

Title of Session: Social Studies Forum - PBS TeacherSource

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Room: ASO

AlbaM: So do we start talking about a random topic?

MichaelH: Hi, Alba well, I'm the "host" so I guess I can do introductions and we can go from there

MichaelH: I'm a little out of synch with the Social Studies forum.... I've been teaching night class for the past few weeks, and not used to a Thursday date MichaelH: how about let's start with introductions, and then we can just see if there's something specific you'd like to discuss this evening?

MichaelH: First of all, let me introduce the forum...

MichaelH: Hello everyone...

MichaelH: welcome to tonight's Social Studies forum

AlbaM: Well, what do you teach? Let's start with that

MichaelH: our topic tonight is just a quick overview of what the forum is about, and then I'll work with you (if you'd like) looking at some resources...

JudithVM: I'm a newly credentialed multiple subject teacher and I need to join this chat as part of a requirement for an ED TECH course

MichaelH: as always, and as Alba mentioned, let's start with introductions... My name is Michael Hutchison and I'm a curriculum technology facilitator in a small school district in Indiana

AlbaM: Do you specialize in technology? What do you teach?

MelissaRD: I am also a newly credentialed multiple subjects teacher

MelissaRD: I am from San Diego, CA

JudithVM: I also am from San Diego, Ca

MichaelH: Judith and Melissa do you mind if I ask about "multiple subjects"? Does that mean you're licensed in social studies and other disciplines? Which ones?

CraigW: I'm also a newly credentialed MS teacher -- currently long-term subbing a fifth grade class (San Diego). MS = elementary

JudithVM: That means that we teach all elementary school subject areas.

MichaelH: oh I see

MichaelH: so, you guys are probably looking for elementary resources right?

MelissaRD: right

MelissaRD: that would be wonderful

JudithVM: Yes that would be correct!

AlbaM: Yes Michael. Do you know of any?

MichaelH: ok, let's find out a little about you all then.... is there a specific social studies area you'd be interested in....?

MichaelH: history, civics, geography?

PamelaK: I particularly like history.

MichaelH: why don't you throw out some ideas, and we'll see what we can find "The condition or quality of being autonomous; independence.

MichaelH: Self-government or the right of self-government; self-determination.

MichaelH: Self-government with respect to local or internal affairs: granted autonomy to a national minority.

MichaelH: A self-governing state, community, or group.

MelissaRD: I like California Missions.

JudithVM: Melissa and I will be taking part in a Colonial Williamsburg Institute course.

AlbaM: Michael, do you do HS, university or Elementary?

MichaelH: Judith I have been trying to get Williamsburg to join us in a forum session

MelissaRD: What it is to be an American.

MichaelH: Alba I teach high school and on the university level... but work a lot with elementary teachers too

JudithVM: Well, I'll try to get in contact with some of their staff for you.

AlbaM: What is your concentration at the university level

MichaelH: I'd appreciate that Judith

MichaelH: Alba I teach US History and government

MichaelH: On the high school level, I taught US History, World History, and Government, as well as a 9th grade interdisciplinary social studies course

JudithVM: Great, then you could probably let us know about some resources for American Colonial history resources. MichaelH: sure can try...

JudithVM: Melissa and I will need to create a unit of study upon our return from Williamsburg.

MichaelH: Judith are you going to Williamsburg, or is this an online institute?

JudithVM: Any bit of info will help.

MelissaRD: We are going to Williamsburg

MichaelH: ok, I've never been, although I have been by it....)

MichaelH: I have a great resource for a LOT of subject areas, so let's start with this one, ok?

MichaelH: I'll type in a URL, and then you can click on it to go to the web page...

MelissaRD: sounds good

MichaelH: Are any of you familiar with any of the resources that PBS has?

MelissaRD: no

AlbaM: Nope. What does it provide?

JudithVM: No, other than the TV show, Colonial House

MichaelH: They have a really neat animated series on colonial history called "Liberty's Kids"....

MichaelH: but before I show you that resource, I have something else you might like to look at...

JudithVM: neat!

