

Title of Session: PBS Teachers Resources

Moderator: Jenny Bradbury

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Room: Social Studies Forum Group

MichaelH: Welcome to this afternoon/evening's Social Studies forum...

DarrenP: Should I see something on the screen?

MichaelH: Some of the best sessions we have had here are sessions with PBS Teachers (used to be TeacherSource)

MichaelH: and I'm glad to have an opportunity to have them join us again

MichaelH: This time round, it's especially an honor, with the upcoming Ken Burns film, "The War"

MichaelH: before we start on our tour of the resources for PBS Teachers, however, let's take a few minutes to introduce ourselves... would everyone tell us who you are, what you teach, etc.

MichaelH is a social studies teacher in southwestern Indiana

DrewC: 4th grade teacher from Ocean Beach

ShayneTr: visual art and computer teacher in Toronto, Canada (hoping I can use these resources up here)

BonnieHa: I teach 7th/8th grade language arts teacher (and computers) in the Chicago area.

MidgeF: I'm a ed tech consultant, author and genealogist from MA

AmeliaIG: my name is Amelia and my minor is in English soon to graduate in may 2008

CindyCan: Adult Education - Jerseyville, Illinois

TammyL: is a Resource Specialist 7th grade in San Diego

KathleenAF: I am a Middle School Resource Teacher in Sunland, CA (part of Los Angeles)

DianeKR: high school reading teacher, Orlando area

CelesteR Celeste has taught English 10-12 and Social Studies in Weston, FL for 8 years

MelissaAP: I'm getting my masters in English at San Diego State University...hope to teach HS English

SerenaP: 8th grade Language Arts teacher/EdTec Master's student SDSU

JessicaDB: 1st grade San Diego (I'm from Indy!)

AmeliaIG: McAllen, Texas here

RitaSo: Elementary school- Philadelphia

DarrenP: I teach middle school special day class for the emotionally disturbed, San Diego

JenniferE: I teach 8th grade in San Diego

VickiLM: I teach technology skills to pre-service teachers

JennySB: It's nice to see so many Language Arts teachers. I taught MS/HS language arts for 7 years. I'm happy to talk about our resources for PreK-12, though, since it sounds like you all represent a broad spectrum

JennySB: I thought I would start with an overview of the site, give you an update on the resources for Ken Burns' "The War" and then answer any specific questions folks might have. How does that sound?

MichaelH: sounds great, Jenny

SerenaP: great

MichaelH perks up anytime he hears "Ken Burns"

MidgeF: I see this is about WWII

JennySB: Okay, here goes...PBS Teachers is a Web site containing thousands of free resources for teachers, library media specialists and technology coordinators of PreK-12. That means it can be used in Canada just as easily as in the States.

JennySB: PBS.org features companion Web sites for hundreds of PBS programs and specials, as well as Web sites not tied to television broadcasts. PBS Teachers (<http://www.pbs.org/teachers/>) aggregates the educational resources on these sites. We currently offer thousands of free classroom activities and projects, online interactive

activities, audio/video segments, and lesson plans based on state and national teaching standards.

JennySB: Users can customize the site according to their grade level, subject areas, and geographic location. Once a user has customized the site, the TV schedule and local station information will be set to his or her local station and the features in the feature well on each page will change to match his or her grade level and subject area profile. Additionally, the weekly PBS Teachers Newsletter, which can be viewed online or sent directly to the user's e-mail box, will prioritize his or her areas of interest. The PBS Teachers Newsletter is a great way to find out about upcoming programming and new educational resources from PBS, PBS Kids, and PBS Parents.

AmeliaIG thinks it sounds fascinating

JennySB: That's what we like to hear!

RitaSo: Is this a free or paid subscription

JennySB: It's completely free

DrewC: sounds good

MichaelH: free, Rita

RitaSo: Oh my - wow

AmeliaIG likes anything free :)

SherylM: me too

AmeliaIG: same here

SherylM: that works, thanks

DrewC: so what are some examples of some resources the website has?

JennySB: Well, I'll tell you what's coming up for "The War" and then I'm happy to answer questions about resources related to particular programs, subject areas, grade levels...

JennySB: THE WAR is a seven-part series about Americans' experiences in WWII that begins airing in September. The Web site -- <http://www.pbs.org/thewar/> -- will include multidisciplinary lesson plans, a collection of theme-based activities, video segments featuring clips from the film and information about the making of the film, a toolkit for engaging students in collecting community stories, and an extensive library of primary

sources. Packets containing all of the above resources will be mailed to high schools nationwide in late August or early September.

