

**Title of Session:** Social Studies Forum

**Moderator:** Michael Hutchison

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Room: After School Online Room

**MichaelH:** Hi everyone, welcome to tonight's Social Studies Forum

**MichaelH:** Before we begin, I have a small announcement I need to make

**MichaelH:** Tonight's session was supposed to highlight a great new website you can use in your classroom, called "Beyond The Fire".

**BJ** listens to Michael

**MichaelH:** However, I had some personal responsibilities this week, and we are unable to present that session at this time. It will be held in a few weeks, and you are all welcome to attend then.

**MichaelH:** The site is up and running, and you are welcome to look at a great site with great resources

**LeighAD:** Will there be another session in this room at this time?

**ArianeCGst36:** what is the website?

**WinonaK:** I checked out the site and it is indeed really nice.

**MichaelH:** I'll give everyone the site address at the end of the session (BJ, please remind me to do that), and you can check it at your leisure

**BJ** nods

**MichaelH:** So, without further ado

**MichaelH:** Welcome to tonight's Social Studies forum

**WinonaK:** Great!

**MichaelH:** Tonight, we'll discuss some resources that you can use in your social studies classroom for various areas, and projects

**MichaelH:** hopefully, we'll have something for all of you, and you'll come away with some ideas not only to start the year, but to sustain you throughout it

**MichaelH:** Before we begin, why don't we take a few minutes and introduce ourselves to one another... who we are, etc.

**WinonaK:** What grade level will we be addressing?

**MichaelH:** any you'd like

**MichaelH** is a technology curriculum facilitator in a small school district in southwestern Indiana

**BJ:** I'm an art teacher and ss wannabe in Pennsylvania

**MichaelH** . o O ( we've adopted BJ as an honorary Social Studies teacher a long time ago )

**RenataS:** I'm an English teacher in Japan

**AaronGst41** joined the room.

**WinonaK:** I teach seventh grade in a low income school in Los Angeles.

**ElizabethH:** I'm an ed tech consultant, online teacher, and software developer. I am always interested in good content sites, but I'll have to drop out just before the 1/2 to help at another session.

**MelindaJW:** Just finished my student teaching and working on clear credential through CA Lutheran University

**CherylLC:** I am a student who hopes to teach language arts and social studies

**MichaelH:** anyone else?

**KimberlyBa:** I just finished student teaching and I am in the process of finding a job.

**KarenGar:** I live in Amherst MA and do on-line projects around the clock!

**SuePi:** I teach US history at 8th grade level and university

**MichaelH:** ah, Kimberly... the good old days...

**KimberlyBa:** Oh yeah!

**AlexanderE:** am I in the right place for the beyond the fire discussion?

**MichaelH:** yes, Alexander, you are here

**MichaelH:** anyone else?

**WinonaK:** I teach English and "Literacy for Success."

**BJ:** Alexander, can you please introduce yourself?

**WinonaK:** We try to use projects that cross subject matter areas.

**MichaelH:** As I mentioned, we'll have the Beyond the Fire session at a later date. The best way for all of you to know when that'll be will be to look at various listservs, such as the TAPPED IN MeetMe list [ed. Note: <http://ti2.sri.com/mailman/listinfo/meetme> ], and the Social Studies forum list. [ ed. Note: also watch the Tapped In Calendar]

**ScottGst42:** I'm in my master's program and learning about different technologies

**AlexanderE:** sure, I'm Alex, 28 years old, I teach math in Oxnard, California. I am finishing my masters degree at Cal Lutheran. I'm a Libra

**ScottGst42:** My content area is language arts

**MichaelH:** The BTF folks really wanted to be here, but I had a personal commitment, and we decided to reschedule

**MichaelH:** Anyway, let's talk about some things you can do right now...

**MichaelH:** I'm guessing most of you will be starting school sometime within the next 30 days or so, right?

**SuePi:** yes

**BJ** nods

**WinonaK:** Yes

**KimberlyBa:** Hopefully!

**ScottGst42:** yes

**KimberlyBa:** Hopefully

**MelindaJW:** If I can find a job yeah!

**MichaelH:** It's hard to believe... remember the days (BJ , you and I sure can) when we ended the school year before Memorial Day, and never started until after Labor Day?

**AlexanderE:** yes

**KimberlyBa:** Okay, don't scare us!

**SuePi:** it was a saner, slower world then

**MichaelH:** Anyway, with the use of classroom technology, we have a lot of great opportunities to open new doors and new ideas to our students, and make them "miners" of our subject area

**MichaelH:** And, one of the things you'll love about the first site I am going to show you... it is 100%, absolutely, positively free.

