

Social Studies Update

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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 stefanie.wager@iowa.gov or 515-725-7842

Iowa Social Studies Update

Nominate a K-6 Teacher for Iowa History Teacher of the Year

Know a great K-6 history teacher? Please consider nominating them for the Iowa History Teacher of the Year Award, sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Go to [here](#) to nominate someone. The deadline to nominate a teacher is February 15, 2015. The winner has the chance to become the National History Teacher of the Year.

University of Northern Iowa Study on the Status of Social Studies in Iowa

The University of Northern Iowa Center for Social and Behavioral Research is conducting a study this spring over the current status of social studies in Iowa. Be on the look out for a link to complete the survey in your email inbox.

FREE or Almost FREE Summer Professional Development for Social Studies Teachers

There are literally hundreds of FREE institutes and workshops offered for social studies teachers each summer. I have tried to put together a fairly comprehensive list of all of the opportunities I have been made aware of. I will continue to add to the list throughout the spring. Check it out [here](#)

Two Great Resources for Your School

ESRI

Have you heard of GIS (Geographic Information System)? It is a computer system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage and present all types of spatial or geographical data. Did you know that you can get this tool at your school for FREE?

Go to <http://connected.esri.com> to explore the tool and to <https://esri.app.box.com/connectedrequest> to request your school's free account.

Ancestry K-12

Many of you have probably heard of Ancestry.com, but did you

know that Ancestry.com is offering access to their resources for FREE to K-12 schools? This gives all K-12 settings access to Ancestry's US collection, Fold3, and Newspapers.com for one year. Go to www.ancestryk12.com to apply and learn more.

Social Studies News

Education Commission of the States Releases Civic Education Policy Framework

With guidance from civic education leaders from across the country, the National Center for Learning and Civic Engagement developed the [State Civic Education Policy Framework](#). The framework draws heavily on research, knowledge of best practice and policy proposals to provide a concise guide for state education experts.

Iowa Students Chosen for Prestigious US Senate Program

Two students have been chosen to represent Iowa in the annual United States Senate Youth Program. Joshua Hughes (I-35) and Jack Hostages (Hempstead High- Dubuque) will each receive a \$5,000 scholarship and a fully funded trip to Washington D.C. where they will engage in a weeklong study of the federal government and the people who lead it. See the fully story [here](#).

Submit a Proposal for the 2015 National Council for the Social Studies Conference

NCSS is now accepting proposals for presentations at the 2015 Conference November 13-15, 2015 in New Orleans. Proposals are invited around a variety of topics. Go [here](#) for more information and to submit a proposal.

Social Studies Resources

Population Connection

Teaching about the impact of human population growth? The Population Education [website](#) is a great tool for doing so. In addition, check out their World of 7 Billion Student Video [Contest](#) and World Population "dot" [video](#).



9/11 Tribute Center

The 9/11 Tribute Center has a variety of resources for K-12 social studies teachers including a FREE online toolkit called [September 11th Personal Stories of Transformation](#), [Teaching 9/11 Toolkit](#), [Awards](#), [Professional Development Workshops](#), and [Distance Learning Opportunities](#).

Free Financial Literacy Curriculum Resources

Pricewaterhouse Coopers has created a free curriculum called Earn Your Future. The curriculum is composed of easy-to-follow lesson plans accompanied by interactive handouts. Topics include saving and investing, career exploration, money management, etc. Check it out [here](#).

"A good financial plan is a road map that shows us exactly how the choices we make today will affect our future."

-Alexa Von Tobel

Veteran's National Education Program

The Veteran's National Education Program has various lesson plans dealing with most wars the United States has been involved in. In addition, they have created a Global Awareness Map (www.globalawarenessmap.org) that gives information and video clips about most countries in the world.

New App on Immigration Available

The New York City Department of Education has launched a new app called New Immigrants: NYC 1880-1924. The app includes over thirty documents from the National Archives. Check it out on the iTunes store [here](#).

Primary Source Activities for the K-2 Classroom

The Library of Congress recently launched a special section of their website dedicated to K-2 classrooms and the use of primary sources. Activities include looking at classrooms then and now, transportation now and in the past, symbols of America, etc. Check it out by going [here](#).

Social Studies Resources

Sociology Resources

Do you teach sociology? If you do, check out this fantastic Google [doc](#) created for social studies teachers. It contains links to articles, video clips, activity ideas, and books for many sociology units. In addition, the American Sociological Association has a fantastic listserv you can join to get additional resources. Just send an email to listserv@listserv.asanet.org leave the subject field blank and type subscribe ASA_HIGH_SCHOOL in the message.

Get a Copy of the 2015 Civic Calendar

Celebrate all year with the National Constitution Center's Civic Calendar, which highlights important historical events, anniversaries, and key civic moments while connecting them to online and onsite resources. Go [here](#) to download a copy of the Civic Calendar.

Five Tools for Creating Multimedia Textbooks

You can now create the perfect textbook using many of the free online platforms that are out there. Check out this [comparison chart](#) for seeing some of the top tools out there. Some of the tools include [Lucid Press](#), [Widbook](#), [Book Creator](#), and [Flexbooks](#).

50 Core American Documents E-Book

The Ashbrook Center has compiled a collection of documents that were selected to present different views on some of the major issues and disputes in American history and government—especially on the meaning of the Constitution, the injustice of slavery, and the demands of progress. Sign up for the FREE e-book by going [here](#).

