

# Social Studies Update

## Highlights:

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- [Participate in the Nationwide E-Congress](#)
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- [Social Studies Awards, Grants, and Competitions](#)

## Check Out:

- [The C3 Framework for Social Studies State Standards](#)
- [Social Studies "Agora" Site](#)  
-Click on social studies
- [Social Studies Google Calendar](#)
- [Iowa Social Studies on Twitter](#)
- [Iowa Social Studies on Pinterest](#)
- [Iowa Social Studies on Diigo](#)
- [Iowa Department of Education Social Studies Page](#)

## Questions?

Contact Stefanie Wager, social studies consultant at the Iowa Department of Education, at 515-725-7842 or [stefanie.wager@iowa.gov](mailto:stefanie.wager@iowa.gov).

## Statewide Social Studies Professional Development

You asked for it and we delivered! In a survey sent out last year to social studies teachers across the state, teachers reported very little access to professional development in social studies.

The Social Studies Leadership Team worked during the last school year to create a two day professional development experience that is going to be offered to all

social studies teachers across the state. This two day professional development will focus on building literacy in social studies and cover an introduction to the Iowa Core Literacy Standards for History/Social Studies, an overview of the instructional shifts needed to fully implement the standards, and will touch on two of the instructional shifts—disciplinary literacy and the use of in-

formational text.

This professional development will be taught by your AEA social studies contact and social studies teachers from your AEA. It will also be offered in each AEA so stay tuned this spring as your local AEA starts advertising the dates of the professional development.

## Participate in the Nationwide E-Congress

Looking for an interactive way to teach about the legislative branch? The Youth Leadership Initiative's E-Congress program allows students to learn about Congress by writing original legislation and following it through the lawmaking process. The National E-Congress program runs

from January-April or you can participate in My E-Congress at any time during the year.

In the National E-Congress students work through five phases to learn about the workings of Congress.

My E-Congress allows you to do the same ex-

cept you do not interact with other schools.

To sign up and see additional information go to <http://www.youthleadership.net/learning-programs/econgress>.

Questions? Email [yli-help@virginia.edu](mailto:yli-help@virginia.edu).

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## Social Studies News

### National History Day in Iowa

National History Day in Iowa needs judges. If you are interested in judging the contest on May 4, 2015 please sign up [here](#). Don't worry if you have never judged before, they will train you.

### Mastery Connect Releases Iowa Core Standards App

Mastery Connect has recently released an app dedicated to each state's standards. This means, that you can now check out the Iowa Core in Social Studies from the palm of your hand. Check it out, and download the Iowa Core app, at <https://www.masteryconnect.com/learn-more/state-apps.html>

### Start a Rho Kappa Chapter at Your School

Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society is the only national organization for high school juniors and seniors in social studies. Any accredited high school can apply to start a chapter, through which students will be inducted into the RHO KAPPA Social Studies Honor Society. Go to <http://rhokappa.socialstudies.org>.

## Social Studies Resources

### Council for Economic Education Launches Online Assessment Center

The Council for Economic Education recently launched an online assessment center. This resource allows teachers to administer assessments and gain real-time data on student understanding of economic and personal finance concepts. With the resource they can: 1) administer tests online 2) analyze student and class performance 3) track student and class progress over the course of a year. Check it out [here](#).

### Bill of Rights in Action

The Constitutional Rights Foundation recently released their Fall 2014 issue of Bill of Rights in Action. This issue includes: The Origins of WWI, the War of 1812, and the War in Afghanistan. Check out the latest issue by going [here](#).

### Annals of American History through your AEA

Annals of American History gives a unique view of American history through primary source documents. This resource contains over 2,000 primary sources from 1493 to the present plus hundreds of images and multimedia clips. Check it out [here](#).

### Library of Congress Webinar

The Library of Congress is putting on a number of webinars through the 2014-2015 school year. Some of the topics include The Civil Rights Act, Women's Suffrage, and the inquiry process. If you miss the webinars, they are all recorded. Check them out by going [here](#). Their latest newsletter can be viewed [here](#).

### 12 Years a Slave

Many of you have probably heard of the recent movie, 12 Years a Slave. What you may not know is that a curriculum toolkit has been created to help educators use the film and teach the content of it. You can request this FREE curriculum kit (which includes a copy of the DVD) [here](#).

### Geographic Alliance of Iowa Resources

The Geographic Alliance of Iowa recently released a learning objects database representing four US Department of Education Fullbright-Hays projects to Nigeria, India, Bangladesh, and Chile. You can access the database [here](#) and [here](#).

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## Social Studies Resources

### Virtual Tours

Mount Vernon recently launched a virtual tour. The tour allows you to “tour” and view video of over 26 points of interest at Mount Vernon. Check it out [here](#).

In addition, check out a virtual tour of Auschwitz by going [here](#).

### Social Studies Videos from Khan Academy

Although Khan Academy didn’t start out including social studies videos, there are now many history, civics, and humanities videos.

Check out the history videos [here](#), and the civics videos [here](#).

### C-SPAN Classroom Deliberations

C-SPAN Classroom has hundreds of classroom resources including lesson plans, video clips, etc., but one of my favorite resources is their C-SPAN Classroom Deliberations. These are all focused on an essential question and include lesson plans, videos, articles, and student activities around the posed essential question. Check them out at <http://www.c-span.org>

## Professional Development Opportunities

### National Academy for Civics and Government

Teachers are invited to apply for "Political and Constitutional Theory for Citizens: The National Academy for Civics and Government," being held July 11-August 1, 2015, at Occidental College in Los Angeles. Participants will engage in an intense study of the Constitution. Applications are due March 2, 2015. [Learn more](#).

### Bill of Rights Summer Institutes

The Bill of Rights Institute is offering two different summer institutes. They are Liberty and the Constitution: Federalists and Anti-Federalists (July 13-17) and Liberty and Security (July 20-24). Both Institutes will take place in Washington DC. Costs will be covered during the program and participants will receive a \$400 stipend. Apply by going [here](#).

### NEH Summer Seminars

The National Endowment for the Humanities offers an immense amount of summer seminars for teachers each summer. This summer there are over 35 seminars being offered. Stipends are available for all of the seminars. Check out the full list and apply by going [here](#).

## Social Studies Awards, Grants, and Competitions

### National Economics Challenge

The 2014-2015 National Economics Challenge has begun. Teachers may register teams of four high school students and there are no team limits per class. Finalists will be awarded cash prizes. Contact your local coordinator [here](#). Check out a video overview of the Challenge [here](#).

### Write Women Back into History

The Iowa Commission on the Status of Women is seeking entries for the 2015 Write Women Back Into History Contest. The theme of this year’s contest is “Weaving the Stories of Women’s Lives.” Check out guidelines [here](#) or email [women@iowa.gov](mailto:women@iowa.gov) with any questions. The deadline is January 23, 2015.

### Abdelkader Essay Contest

Elkader, Iowa was named in honor of Emir Abdelkader, an Arab Muslim hero from Algeria who was admired across the globe. Each year, the Abdelkader Project sponsors this essay contest. Go to [www.abdelkaderproject.org/contest](http://www.abdelkaderproject.org/contest) for more information and to sign up to participate.