

Hello Everyone!

New from Gilder Lehrman

Gilder Lehrman has recently launched its [Citizenship Challenge](#). The Challenge offers students in Grades 3-12 the chance to suggest edits and additions to the nation's citizenship and naturalization exam.

This contest helps to augment the efforts of Gilder Lehrman to provide resources to students, educators, and families about Citizenship in America. [These resources](#) include interactive practice tests, premade Kahoots, and a video library including scholar and educator videos, and premier lesson plans.

Students, teachers, or parents can submit student entries here by 10:00 p.m. ET on Friday, March 13, 2026, to be considered for the prize. A jury of master teachers recruited by GLI will review the entries and select the finalists. The winners will be determined by a panel composed of members of GLI's Student Advisory Council. Entries will be evaluated for their creativity, accuracy, and quality of argumentation. Students' work will be reviewed and judged at their respective grade levels (Grades 3–8 and Grades 9–12). Winners will be notified and announced in May 2026.

We the Teachers Fellowship at William & Mary

[This year-long fellowship](#) brings together 100 educators from across the country to examine the nation's founding ideals through historical and civic discourse. Participants receive a \$2,500 stipend and work directly with historians, scholars, and museum professionals on the William & Mary campus in Williamsburg, VA, for a week in July. The fellowship is a collaboration between NCHE and William & Mary. Applications are open through January 31, 2026.

From The National Council for History Education

The Space Age on the Space Coast

NCHE invites K–12 educators to [apply for this NEH Landmarks workshop](#) focused on the political, cultural, and scientific history of the Cape Canaveral region. Sessions will be held July 12–17, 2026 OR July 19–24, 2026. Applications are due March 6, 2026.

Upcoming NCHE Webinars

NCHE continues to offer free webinars for history educators. [Registration links](#) are available on the NCHE website.

- January 15, 2026 – [From Mystery to Meaning: Using Investigative Genetic Genealogy in Historical Inquiry](#)
- January 21, 2026 – [From Kitchen to Screen: Food, Society, and the Stories of the Gilded Age](#)
- January 27, 2026 – [Combating Islamophobia and Anti-Arab Sentiment in Our Schools and Communities](#)
- January 29, 2026 – [Early Appalachia and Scots-Irish](#)
- February 12, 2026 – [Beyond the Verdict: The Unintended Consequences of Brown v. Board](#)
- March 15, 2026 – [Beyond Ellis Island: Immigration and Identity in the New South](#)

NCHE Conference – Montgomery, Alabama (March 26–28, 2026)

[NCHE's annual conference](#) will take place in Montgomery. This year's theme is Diasporas: Histories of Movement and Cultural Exchange. Here is a link to register!

History's Habits of Mind Resources

Explore NCHE's newest [History's Habits of Mind resources](#). Free, classroom-ready materials that support historical thinking through primary sources and diverse historical topics.

From C-SPAN Classroom: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

According to the U.S. Department of the Interior: *“the third Monday in January, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service (MLK Day) is the only federal holiday that is also designated by Congress as a national day of service.”*

As you prepare your students to spend time giving back to their local communities on January 19th, consider using the following resources to have them reflect on Dr. King’s accomplishments and legacy.

- On This Day: [Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Life, Death, Legacy](#) (7 Clips)
- On This Day: [The Assassination of Dr Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) (8 Clips)
- Clip: [Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday & Service Act](#) (1:58)
- Clip: [Martin Luther King, Jr. - “March on Ballot Boxes” Speech](#) (5:15)
- Clip: [National Civil Rights Museum Tour](#) (30:07)
- Bell Ringer: [Civil Rights](#) (2 Clips)
- Bell Ringer: [60th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#) (2 Clips)
- Bell Ringer: [Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King](#) (15:37)
- Bell Ringer: [Martin Luther King's "Walk to Freedom" in Detroit 1963](#) (5:20)
- Bell Ringer: [Sixteenth Street Baptist Church Bombing](#) (6:29)
- Bell Ringer: [1968 Memphis Sanitation Strike](#) (7:49)
- Bell Ringer: [1968 Washington, DC Riots](#) (8:01)
- Lesson: [Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Letter from Birmingham Jail](#) (7 Clips)
- Lesson: [Last Days of Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) (3 Clips)
- Lesson: [Civil Rights Movement: Sit-Ins](#) (4 Clips)
- Lesson: [Key Events of the Civil Rights Movement](#) (15 Clips)
- Lesson: [Choice Board: Virtual Field Trip of Washington, D.C.](#) (7 Clips & Slides)

