

The POINT!

E-Letter for Western Pennsylvania Social Studies Educators
Vol. 13 No. 6

June 2020



Welcome to Green!

Green has many meanings. To the golfer at the tee, it's a target. To soldiers, athletes, and truck drivers, any newcomer is green. Ecology is the "green" science and motorists see green as go. People can be green with envy and be upset when jewelery turns their skin green. It seems that now we are in the green phase of the shelter at home, we can relax somewhat but still need to take caution as there is no guarantee there will not be a resurgence of the virus. Take care.

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.

S&S, like all places where people congregate, is not open to the public at this time. Please visit on line: soldiersandsailorshall.org

Smithsonian Summer Sessions

Teachers, we know many of you will not be able to travel for professional development this summer, so we have developed a unique opportunity to learn from home with four Smithsonian museums. Register for one of the *free five-day Smithsonian Summer Sessions* and join an online community of educators across the country for an immersive exploration of teaching with museum objects and works of art.

The course will be led by educators from these Smithsonian organizations:

- National Museum of African American History and Culture
- National Museum of American History
- National Portrait Gallery
- Smithsonian American Art Museum
- Smithsonian Center for Learning and Digital Access

Teachers of all subjects and grades are welcome.

Learn more and register:

[Session 1 \(July 6–10, 2020\)](#) • [Session 2 \(July 20–24, 2020\)](#)

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ON-LINE SEMINAR

[Teaching American History](#) is pleased to partner with the [Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum](#) in Staunton, VA to offer a **FREE ONLINE SEMINAR** on August 6, 2020 on the ideas, proposals, and legacies of Woodrow Wilson.

Each participant will receive an e-copy of a reading packet of primary sources, and a virtual tour of Wilson's birthplace.

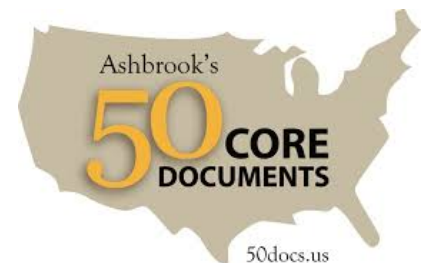
Register today, because this event is limited to the first 20 registered participants.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

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Encourage High School Seniors to Register to Vote

As social studies educators, many of us would have been telling our high school seniors turning 18 by election day this November that they should register and vote. This civics lesson is still possible:



✓ vote

The Point

For
Western Pennsylvania
Social Studies Educators
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The Point is the
e-newsletter
of the former WPCSS
issued monthly via e-mail.
WPCSS was a non-profit 501c
organization dedicated to promoting
the teaching and learning of social
studies in Western Pennsylvania

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NCSS Condemns Killing of George Floyd & Countless Black People

Silver Spring, MD – In response to the death of George Floyd, National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) condemns the use of excessive violence or force, or extrajudicial processes, used discriminately by law enforcement against blacks in America when investigating or enforcing probable or non-probable causes of infractions, misdemeanors, or felonies. These actions are against the civic values and practices we teach all students through social studies education.

For full text Go to: <https://mail.yahoo.com/d/folders/1/messages/149912>

Teacher: Strategies for digital teaching, learning

To help deliver remote instruction, teachers should understand how students access and use technology, writes Rick Selby, a history teacher in California. In this commentary, he asserts that true digital education requires a shift in mindset, not just using digital tools. **Full Story:** eSchool News (free registration) (5/29)

Teachers share images of home workspaces

Several educators share images of what their at-home workspaces look like -- in dining rooms, bedrooms, living rooms and outdoor areas. Second-grade teacher Kristen Messer says she moves around her home depending on what she's doing, such as using her kitchen table for meetings and moving to a quiet space to record videos and plan lessons. **Full Story:** EdSurge (5/13)

2020 Teacher of the Year shares approach to remote learning

The 2020 National Teacher of the Year Tabatha Rosproy says that while nothing will replace in-person instruction, she is doing what peers are doing around the world: she has adapted to remote instruction. A preschool teacher, Rosproy says she is loading recorded lessons onto Seesaw, conducting remote check-ins with students, texting and dropping off physical materials to students. **Full Story:** Chalkbeat (5/22)