MichaelH: look at <http://www.pbs.org/teachersource>

MichaelH: just click on the blue link, and it should open in another window...

JudithVM: thanks

MichaelH: did everyone get the link to open?

JudithVM: Sure did! How easy

MichaelH: I'm going to show you all something really cool....

MelissaRD: That looks like a good site!

MichaelH: PBS just recently redesigned the site, so there are ways you can "personalize" it for your own needs and interests... even your local PBS station...

JudithVM: How so?

MelissaRD: how do we do that?

MichaelH: see toward the top left of the site...it says something about 4000 lesson plans

MichaelH: I can show you all that in just a sec... that is a wonderful feature of this site... but you will love the lesson plans...

JudithVM: Is it the TV for teachers link?

MichaelH: PBS houses over 4000 lesson plans for about any subject area you'd like... and you can also link the lessons to state and national standards...

JudithVM: Found it!

MichaelH: ok, click on social studies, and let's look for a lesson or two, then I'll show you how to personalize the site for your own station

AlbaM: Michael, have you found that the PBS website has been the most beneficial for you.

MichaelH: Alba, in many ways, yes... they have a lot of great lessons, as well as wonderful web sites that go along with PBS programming (you don't always need the video for the lessons...)

PamelaK: Michael, I am a newly credentialed teacher, also. I'm currently working with at-risk first graders as a reading teacher. Do you know of any appropriate resources for first graders?

MichaelH: Pamela... you might be able to find some good stuff on the PBS site... let's see what's there.

MichaelH: Pamela, do this for me... on the TeacherSource site, where it talks about 4000 lessons, click social studies...

MichaelH: everyone else can do that too

PamelaK: Okay

JudithVM: Alright, got there

MichaelH: when you do that, another page opens which asks grade level, subject area... etc. Next, select what you'd like to find lessons for... I clicked US history, grades k-2

PamelaK: I'm there, thanks. Wow!

JudithVM: okay

MichaelH: I found thirteen different resources, lessons...

MichaelH: ok, would someone like to pick one and we'll look at it?

MichaelH: Judith, Pamela, want to volunteer?

MichaelH: . o O (whatever lesson you'd like to look at is fine...)

JudithVM: The American flag lesson

MichaelH: since we just had Flag Day, that sounds very appropriate, Judith...

MichaelH: now, look the line that says "Standards Match!..."

PamelaK: Yes, that seems simple.

MichaelH: there's been a lot of schools lately which want to match lessons to some sort of state standards...

MichaelH: click the line that says "standards match", and let's see what's there.

CraigW: That's pretty handy!

MichaelH: You can find not only US standards, but also Canadian standards...

MichaelH: do your administrators require you to match lessons to standards?

MelissaRD: yes!

JudithVM: Yes

MichaelH: well, it's done for you automatically here

MelissaRD: That is cool

JudithVM: Great!

MichaelH: no muss, no fuss

MichaelH: I'm not really familiar with California standards, but you guys can easily find what you need to link to...

MichaelH: want to look at the actual lesson, next....

MelissaRD: sure

MichaelH: then remind me about government... I have a great government resource for elementary school

MichaelH: ok, just click on the link for "The American Flag" *(you may have to hit the back button on your browser...)

MichaelH: how about I just give all of you the URL, and you can easily click that, and not have to hit the back button....

MichaelH: <http://www.pbs.org/americaresponds/theamericanflag.html>

JudithVM: I'm there

MichaelH: everyone following along? We'll gladly help "lost sheep" this evening

MelissaRD: yes, I'm there too.

PamelaK: I'm there, also.

CraigW: I'm reading proper display...

MichaelH: you all can see there are a LOT of lesson ideas... about nine different lessons....

MichaelH: Craig, now that's a good idea too.. you can use the resources and make up your own lessons

MichaelH: most of what PBS has is adaptable... you can mold it to fit your own classroom

JudithVM: The lesson seems like it's mostly discussion. A good idea would be to incorporate that discussion with one the craft/activity ideas provides

MichaelH: exactly, Judith

MichaelH: I write a lot for PBS, and I know that many teachers probably pick and choose what they want to use...