MichaelH: I guess I'll editorialize... it is a great film

DrewC: are all the resources centered around particular programs PBS airs?

MelissaAP: do high schools have to request a packet?

DrewC: and if so, is there a list of past and present programs from PBS?

JennySB: Yes, the resources are specific to programs we air. No, you don't have to request the packet. It will be sent to every high school in the U.S., to the attention of the Social Studies/History chair.

MichaelH: Hey, gang... could I ask a favor... could you hold questions for just a few seconds, and Jenny can answer them more efficiently?

RivaB: Are all the resources free to teachers or only certain ones

DrewC: oh, sorry

JennySB: All of the resources are free!

MichaelH envisions Jenny with flames coming out of her fingertips trying to catch up

AmeliaIG smiles

MichaelH listens to Jenny

JennySB: Actually, I should say that all of the resources on PBS.org are free. Our videos aren't free, though most come with one-year off air taping rights for educators.

DrewC: I personally don't teach anything about WWII for my S.S. curriculum, so I was wondering about other programs

JennySB: Another terrific program premiering in October is WIRED SCIENCE, PBS' new audience-selected Science program. WIRED SCIENCE focuses on cutting-edge developments in Science and Technology and the Web site (<http://www.pbs.org/kcet/wiredscience/>) will include an array of innovative resources designed for teachers and students. One exciting component is a national video contest that will enable students to share their enthusiasm for and discoveries about science and technology.

DrewC: cool

CelesteR: Drew? Any Holocaust?

DrewC: no, ancient China?

DrewC: American Revolution?

MichaelH: ummm... can we hold questions for just a moment?

DrewC: Ancient tribes of Africa

MichaelH listens to Jenny

CelesteR I am listening hard :-)

CindyCan: Same here

AmeliaIG is exploring the pbs website

JennySB: We have a number of great resources related to the Holocaust. I think my favorite site is for Auschwitz: Inside the Nazi State -- <http://www.pbs.org/auschwitz/> -- which contains an incredible number of primary sources and teaching resources.

JennySB: In terms of U.S. History, we've got a lot to offer through American Experience -- <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/>

DrewC: what's American Experience

CelesteR There are great ones, superb ones...for Chechnya, for Cambodia, for Rwanda...that I already use with my HS students in Language Arts

JennySB: I'm also a BIG fan of the Freedom: A History of US site -- <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/historyofus/> -- which has an incredible library of primary sources, video clips, images, and classroom resources to offer. The site and film are based on the work of Joy Hakim

MichaelH: Drew, American Experience is a US History-based series produced by WGBH in Boston... you'll love it. Check out the website Jenny shared.

DrewC: cool

MichaelH: Jenny, we had Joy with us several years ago... a really interesting session

DrewC: I might

DrewC: American Revolution is one topic teachers have no problem finding resources for thought

DrewC: I think at least

DrewC: What about science topics though?

JennySB: Yeah, a lot of great global studies resources are available through FRONTLINE, FRONTLINE/World, and Wide Angle. I'm especially a fan of the last site, because the folks at Wide Angle really understand how to effectively integrate media and technology in the classroom. To find the URLs, use the Programs A-Z link at the top of the PBS Teachers homepage. That's generally an easy way to navigate to specific programs

AmeliaIG: I am amazed with so much pbs has to offer teachers

JennySB: We

DrewC: I have yet to see the site so I really have no idea

RivaB: Do you have anything for K-1 special education students?

CelesteR Independent Lens too :-)) It is controversial and provokes deep thinking and great discussions

MichaelH: hey, guys, remember poor Jenny's fingers... how about she shows us how to navigate the site, and THEN we can ask questions... so hold them just for a few minutes, ok?

JennySB: Oops! We've got tons of science resources between NOVA, which has great classroom activities and interactives, NOVA scienceNOW, and Nature. For younger kids, there are great sites and programs called Dragonfly TV, which just added a featured called SciGirls, ZOOM, and Backyard Jungle. Again, you can find all of these using the Programs A-Z link

DrewC: thanks Jenny it sounds like a great resource

DavidWek puts in a quick pitch for Jenny to lead a regular PBS resources discussion in Tapped In next school year

JennySB: We have a page of the site dedicated to Early Childhood Educators, which includes articles from the field. I know that some of these relate to students with special needs.