**MichaelH:** Won't cost you one red cent

**MichaelH:** let me ask you this, first (I love to heighten the anticipation)... do any of you use PBS programming in your classrooms?

**SuePi:** yes, often

**WinonaK:** Not currently.

**MichaelH:** Sue, what are you using?

**AndreaPJ:** Do you mean with a TV in the classroom?

**MichaelH:** Sure, Andrea, or you can use streaming video, or even assign programming for the kids to watch.

**SuePi:** mostly videos, pbs.org, some streaming

**AndreaPJ:** No

**MichaelH:** Any particular program strike your fancy, Sue?

**AndreaPJ:** I use pbs.org

**SuePi:** love Ken Burns, civil war, the West

**ScottGst42:** I look at some of the lesson plans

**MichaelH:** Ah, Sue, you're a girl after my own heart

**MichaelH:** have you ever seen the Civil War site?

**SuePi:** which one

**MichaelH:** the PBS one for the Ken Burns film

**SuePi:** yes many times

**MichaelH:** ah, have you used the lessons?

**WinonaK:** I would love to find some programs that can teach students about the revolutionary period--why do we say the pledge...?

**MichaelH:** Winona, hold that thought, because we'll go there next

**SuePi:** some - I do a big simulation for the war with all kinds of things/ student project, reenactors etc thrown in

**MichaelH:** And, that series is on PBS right now...

**RenataS:** .....we haven't gone anywhere yet...is there a link?

**MichaelH:** Let's take a minute and look at the PBS site, and you can see what Sue's talking about

**MichaelH:** Now, here's what I would like you to do...

**KarenGar:** there is a great video series about the Digital Divide.

**MichaelH:** I'll put the link on the chat area, and you can go there (it will open in a new browser window). BUT, come back here after a couple of minutes, because we'll have more

**MichaelH:** <http://www.pbs.org/civilwar>

**MichaelH:** Sue, I sure wish you'd been with us a couple of years ago, you would have loved a session we did in September, 2002

**MichaelH:** does everyone have the link and can open the page?

**MelindaJW:** yes

**MichaelH:** you will want to click on "In The Classroom"

**MichaelH:** to see the lessons

**RenataS:** what exactly is pbs?

**SuePi:** I'm sure - but I've been doing this a long time already - don't use a textbook, my class is all simulation/project based

**CandaceJaG:** same here Sue

**BJ:** PBS - public broadcasting service

**KarenGar:** Ken Burns lived in Amherst for a while

**MichaelH:** Renata, PBS stands for Public Broadcasting Service. It's gov't funded, but they hire independent producers (like Ken Burns) to do films

**KarenGar:** great documentaries... are they available on-line?

**MichaelH:** Sue, what if you could have discussed your Civil War projects with Ken Burns personally?

**MichaelH:** Karen, some will be. PBS is currently looking to digitize their collections for download

**MichaelH:** That will be a bit in the future as HDTV becomes more a reality

**KarenGar:** that would be outstanding!

**MichaelH:** Some of their stuff is available in test markets, but nothing nationwide

**MichaelH:** You might want to check with PBS (I'll show you how in a bit), for some info on that

**MelindaJW:** There are some great lessons on this site

**MichaelH:** It was a great honor for me to be associated with lessons on this site... don't tell PBS, but I would have done them for free

**AndreaPJ:** The lesson plans are invariably well done; I've used lesson plans even without the programs

**MichaelH:** And, it's been an honor for me to work with other Ken Burns films as well, such as "Baseball", "Horatio's Drive", "Empire of the Air", and the most recent, "Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson".

**MichaelH:** "Jack Johnson" comes out in January, 2005

**MichaelH:** We hosted Ken here in a Social Studies forum session back in September, 2002, and almost had him for a second one last year

**MichaelH:** I'm hoping we can get him back some day for another session

**KimberlyBa:** We are very lucky at CLU because we have hundreds of volumes of PBS videos that we can check out for free

**MichaelH:** absolutely... they probably have Civil War, as well as NOVA, and many other outstanding series

**KimberlyBa:** Yeah, they do

**WinonaK:** Really, for free? I had no idea.

**MichaelH:** Hey, Winona, tell me about what you wanted for the Revolutionary War period

**ScottGst42:** do they have frontlines

**KimberlyBa:** Yeah, all you need is a library card

**KimberlyBa:** You only have to pay a fee if the video is late

**MichaelH:** Scott, if they don't, PBS sells some of the earlier shows

**MichaelH:** Winona, what's your revolutionary war interests?

**ScottGst42:** I picked up one about Shakespeare, but it didn't show a list of others they had

**MichaelH:** hey Scott, I think PBS has some Shakespeare lesson plans based on recent web sites they ran. I'll show you those in a bit

**WinonaK:** Well, most of my students don't really understand what the pledge is or why we say it. Many don't regard this as their country anyway. We have a "home room" where we say the pledge. We can read, do homework or anything we deem useful. I thought it would be nice to create a unit to instill a bit of historical relevance for them.