*I believe things cannot make themselves impossible.
Stephen Hawking, theoretical physicist, cosmologist,
writer*

Teacher shares thoughts about school this fall

- Social studies teacher Larry Ferlazzo predicts that school will look much different to teachers as well as students this fall, with smaller classes, frequent cleanings and far more reliance on technology than before. Ferlazzo writes in this blog post that he anticipates an overhaul to the curriculum as educators teach as though schools could close again at any time because it could happen. Full Story: [The Washington Post](#) (tiered subscription model) (5/8)



Free resources for social studies, math

A three-day mini unit on the US Constitution and a graphic organizer for debate and argumentative writing are among the resources offered in this week's update of free tools to support remote learning. Also available is a math curriculum for students in sixth- through eighth grades. Full Story: [SmartBrief/Education](#)



Fabric of History

From the Bill of Rights Institute, [Fabric of History](#) is a new podcast that weaves together US History, Founding Principles, and what all of this means to us today. Join us as we pull back the curtains of the past to reveal the behind-the-scenes stories you may not have read in your history and government textbooks.



Visitors know little of Japan's indigenous Ainu

The Ainu, an indigenous people who were the earliest settlers of the island of Hokkaido in Japan, are largely unknown to the outside world because of years of oppression and forced integration, according to this article. Attention and acceptance have increased for their culture and language since April 2019, when the government of Japan legally recognized the Ainu as an indigenous people. Full Story: [BBC](#) (5/20)



Ways to motivate students without using grades

The traditional motivations for students, such as grades, no longer are available during this prolonged period of remote instruction, so many students are disengaging, writes Tim Klein, project lead for the True North Program at Boston College. In this commentary, Klein shares research showing that intrinsic motivation and investing in students' holistic well-being can be even more of an incentive than grades. Full Story: [EdSurge](#) (5/21)



Warhol Museum **Time Capsules**

The Time Capsules are Andy Warhol's largest collecting project. View Warhol's Time Capsule 21 and our Community Time Capsules.



The Civics Renewal Network

The Civics Renewal Network partners have gathered resources to help teachers and parents while students are home during school closures. [Explore](#)



CHOICES

Use Digital Editions to bring history to life using primary sources!



Engaging with primary sources helps students connect to the past and expand understanding of historical events while also developing literacy skills. Our [Digital Editions](#) format makes it easy for students to access images, maps, and documents in the many Choices Program curriculum units that delve into primary sources. Our units utilize a variety of sources—poetry, diaries, letters, census data, paintings, photographs, political cartoons, recordings, and more—to bring multiple perspectives to complex issues.

The following list highlights some of the Choices Program lessons that utilize various kinds of primary sources to analyze a topic:

[Brazil: A History of Change - Racial Identity in Brazil](#) - Students examine a Brazilian painting and the racial categories in the 1976 and 1990 Brazilian censuses, and consider issues of racial and ethnic identity in Brazil.

[China on the World Stage: Weighing the U.S. Response - Cross-Strait Relations](#) - Using multiple sources—such as news articles, public opinion data, leaders' statements, and political cartoons—students examine the basics of the conflict across the Taiwan Strait.

[The Civil War and the Meaning of Liberty - The Battle of Gettysburg](#) - Students use different types of sources including maps, images, diary entries, and letters to deepen their understanding of the Battle of Gettysburg. The lesson includes a close reading of Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address."

[Between Two Worlds: Mexico at the Crossroads - Expressing Political Views through Art](#) - Students explore the styles and techniques of Mexican street artists. Students have the opportunity to draw sketches of their own murals, conveying the hopes and concerns of fictional characters.

[Nigeria: History, Identity, and Change - Cultural Responses to Dictatorship](#) - To understand social and political factors that contributed to resistance to military dictatorships, students analyze artistic and cultural sources, including poetry, excerpts from novels and memoirs, song lyrics, and political cartoons.