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Newsletter

Subscribe to the [HSP monthly newsletter](#) to receive instructional resources, webinars, and access to their content collections.

New from The Pennsylvania Council for Social Studies

The Fall 2025 issue of the *Social Studies Journal* is Available Now!

PCSS is excited to share [the Fall 2025 edition of the Social Studies Journal](#) (SSJ), published by the Pennsylvania Council for Social Studies.

From The Economist Educational Foundation: Topical Talk

Ready to start inspiring classroom discussions? This year, bring real-world context to your teaching.

[The Economist's Topical Talk lessons](#) help students develop essential **critical-thinking, oracy** and **communication skills, media literacy** and **cultural capital**.

Topical Talk lessons are created by experienced teachers in collaboration with journalists at *The Economist* to combine deep educational knowledge with world-class journalistic expertise.

Adaptable activities support students to be skeptical about media stories and value the importance of evidence in an age of **misinformation** and **fake news**.

From Echoes and Reflections

[Teaching About Antisemitism After the Holocaust](#)

Examine this persistent form of hate through historic and contemporary framing, designed to build student knowledge, critical understanding, and skills for intervention. **Course Dates: February 2-March 1.**

Course Details:

- Three interactive modules; approximately **7 hours** to complete.
- Proceed at your own pace each week, be supported by an instructor, and enjoy interaction with other educators.
- Complete all three modules for a **7-hour certificate**.
- Final module includes additional time to complete optional final project for a **10-hour certificate**.
- Graduate credit available through the University of the Pacific.

Black History Month

February is Black History Month, an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of “Negro History Week,” the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Below are some resources to support classroom instruction:

- [Celebrate Black History Month](#) from the National Museum of African American Culture and History.
- [Black Washington](#) from the Washington State Historical Society.
- [Black History Month](#) from the History Channel.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education's updated Media Literacy Toolkit is now available

In his second budget address, Governor Josh Shapiro charged the Department of Education and our Office of Commonwealth Libraries with developing resources to help schools incorporate information literacy into all aspects of learning so that our youngest Pennsylvanians have the skills to navigate the world around them. As more and more Pennsylvanians turn to digital sources for news and information, it's more important than ever that students be equipped with the skills to discern between fact and fiction online. Information literacy is a vital component of the high-quality academic standards taught across the Commonwealth. [These new resources](#) will not replace those standards. Rather, they provide tools that schools can use to enhance existing lessons and empower the next generation of Pennsylvanians.

A250 Declaration Decoders from Bill of Rights Institute

The Bill of Rights Institute is introducing an escape-room style classroom activity designed for middle school classrooms that decodes the Declaration of Independence and its references throughout time.

[Declaration Decoders](#) transforms traditional DBQ exercises into an interactive, puzzle-driven experience. Students step into the role of historians, helping curate a museum exhibit for the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Through both physical and digital elements, students will explore the links between the Declaration of Independence, the Seneca Falls Convention, the Gettysburg Address, Theodore Roosevelt's New Nationalism Speech, and Martin Luther King Jr.'s *I Have a Dream* speech.

A250 Declaration Decoders will be FREE in 2026 but with limited availability. Complete the interest form for the opportunity to receive it in late February!

Thank you for subscribing to the SAS Social Studies PLC and for all you do every day for the students in Pennsylvania!

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