**MichaelH:** Ok, so you might look at the writing of the Declaration or Constitution, or maybe some ideas about the Bill of Rights?

**MichaelH:** Check out this web site:

**MichaelH:** <http://www.pbs.org/liberty>

**WinonaK:** Yes, the problem with the actual documents is that the language is not accessible to my (third grade reading level) students.

**MichaelH:** Liberty is a great series (on currently) on most PBS stations

**MichaelH:** deals with the Civil War as well as the writing of the constitution

**MichaelH:** but, gang, there is more

**WinonaK:** I think movies like "The Patriot" might fit in. I want to let them know why many people say the pledge with such genuine feeling --because they know that real, regular people fought and died for our flag.

**MichaelH:** What if you aren't interested in lessons in the areas that Sue, Winona, and I are talking about right now?

**AndreaPJ:** Listening

**MichaelH:** What if you needed lessons (in about any subject area) that fit your grade level and also could be matched to national, international, or state standards?

**DeborahEB:** No, I don't teach US

**MichaelH:** What if you could get them for free?

**DeborahEB:** That would be very useful

**MichaelH:** And you wouldn't even need PBS programming to use the lessons?

**KimberlyBa:** I am a multiple subject teacher and was wondering if you have any cool history sites for elementary teachers

**MichaelH:** Well, have I got a site for you!

**KimberlyBa:** Cool!

**MichaelH:** anyone familiar with PBS TeacherSource?

**DeborahEB:** I teach medieval Asia, Africa, South America, Europe

**KimberlyBa:** no

**DeborahEB:** Yes, a little

**MelindaJW:** not really

**ScottGst42:** no

**DeborahEB:** I am doing my Master's online, and we are memorizing the internet

**WinonaK:** I'm still listening.

**MichaelH:** ok, I'm going to show you the main page, and I would bet my TAPPED IN salary for a year that you could find at least one lesson for you to use

**MichaelH:** anyone want to bet?

**SuePi:** TeacherSource is great

**MichaelH:** <http://www.pbs.org/teachersource>

**DeborahEB:** TeacherSource was one of at least a thousand sites we have seen

**WinonaK:** What's your salary, Ha.

**KimberlyBa:** Now this is cool!

**MichaelH:** more zeroes than I can type on this page

**ScottGst42:** that is a cool site!

**MelindaJW:** Thanks for this site, I taught kindergarten and this site would have been great!

**MichaelH:** now, I have a few suggestions that make this site even "cooler", Scott!

**AndreaPJ:** I like the interactive sites. My favorite is Building Big (David Macauley's stuff) which I use as an extension for a unit on infrastructure. There is real problem solving .

**MichaelH:** Melinda, you'd probably love PBS Kids... <http://pbskids.org>

**WinonaK:** Yes it looks like a good one--thanks.

**AndreaPJ:** I get the videos from the public library

**MichaelH:** now, Winona, there's more

**DeborahEB:** I found two sites I have used before: Islam: Empire of Faith, and road to Timbuktu

**KimberlyBa:** This site would have been great to have when I had to do an ITU for social studies

**MelindaJW:** Thanks! This site is perfect!

**MichaelH:** ok... here's one thing you can do

**MichaelH:** you can set up a profile, and you can "personalize" the site to match your grade level and subject area.

**MichaelH:** for example, I taught secondary social studies (US, World, Government), so the first thing I would see would be programming that dealt with those areas

**WinonaK:** Will it open me up to spam etc?

**MichaelH:** it also would be personalized to my local PBS station as well as times and schedules

**MichaelH:** no, Winona

**MichaelH:** all you're doing is telling the site what you want, and it just leaves a cookie on your computer

**MichaelH:** nothing that is spam

**WinonaK:** Great! I'll try it.

**MichaelH:** there's even more

**MichaelH:** go to <http://www.pbs.org/teachersource/previews/previews.shtm>

**MichaelH:** this is the link to PBS Teacher Previews, the weekly newsletter for teachers

**AndreaPJ:** Great ... I see where to set up the profile

**MichaelH:** as you can tell, you can subscribe online, and you'll get weekly updates about programming, and lessons you can use. There's even links to other websites (not PBS) that are useful for classroom teachers