Peruse the curriculum unit pages in our catalog to see even more lessons that focus on primary sources.

A LONG TALE WORTH READING!

Donald Trump, the Most Unmanly President

Why don't the president's supporters hold him to their own standard of masculinity?
([TOM NICHOLS](#) MAY 25, 2020)

Human development on track to decline for first time

Global human development -- a measure encompassing health, education and living standards -- appears likely to decline for the first time since the concept was introduced in 1990 because of the coronavirus pandemic, according to a report from the United Nations Development Programme. The consequences of the coronavirus have set back school enrollment around the world by four decades, and the disease has surpassed suicide, malaria, road traffic accidents and HIV/AIDS as a cause of death. **Full Story: [CNBC \(5/21\)](#), [CNN \(5/20\)](#)**



NCSS offers resources for educators

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared Coronavirus Disease 2019 (abbreviated as COVID-19) as a pandemic. National Council for the Social Studies is providing this landing page as a resource for social studies educators, administrators, and professionals to stay informed on the latest updates from the U.S. Department of Education, the current containment status of the pandemic, prevention tips, school closures, and teaching resources for classroom or virtual usage. Please bookmark and check this resource page daily for updates and share it with your network. [Read on.](#)



Report suggests "moonshot" education funding pitch

Local property tax revenue should be distributed more broadly -- at the county or state level -- rather than by district, according to a report from the nonprofit EdBuild. The report suggests that this approach, in place in 13 states, could help to improve equity and increase education funding for the country's most at-risk students. **Full Story:** [National Public Radio \(5/27\)](#)



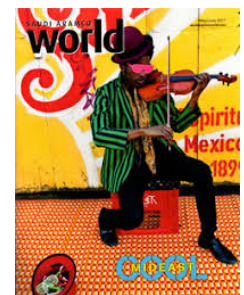
Should teacher education include remote best practices?

Few teacher preparation programs in the US teach how to conduct remote instruction, but the rapid transition to remote instruction has some institutions considering whether that could and should change. Leanna Archambault, an associate professor at the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College at Arizona State University, says it is no longer an option, but rather "imperative" that teacher education programs prepare educators for remote instruction. **Full Story:** [EdSurge \(5/28\)](#)



Aramco World

Aramco World is a colorful, **free** magazine with very non-political articles about the different cultures of Islamic world. It's great to use with kids! There are articles on art, food, cities, great historical figures, and so many other things. You can access the magazine online - <https://www.aramcoworld.com/Home> - OR you can contact them to put you on the list to receive free hard copies. Also, if you like one particular article and wish you had a classroom set printed in full-color, if you email them, they will send you a classroom set of the article at no cost.



Virtual Tours

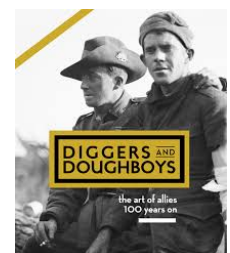
The National World War I Museum and Memorial (in Kansas City, MO), has some great virtual tours of their exhibits. See the links below:

"Trenches of World War I" - <https://www.theworldwar.org/explore/exhibitions/online-exhibitions/trenches>

"Tour of the main gallery, led by Col. R. Dudley" - <https://www.theworldwar.org/explore/exhibitions/online-exhibitions/immersive-tour-colonel-ret-r-dudley>

"Curator's tour of the main gallery" - <https://www.theworldwar.org/explore/exhibitions/online-exhibitions/curators-tour>

"Architectural tour" - <https://www.theworldwar.org/explore/exhibitions/online-exhibitions/architectural-tour>



New U.S. History Digital Textbook:

On July 6, in partnership with Rice University's Open Stax, we are excited to launch the first-ever open educational resource for high school U.S. History, *Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness*. With contributions from nearly 100 scholars, this resource invites students to investigate the central themes and ideas of American history. The entire resource will be hosted on OpenStax's Tutor platform, which allows for adaptive learning at no cost to your district. [Sign up on the website to receive a notification when it launches.](#)



In-Person Fall Programming:

Assuming that it is safe to resume in-person programming, The Bill of Rights Institute also have dozens of seminars planned at various locations across the country. [Visit the website to find out if we're coming to your area and to register](#)



Free online learning game for classroom/home use - now LIVE:

"Road Maps: Around the World Adventure" learning game - for middle/high school students - with students receiving a certificate and entry into a prize drawing. (The game is developed and sponsored by the University of Arizona Center for Middle Eastern Studies and Center for Latin American Studies.