Map Maker Interactive

Map Maker Interactive allows students to explore their world with map themes, data, and tools for customizing their map. Students can create their own “geo-tours” and save and bookmark them for later use. Go [here](#) to use this and go here to access map maker [kits](#).

Virtual Supreme Court

The Virtual Supreme Court competition offers teams of two high school students the opportunity to research cutting-edge constitutional law. The members of the winning team receive a free trip to Washington DC in September 2015. Check out www.harlaninstitute.org for more information.

*“Everything has
to do with
geography.”*
-Judy Martz

Chronicling America

Chronicling America is a website providing access to information about historic newspapers across the country. The State Historical Museum of Iowa has a Grant to digitize thousands of pages of Iowa newspapers. The list of digitized Iowa newspapers include:

- Cresco Plain Dealer
- The Denison Review
- Der Demokrat
- Evening Times– Republican
- Iowa State Bystander
- The Leon Reporter
- Manchester Democrat
- Ottumwa Courier
- Webster City Freeman
- The Daily Gate City

Check out the Chronicling America website at <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>. Here you can see the Iowa newspapers as well as newspapers from across the country. Go [here](#) for a detailed search guide.

Teachers for Global Classrooms

The teachers for Global Classroom Programs is a year-long professional development opportunity for K-12 teachers to become leaders in global education. The Teachers for Global Classrooms Program has four main components:

- **Global Education Course:** Fellows complete an online eight week graduate level course on globalizing classrooms and curriculum.
- **Global Education Symposium:** Fellows travel to Washington DC to collaborate with others.
- **International Field Experience:** Fellows travel globally

for two to three weeks.

- **Capstone:** Fellows create a Global Education Guide as a resource for their local community.

Most expenses are provided for this experience. For more information, or to apply, go [here](#).

Building Literacy in Social Studies

Check out these great resources around literacy:

[Academic Word Finder](#)

- Online tool for identifying academic vocabulary within a text.

[Central Text Anthology](#) and [Diverse Texts](#)

- Collection of texts that exemplify anti-bias themes.

[Newsela](#)

- Current events articles that can be adjusted for student reading levels.

[Odell Education Literacy Toolbox](#)

- Includes useful handouts, organizers, and tools to support literacy in social studies.

Additionally, professional development is being rolled out statewide around building literacy in social studies. This year's professional development covers:

- Introduction to Iowa Core Literacy Standards for History/Social Studies
- Overview of Instructional Shifts
- Disciplinary Literacy
- Informational Text

Check your local AEA for when this two-day professional development will be offered.

“Disciplinary literacy is the act of helping students read, write, speak, listen, and think in a given content.”

Professional Development Opportunities

Ed Camp Iowa

EdCampIowa is coming up on Saturday, January 31, 2015. This is a free event and locations are being planned all around the state. Check out www.edcampiowa.org to sign up or for additional information.

Transatlantic Educators Dialogue

This 12 week online program is coordinated by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Teachers from the US and EU come together once a week in online sessions to explore a variety of educational topics. The program begins on February 1st and will conclude April 19th. There is no cost to participants, but participants must register to participate by January 15, 2015. Register online at <http://www.euc.illinois.edu/TED/>.

Professional Development Opportunities

FREE Iowa History Workshop

The Digital Studio for Public Arts and Humanities and the Social Studies Education faculty at the University of Iowa are collaborating to offer a two day workshop on teaching Iowa history for K-12 social studies teachers. The workshop will be held on February 7th and 8th in Iowa City. For more information go [here](#). To register go [here](#). License renewal credit is also available. Lodging expenses will also be covered. Check out resources created by the project [here](#).

Keizai Koho Center Fellowship to Japan

Each year the Keizai Koho Center sponsors a paid fellowship to Japan. Participants get to learn about contemporary Japanese society, have discussions with Japanese teachers and business leaders and tour the country. The 2015 fellowship departs June 28th and returns July 10th. Go [here](#) for more information. The application deadline is February 15, 2015.

Social Studies Awards, Grants, and Competitions

Iowa Ag Literacy Supplement Grant

The Iowa Ag Literacy Foundation is offering grants of up to \$200 to support the integration of agriculture into regular classroom instruction. The 2015 grant program focuses on social studies and literacy. Grant applications must be submitted electronically by January 9, 2015. Go [here](#) for more information and to apply.

H & R Block Budget Challenge

H&R Block is paying students to learn about personal finance. With the free [H&R Block Budget Challenge](#) students encounter real world personal budgeting situations through a 9 week simulation and lesson plans. Up to \$3 million is available in scholarships and classroom grants.

American Lawyers Alliance Teacher of the Year

You, or a teacher you know, could be the next Law Related Education (LRE) Teacher of the Year. Each winner will receive \$1,500 as well as \$500 towards the cost of attending the awards luncheon. The application deadline is March 15, 2015. Go [here](#) to apply or for additional information.



Enter Your School in Project Financial Literacy for the Chance to Win a \$1,000 Scholarship for Students

Sign your school up to be part of Project Financial Literacy and have the opportunity to help students win one of ten \$1,000 scholarships to help your school and students. Sign up at www.projectfl.org.

2015 National Economics Challenge

The National Economics Challenge is held at the state and national levels. Teams of students answer rigorous questions on micro and macroeconomics as well as international economics and current events. Finalists are awarded cash prizes as well as an all expenses paid trip. Go [here](#) for more information.

2015 iWitness Video Challenge

Created by the USC Shoah Foundation, the video challenge is designed for secondary students to learn from first person views of history and produce a 1-4 minute video essay. The submission deadline is May 8, 2015. Go [here](#) for more information.