JennySB: Sounds like fun!

JennySB: It's hard to keep up with all of the questions, but I enjoy trying. Whose questions have I missed?

SherylM: I would like to say that PBS has a lot to offer elementary as well as high school teachers. You can even get online free professional development.

MichaelH: Jenny, I think you may have gotten them all up to now...

MichaelH: Hey, I have one...

SherylM: Jenny, Can you tell them about Journey North?

AmeliaIG thinks Jenny's on a roll

MichaelH: let's say I want to find a particular lesson on the site...how might I search for one?

JennySB: Yes, there's free online professional development through a lot of local stations. We also have an award-winning fee-based professional development program called TeacherLine, which just added an ISTE-approved tech integration capstone course. There's a link to TeacherLine from our homepage if you're interested in finding out more about what they have to offer

JennySB: There are 3 major ways to search the site. You can go to one of the subject pages by clicking on the link in the left column. From there, you can search by grade level and subject area. You can also use the search box at the top of the top level pages to search by keyword. Finally, you can use the Advanced Search function; this allows you to use keywords and narrow your search by grade level, subject area, and resource type.

JennySB: I'm afraid I'm not familiar with Journey North. Can you tell me more and maybe it will jog my memory.

DavidWek: <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/>

DavidWek: Annenberg/CPB project

JenniferE: I just used the search and it found me just what I needed

JennySB: Excellent. David, that's a very cool site. It's not one of ours, though.

SherylM: Yep, I thought about them being split off, sorry.

JennySB: Since there are a bunch of elementary folks here (or were), I'd love to tell you about two great new programs coming out in the fall: WordGirl and Super Why!

JennySB: Super WHY!, from the producers of Blues Clues, focuses on the adventures of four fairytale friends who transform into reading-powered superheroes: Alpha Pig with

Alphabet Power, Wonder Red with Word Power, Princess Presto with Spelling Power, Super Why with the Power to Read and Super YOU with the Power to Help. The Super Readers jump into books (literally) to find answers to everyday preschool challenges and embark on exciting adventures, where they play interactive reading games to overcome obstacles and save the day.

RitaSo: I'm all ears

RivaB: great

JennySB: The site for Super WHY! isn't live yet, but it should be shortly.

AmeliaIG: sounds great I'm looking forward to seeing it

RitaSo: The kids will love it

JennySB: WordGirl is designed for older kids and already has a live Web site -- <http://pbskids.org/wordgirl/>. This program chronicles the adventures of Becky Botsford, a mild-mannered fifth grader who, at the call of duty, transforms into WordGirl – caped crusader and definition dynamo. The site contains a wide array of activities and lesson plans designed to improve students' vocabulary and literacy skills.

KarenTate: Will these be national programs

CindyCan: very cool

RitaSo: I'm thrilled to see girl characters who are super

JennySB: Yes, they're part of a big literacy campaign from PBS KIDS and PBS KIDS GO! In the fall, they'll launch a site called the Reading Roadmap, which will feature these and other new and existing programs.

SerenaP: you said teachers have viewing rights for one year. how do we get access to videos already aired?

JennySB: I love WordGirl because her catch phrase is "Word Up!"

AmeliaIG thinks its SUPER!

JennySB: It's not as easy to get copies of programs that already aired, though a lot of our producers are starting to put clips up on YouTube and some programs, like FRONTLINE, stream entire episodes on their site.

SherylM: Good question

SerenaP: frontline.com?org?

ShayneTr: PBS has some great videos about art - is there an educational discount?

JennySB: Since pledge season is coming up soon, you should watch out for favorite programs, since we air a lot then.

JennySB: Frontline is <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/>

DarrenP: Lots of great links

JennySB: To find out about specific pricing, you should check out the Shop for Teachers <http://teacher.shop.pbs.org/home/index.jsp>

ShayneTr . o O (there goes my paycheck)

DavidWek chuckles

MichaelH: What's the really cool art series on right now, Jenny....

CelesteR: Or become a member and get a discount when you shop

JennySB: I know it's rough, but it's for a good cause. One great source of free art resources is Oregon Public Broadcasting's program Art Beat at School. They've got tons of lesson plans, each connected to an 8-10 minute video segment that introduces a particular artist and style. You should be able to find a lot of these on PBS Teachers.