**MicheleAt:** Very nice

**MichaelH:** and remember, this is all free to classroom teachers.

**WinonaK:** This has the wheels turning...Let's say I find a program I can use, can I record it and use in my class?

**Steve-oGst29:** Michael, have you used any of the frontier house lessons?

**MichaelH:** Well, Winona, Teacher Previews will tell you the taping rights (it would vary from program to program)

**MelindaJW:** What if you want to subscribe to the newsletter but are not yet teaching?

**DeborahEB:** Wow! There's a beautiful site on Japan: the Secret Empire

**MichaelH:** I've not used Frontier House, although I watched the series. My problem was that I stopped teaching first semester US, and didn't have a use for it

**MichaelH:** Melinda, subscribe away, you'll be fine

**MelindaJW:** thanks!

**Steve-oGst29:** it seems like a valuable teaching tool

**MichaelH:** You still will want to develop a lesson and video library

**MichaelH:** OK, guys, tell me some other things you might want to know about...we have just a few more minutes, and I might have some other resources, or lessons

**WinonaK:** So you find a program, and if it's o.k., record it--then download a lesson plan and activities to go with it?

**AndreaPJ:** Election

**MichaelH:** Hang on a sec, Andrea, got something for you

**AndreaPJ:** for ninth grade civics

**MichaelH:** Winona, the lessons are probably online on a web site. You can always print them, and use them, or the "shelf life" of a web site on PBS is usually several years

**MichaelH:** Andrea I have two for you...

**MichaelH:** I'm going to have to dig for a minute for a PBS site.... but in the meantime, check out:

**MichaelH:** <http://www.c-span.org/classroom>

**AndreaPJ:** ok

**AndreaPJ:** Looks perfect: Teaching public affairs with primary sources

**DeborahEB:** Japan, China, Korea: medieval

**DeborahEB:** Or Europe

**AndreaPJ:** thank you

**MichaelH:** you'll note that the C-SPAN stuff is ALWAYS public domain, so it's all free to tape and use. In addition, much of it is online and is available as streaming video/audio.

**MichaelH:** Check out too, their neat Electoral College map give-away

**AndreaPJ:** great.

**MichaelH:** the map is huge... it's more than 3 feet wide

**RobertWB:** Way kewl.

**MichaelH:** check out <http://www.c-span.org/classroom/2004vote/poster.asp>

**AndreaPJ:** Wow. I'll definitely get the map

**MichaelH:** it's 44"x 44"

**AndreaPJ:** I think teachers have a gene for acquiring free materials

**MichaelH:** I have one, and it's great

**AndreaPJ:** Yeah ... it's wall size with those measurements

**MichaelH:** well, of course, there's always someone you know on the C-Span Curriculum Advisory Team as well as a former member of the PBS TeacherSource Advisory Group

**WinonaK:** This might sound dumb? but, what's "streaming?"

**MichaelH:** and, both of those groups have been featured in Social Studies forums

**RobertWB:** Streaming means the file is located on the website..

**RobertWB:** you don't have to download it to your computer

**MichaelH:** Check the C-SPAN stuff specifically for that, Winona

**RobertWB:** It saves you space.

**AndreaPJ:** Even better, Michael -- connections!

**MichaelH:** PBS has some, but C-SPAN archives EVERYTHING

**MichaelH:** one more election resource, and a couple other web sites besides.

**MichaelH:** here's the current PBS elections web site

**ScottGst42:** Michael, what about those Shakespeare sites?

**WinonaK:** So you go to the site, in class, and project it for your students?

**MichaelH:** Scott, do a search on TeacherSource, I know they're there

**ScottGst42:** thanx

**MichaelH:** Winona, that's one way to do it. If you have a projector, you can show computer output on a TV screen

**RobertWB:** I also see you can purchase videos from the C Span site.

**MichaelH:** BTW: if anyone would like to see a regular Social Studies forum session... we meet in TAPPED IN on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, at 8 p.m. eastern

**MichaelH:** Finally, if you'd like to see more lessons, links, and contact information for me, go to:

**MichaelH:** <http://www.vcsc.k12.in.us/staff/mhutch/ice2000/default.htm>

**WinonaK:** Thank you Michael, this has been very informative for me.

**AndreaPJ:** Thank you

**DeborahEB:** Thanks, BJ and Michael

**MichaelH:** Glad you all could join us!

**ScottGst42:** thanks guys, great info

**KimberlyBa:** Thank you!

**MichaelH:** <http://www.beyondthefire.net> is the Beyond the Fire link

**MelindaJW:** Thank you for all the great sites!

**KimberlyBa:** They will be helpful!

**MichaelH** waves goodnight

**BJ:** thanks, Michael...take care