Facing History and Ourselves

[Facing History and Ourselves](https://www.facinghistory.org/educator-resources/current-events?utm_campaign=COVID19&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=87288809&hsenc=p2ANqtz--Jg6LRkcJkHQk8VJ0wIGK3-DrU1ManED0ApiLruZ42fJA0Xpi0YKn-b5a97k7RibjqG-xAG_jJrviQFnFGAwLoETDnkW&hsmi=87288809) is an organization with many wonderful materials for teachers. Their "Current Events in Your Classroom" section - https://www.facinghistory.org/educator-resources/current-events?utm_campaign=COVID19&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=87288809&hsenc=p2ANqtz--Jg6LRkcJkHQk8VJ0wIGK3-DrU1ManED0ApiLruZ42fJA0Xpi0YKn-b5a97k7RibjqG-xAG_jJrviQFnFGAwLoETDnkW&hsmi=87288809 - has a lot of teaching materials for secondary students, including a lesson on "Stereotypes, Media, and Islamophobia" - <https://www.facinghistory.org/educator-resources/current-events/stereotypes-media-islamophobia> (a good topic to talk about during the month of Ramadan. Check out the materials and the organization!

•(CMES is telling you about this opportunity as a courtesy and does not endorse the program. We are now required to provide a disclaimer for non-UA programs; there is nothing about this particular one that has triggered this comment.)

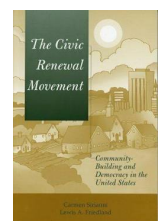


Civics Renewal Network

The Civics Renewal Network partners have gathered resources to help teachers and parents while students are home during school closures.

These resources span the curriculum from kindergarten to Grade 12 and offer a [variety of activities to keep students engaged](#) in learning outside the classroom.

<https://www.civicsrenewalnetwork.org/>



S U M M E R V I R T U A L P R O G R A M M I N G 2020

Looking for opportunities to engage your kids during the summer? The Cleveland Fed has created a variety of hands-on activities to teach important financial literacy concepts while providing fun for the whole family!

Riddle Me This! A Bartering Scavenger Hunt
(Ages 6–12) June 8th–15th

Learn about the characteristics of money and the concept of bartering through this interactive scavenger hunt.

Dream Board Collage
(Ages 6–12) June 15th–22nd

Monte the Money Tree squirrel dreams of saving enough acorns to buy a tree house. What's on your wish list? Share your savings goals by creating your very own dream board.

Where in the World is Monte?
(Ages 10–14) June 22nd–29th

Join Monte, our Money Tree mascot, for a cross-country journey! He has a lot of curiosity and wants to explore some of his favorite destinations.

The Art of Making Money
(Ages 6–12) June 29th–July 6th

Have you ever wondered what money might look like 50, 100 or even 1,000 years from now? You be the artist! Put your own stamp on money with your most creative designs.

Bank Vault Lego Challenge
(All Ages) July 1st–July 31st

Test your engineering skills by constructing a secure bank vault that can withstand the most challenging tests.

Jigsaw Puzzles
(All Ages)

Are you looking for something fun to try with the whole family? Look no further than our virtual jigsaw puzzles that will test your knowledge of currency designs and historical architecture.

Summer Reading List
(Ages 6–14)

Check out our suggested summer reads, which aim to teach students about money, personal finance, and other important financial literacy topics.



Questions? Contact us at Learningcenter@clev.frb.org



#CLEFedSummerFun