JennySB: The great program on right now is Simon Schama's Power of Art. Check the web site in a little while, when they'll be adding two cool interactives that let kids curate their own exhibits using the pieces featured in the program and test their art history knowledge.

MichaelH: that's what I was trying to think of Jenny... :)

MichaelH: I am definitely not an art person, but that series is great

AmeliaIG: when could I visit super why?

MichaelH: Don't forget tonight's American Masters on Audubon

JennySB: Super Why! begins airing in October. The site should be live by the middle of September.

SerenaP: what about for language arts teachers?

AmeliaIG: thanks Jenny!

JennySB: Thanks, Michael. That one looks cool, and the next program is about Stax records. Isaac Hayes!

JennySB: For Language Arts teachers, Masterpiece Theatre is spending almost their entire next season focusing on Jane Austen and her novels. American Masters also has good resources on Willa Cather and a lot of other American writers. Ken Burns did a great film on Mark Twain...

SerenaP: what's the link for that? sounds great

MichaelH: Oh, oh... "Theme From Shaft"... guess I am showing my age :)

JennySB: There's also In Search of Shakespeare and Michael Palin's Hemingway Adventure.

MelissaAP: This is such an excellent resource!!

MichaelH: Jenny, I think you have a lot of new PBS Teachers fans :)

JennySB: The links for all of the above can be found using Programs A-Z. Masterpiece is <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/>

AmeliaIG digs PBS Teachers

JennySB: It's not me, it's my cool free resources!

CindyCan: What type of professional development activities does the site offer?

JennySB: I hope folks will spread the word to colleagues

RitaSo: Yes yes yes

AmeliaIG: absolutely

MichaelH: Jenny, one thing we can do to spread the word is to have regular sessions here... that would be great...

SerenaP: can you view any past masterpiece theaters in full online off the site?

RivaB: Yes we will and we would like that

JennySB: Our major professional development offerings are through TeacherLine. It's a great collection of courses. They're fee-based, but they're subsidized by a DOE grant, so they're a lot less than a lot of other courses. They're facilitated, online, and offer graduate and professional development credit.

DavidWek: what's the price tag, Jenny?

JennySB: Unfortunately, the folks at Masterpiece don't have streaming video yet.

JennySB: I don't know the price tag, but here's the link for TeacherLine:
<http://teacherline.pbs.org/teacherline/>

CindyCan: Thanks for the info.

MichaelH: Jenny, you might want to tell everyone about Teacher Previews...

JennySB: Any other questions?

MichaelH: and how to "personalize" the site

RitaSo: About \$200

AmeliaIG: I'm thinking of presenting the PBS teachers website to a class of 35 students, and introduce them to this amazing resource

RitaSo: I just checked - they have some good tech courses, too

DavidWek: Excellent idea, Amelia

JennySB: Okay, Teacher Previews is our e-newsletter. You can get it by clicking on the link in the PBS in Education section of the homepage. You can also customize our site, as Michael says. This involves telling us your name, e-mail address, zip code, subject area and grade level. WE DON'T SHARE OR SELL THIS INFO AND WE WON'T SPAM YOU. We use it to prioritize the information on the site according to your location and interests. If you sign up for the newsletter when you customize, it will automatically arrive in your in-box each week.

JennySB: Amelia, that's great news!

JennySB: Yes, TeacherLine has great courses for learning about tech integration

CindyCan: Excellent

AmeliaIG: Thank you David and Jenny

JennySB: My pleasure

MichaelH: Believe me, PBS Teacher Previews is a lifesaver for me weekly

JennySB: You can also sign up for newsletters from FRONTLINE and NOVA if you use those programs.

MichaelH: NewsHour Extra also still has a weekly update as well

JenniferE: I've already found some many cool lessons I can use next year and will definitely be registering

MichaelH: Jenny, did you mention anything about how the lessons on the site are aligned to standards?

JennySB: These are newsletters specifically for teachers. You can find out about them on the teacher page of each site. Which reminds me that all of the sites I've been mentioning have special pages dedicated to teachers. P.O.V.'s teachers page features a lending library where you can borrow all of their programs for free.

JennySB: I thought I mentioned that our lessons are standards-based but if not, my bad. They are. Coming soon, they will all be correlated to national and state standards. So, you can click on a resource, select your state, and find out which of your state's standards it addresses.

MelissaAP: WOW!

