERKSHIRE

Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human freedom. It is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves. -William Pitt, British prime minister (28 May 1759-1806)

Soldiers & Sailors Hall!

Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum houses a vast collection of primary and secondary documents and military artifacts. It is their mission to promote the use of these educational items and create an understanding for all groups who visit the museum. They provide a rich learning experience for all people by exploring the deeds and sacrifices of ordinary citizens during extraordinary circumstances.

Civil War History & Reading Camp

August 5-9, 2019

Grades 5-8 (2019-2020 School Year)

Fun activities

Listening & singing songs from the era.

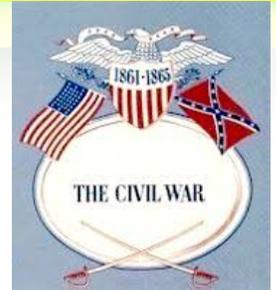
Reading stories and using primary sources

Arts & Crafts activities

Full Day 9-3 \$200 or Half day Option 9-12. \$100

The Education Dept. 412.621.4253 Tim Neff x 219

<http://www.soldiersandsailorshall.org/education.html>



Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Village

Enjoy 19000 years all in one day. Experience what life was like for prehistoric Americans at **Meadowcroft Rockshelter** and **Historic Village**. Part of the Heinz History Museum, Meadowcroft Rockshelter is an archaeological site of the first Americans who inhabited the area some 16,000 years ago. Also located there, is the Meadowcroft Village, which allows visitors to experience 19th Century rural village life



Old Economy Village

In 1824, the Harmony Society, a religious community, established a settlement in Ambridge. The group formally dissolved in 1906, but their five-acre settlement has been preserved and was designated a National Historic Landmark District in 1965. Step back in time with a visit to Old Economy.



Harmony Museum

The Harmony Museum in Harmony, Pennsylvania, captures 250 years of history, including presentations of George Washington's 1753 mission, Harmonist and Mennonite Religious Societies, and a collection of sporting rifles from Harmony gunsmith Charles Flowers.



Carnegie Museum of Natural History

Founded in 1895 by Andrew Carnegie, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History is also located in the Oakland area of Pittsburgh. It is ranked among the top five Natural History Museums in the country. The museum features 20 exhibit halls including Dinosaurs in Their Time, where visitors stand in awe gazing upon the colossal size of the dinosaurs that once roamed the earth.



The Point

For

Western Pennsylvania
Social Studies Educators

EDITORS

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The Point is the
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WPCSS was a non-profit 501c
organization dedicated to promoting
the teaching and learning of social
studies in Western Pennsylvania

Leo West

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Sick Teachers Paying for Substitutes: Where and Why It's Happening

A California teacher battling breast cancer made headlines recently when she was told state law required her to pay for the cost of a sub during her treatment. Where else are these kinds of sick leave policies in place? And why aren't the unions doing more to fight them? [Read more.](#)

Indiana Wants Teachers to Do Externships. So Some Are Headed to the Brewery

Starting this summer, most Indiana teachers will have to spend 15 hours on professional development related to their community's career and workforce needs in order to renew their professional license.

... In response, some teachers have decided to fulfill their requirements by drinking beer. At least two breweries have put together programs for teachers to learn about beer production, the ins and outs of operating a small business, and of course, beer-tasting.

Here Are the 29 Education Programs Trump Wants to Eliminate

Among the programs included in this list are **American History and Civics Education**, Arts in Education, Teacher Quality Partnerships, . .

We Must Restore Respect to the Teaching Profession. Nation's Top Teachers Say

The four nationally recognized educators also spoke with *Education Week* about attracting new talent to the profession and the importance of civics education. [Read more.](#)

'I've Been So Isolated': Why Rural Teachers Need Collaboration

Where does Secretary DeVos' education strategy leave rural educators? Andy Hargreaves explores how teacher collaboration can fill in the gap. [Read more.](#)

Teacher uses classics in civic-minded discussions

Teachers can use classic literature to help facilitate discussions about racism and social justice in the present day, high-school teacher Adam Mackie writes. Mackie shares his approach, including one activity in which students identify themselves using "culture cards."

[Edutopia online](#) (3/20)



The 66th Annual Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies Conference

October 17—October 19, 2019 Red Lion Hotel Harrisburg East
4751 Lindle Road Harrisburg, PA 17111

Conference Theme: Discovering What We Share in Common

Social studies brings us together. Scholars, teachers and students of social studies interact with each other to explore the various social studies disciplines and what they mean for today. Social studies provides the forum for people of different perspectives to discuss what they agree upon, and what they disagree about, discovering that we as a people share much in common.

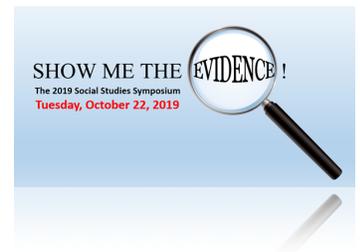
Check out <http://pcssonline.org> for more details.