MichaelH: I couldn't remember.. you may have :)

AmeliaIG: can I have a link to get there?

JennySB: Get where?

MichaelH: Just to editorialize a bit... I've written some curriculum for PBS, and it's always been an honor for me to be associated with them

AmeliaIG: the newsletters

JennySB: <http://www.pbs.org/teachers/newsletter/>

DavidWek thinks PBS should be honored to have Michael writing curriculum for them, too

SerenaP: the frontline link is really cool. very good videos in full for debates and writing responses!

JennySB: Thanks, Michael. We really appreciate the teachers who create our lesson plans (yes, all of our lesson plans are created by teachers or former teachers). If you're interested in creating resources for us, you can let us know through the Contact Us link on the PBS Teachers site.

SerenaP: the sound is really good off the videos, too

JennySB: FRONTLINE's Web guru is amazing and the other folks there have done a terrific job with the site. The amount of background information that never makes it into the on-air program is pretty amazing. And, they're planning to focus their resources on information literacy in the coming year. Very cool!

MichaelH: Jenny, did you mention anything about the learning.now and media infusion blogs?

AmeliaIG: I'll check frontline out too

SerenaP: I'm still having trouble finding lesson plans. I'm going to pbsteachers.org and I just get sponsored links, like edweb

JennySB: Not yet. Thanks again, Michael! We've got two blogs on our site. Media Infusion is written by teachers for teachers. This month's post and response have been great with roughly 40 comments so far. Each month, we focus on a particular challenge and ask an expert to write about overcoming that challenge using media and technology. This month's topic: individualizing instruction. Next month, we'll have Bob Sprinkle writing about Web 2.0 tools for teachers.

CelesteR: I have used Charlie Rose to teach students about preparing interviews and questioning.

MichaelH: try www.pbs.org/teachers

DianeKR: Serena, if you search a specific topic you can get lesson plans...at least that's how I was able to get some

SerenaP: o.k.

JennySB: Yes, we're at www.pbs.org/teachers, not pbsteachers.org

MichaelH: that's right Serena, look for a subject area and sub-topic... you'll do great!

JennySB: It looks like we have time for another question or two. Anyone?

RitaSo: learning.now has some discussions going on. Thanks

MichaelH: I'm not trying to put Jenny on the spot here... but don't you all think it would be great if we could get Jenny to do regular sessions about upcoming PBS programming, lessons, and features on the site

DavidWek seconds Michael's suggestion

BjB agrees with Michael...YES!

DarrenP: Sure

RivaB: Yes

MelissaAP: YES!

AmeliaIG agrees with Michael

RitaSo: without a doubt

MichaelH: Jenny... BJ, David, and I would help out with this...

BonnieHa: Yes, by all means...pleeeeeeeese, Jenny?

DavidWek: we would

DianeKR: that would be excellent!

JennySB: Oh yeah, learning.now is hosted by Andy Carvin and covers larger scale issues at the intersection of education and technology. His latest post is great. It's about whether school's firewalls are interfering with our ability to teach kids 21st century skills.

DavidWek knows Andy Carvin

JennySB: Thanks, everyone. I'm very flattered. I like the idea, so I'll look into it.

VickiLM: Yes, Jenny would be a great contributor.

AmeliaIG smiles

DavidWek: I think many people would be VERY interested, Jenny

MichaelH: I think it would be great for Tapped In, and great for PBS as well

AmeliaIG: I know I would

DavidWek: synergy!

CindyCan: Thanks for all the resources

ShayneTr: Thanks, Jenny. I've found some excellent lesson plans already!

MichaelH: and of course, BJ and I recall that our PBS sessions are usually our best attended and highly thought of

BonnieHa: Thanks, Jenny for sharing PBS with us.

DavidWek: Thanks for leading the discussion, Jenny. Super job

JennySB: I'm really glad to hear that folks are finding things they can use. That's the goal.

RivaB: Thank-you all

VickiLM: Thanks Jenny - the information is great

MichaelH: does anyone have any last second questions for Jenny before we get her off the hook :)

RitaSo: Thanks and bye for now

DarrenP: Thank you

MelissaAP: Thanks Jenny, This was great.

JenniferE: thank you

AmeliaIG: Thanks so much Jenny you were great...and I love the site

MichaelH: this was a GREAT session :)

AmeliaIG agrees

TammyL: Thanks from sunny SD

JennySB: I'm so glad