AIU SS WORKSHOP Oct. 22 Show Me The Evidence

I am excited to announce the date for the second biennial **Social Studies Symposium** at the *Allegheny Intermediate Unit*! Stay tuned for more information but please save the date for the morning of Tuesday, **October 22, 2019**. Our last symposium in 2017 totaled nearly 200 K-12 educators and 20 partners from around the region. This symposium is **free** for all so please plan to have your organization host a table to share your Social Studies offerings. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Dr. Paul Cindric, Program Director
Curriculum, Instruction, & Professional Education



2019 IDM Summer Institute

July 22, 2019 to July 23, 2019

Sponsored by C3 Teachers and National Council for the Social Studies, the IDM Summer Institute features hands-on opportunities for teachers to develop inquiry materials for use in their classrooms and to join a larger community of educators who share an interest in invigorating their classrooms through inquiry teaching and learning.

American University Washington, DC 20016

[Read more](#)



NCSS 2019 Religious Studies Summer Institute

July 9, 2019 to July 11, 2019

Join us at the NCSS Religious Studies Summer Institute to increase your professional competency and personal confidence in teaching about religion while developing working relationships with leading experts and your fellow colleagues.

Religious Freedom Center of the Freedom Forum Institute
555 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20001

[Read more](#)

[about NCSS 2019 Religious Studies Summer Institute](#)





FROM CHOICES: IRAN TODAY

This site allows viewing of 13 Videos about Iran by Narges Bajoghli, a professor at John Hopkins and a film maker. The videos offer a look into Iranian views of the U.S. as well as some history of Iran. Check here to: [Click here to: **See All 13 Videos**](#)

[Seeking Asylum in the United States](#)



With ongoing debate about asylum seekers at the U.S.-Mexican border and elsewhere, this new *Teaching with the News* lesson has students analyze both images from the border and data about recent asylum trends. Students will review a timeline of major laws and policies related to asylum in the United States and understand the process for applying for asylum in the U.S. [Click headline to see video.](#)

[VETERANS NATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM](#)

Today the grandchildren of Vietnam War veterans are attending middle and high schools throughout America, sitting side-by-side with the children of those who served more recently in Desert Storm and the Iraq War. But how much do they really know about these conflicts and the sacrifices their dads, moms and grandparents proudly made? [Click headline to view Videos](#)

Exploring the Vietnam War Era Teacher Institute

Act 48 Program Monday, July 22, 2019 - Wednesday, July 24, 2019 • 9:00 am - 3:30 pm
Heinz History Center
[Register](#)

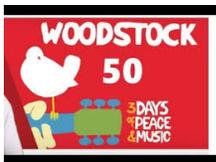
Join History Center educators, curators, and local experts for workshops and educational sessions designed to connect local educators with the museum's exhibits. All workshops include a classroom resource guide with lesson plans and a boxed meal. Pre-registration is required and space can be reserved online. For more information, please contact the School and Teacher Programs Coordinator at 412-454-6314 or reservations@heinzhistorycenter.org.



[NCSS Summer Institute - Woodstock at 50: The 1960s & the Transformation of American Society](#)

July 14, 2019 to July 17, 2019

Explore connections between US history and popular culture, earn credit, and visit Bethel Woods, the Woodstock festival grounds, and its museum with scholar in residence, Dennis McNally, historian, author, and music publicist of the Grateful Dead!



If Tyranny and Oppression come to this land, it will be in the guise of fighting a foreign enemy. -James Madison, fourth US president (16 Mar 1751-1836)

'Games Absolutely Have a Role in Teaching and Learning!'

Games are an awesome way to get students discussing their strategies, working toward fluency, and solving problems together. I think that games can be used as students are just learning about a new concept, as they are working to flesh out their strategies and find strategies that are more efficient,



How to use movies to teach the reality of history

Teachers can use movies about historical events to teach students how to critically view films and compare facts with the often-fictionalized versions depicted in Hollywood movies, writes Pennsylvania high-school history and government teacher Benjamin Barbour. In this blog post, Barbour suggests that teachers rely on other resources for facts about historical events and assign students to rewrite movie scenes to more accurately portray historical events.



How Schools Can Spend Time More Wisely: 4 Big Tips From Daniel Pink

Move heavy thinking to the beginning of the day, make recess sacred, let higher schoolers sleep in, and mandate choir, says the best-selling author. [Read more.](#)



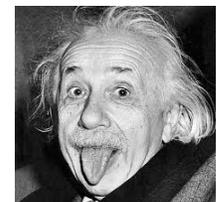
Media literacy teaches how to ID reliable sources

News and media literacy are critical skills for students, many of whom get their information online, says Ron Gydus, a library media specialist at a Connecticut middle school. Gydus leads the school's news and media literacy program, which he said seeks to teach students to think critically, understand points of view and differentiate reputable from unreliable sources of information. [The Shelton Herald \(Conn.\) \(5/13\)](#)



How iconic images teach history, media literacy

Using iconic images including photographs and speeches from history such as Dorothea Lange's "Migrant Mother" photo can help students learn about history and how to discern photojournalism from propaganda, writes author and education consultant Frank Baker. In this blog post, Baker's suggestions include having students write their thoughts and feelings about images to build media literacy skills. [MiddleWeb \(5/17\)](#)



Should teachers avoid living history lessons?

Living history lessons that engage students in role playing have garnered negative headlines for being racially insensitive at times. Teachers need "a higher level of content and pedagogical knowledge" to teach these types of lessons, says LaGarrett King, an associate professor of social studies education at the University of Missouri. [Slate \(5/20\)](#)



Take the job that you would take if you were independently wealthy.