MelissaRD: Did you write this lesson?

MichaelH: after all you guys know your own students better than anyone

MichaelH: no, I generally write for middle school and high school... although I do have a lesson I think you can use if you'd like for elementary... more a writing/geography one...

MelissaRD: what is the government resource you were talking about?

MichaelH: let me show that to you....

MichaelH: <http://www.pbs.org/democracyproject>

MichaelH: o O (I think that's the right address)

MichaelH: click that and see what happens...

CraigW: I once had an old tattered American flag -- my mailman (an ex-boy scout) told me it wasn't appropriate to fly a flag in this condition. He also told me there is a special flag cremation ceremony -- that would be an interesting info. search project...

MichaelH: I think it would be, too, Craig

MichaelH: this is the PBS Democracy Project site

MelissaRD: thank you

JudithVM: Tell us more

MichaelH: do you all see the picture of George Washington at the top, with the word "Kids"....

MichaelH: click that link....

MichaelH: and that's the elementary level lessons.

MichaelH: I wrote a "student challenge" and two lessons, but they were more high school/middle school level, although you could adapt them for grade school I think

MelissaRD: I like this site.

MichaelH: Melissa, I'm pretty sure there will be some revamping of the site as we get closer to the 2004 Presidential election

MichaelH: so you might see more lessons and activities that you can use...

JudithVM: Definitely

PamelaK: I totally agree with Melissa. This is a great site.

MichaelH: Am I right that you all are beginning teachers... you haven't had a classroom yet?

MichaelH . o O (or most of you are?)

PamelaK: Yes.

JudithVM: Besides our student teaching, no classroom

MichaelH: wow... that's great... I know you guys will all make great teachers

MichaelH: I just finished my 25th year...

PamelaK smiles

JudithVM: Thanks for the vote of confidence!

MichaelH: I bet you all are really excited to start next fall, right?

JudithVM: If we ever get a contract!

MichaelH understands that

MelissaRD: I really like the "How does government affect me?"

MichaelH: well, it is still early in the summer yet... I didn't get my first teaching job until August

MelissaRD: it is very kid friendly.

MichaelH: sure is...

AlbaM: Michael, in what city are you in?

MichaelH: any you'll note that you can easily adapt these lessons for a one-computer (or no computer) classroom

MichaelH: Alba I'm in Vincennes, Indiana... about five hours by car directly south of Chicago

MichaelH: We are right on the Illinois border...

MichaelH: anyone got an interest in geography and automobiles?

AlbaM: Oh, most of us are located in California!!! Are there a lot of teaching jobs over there?

MichaelH . o O (for a lesson?)

CraigW: My kids like lowriders!

MichaelH: Alba we're hit with the budget crisis just like everyone else:)

MichaelH: I have a great site you'll want to watch out for... it will be up in late summer or early fall...

MichaelH: anyone ever see a Ken Burns film?

AlbaM: NO, who is that?

PamelaK: Yes

MelissaRD: I don't think so. Is there a title?

JudithVM: Don't think so

MichaelH: Civil War, Baseball, Jazz, Mark Twain

MichaelH: Ken Burns is the premier documentary filmmaker in America....

MichaelH: let me show you a web site you might like, and might want to use...

JudithVM: Are they kid friendly?

PamelaK: I have seen his Civil War documentary

MichaelH: yes... I'm going to tell you about an upcoming production I think works really well on the elementary level...

MichaelH: first, here's the PBS site for Ken's films...

MichaelH: <http://www.pbs.org/kenburns>

CraigW: Yeah -- I've seen the Civil War and parts of Baseball and Jazz.

Where would you be able to rent his films? My Blockbuster doesn't seem to have a documentary section.

MichaelH: Craig, right now some of his stuff is re-airing on PBS, and you can tape it with copyright limitations... for example, they broadcasted three episodes of Baseball in May

JudithVM: Great..will do

MichaelH: click on the link to go to Ken's page, and then I MAY have great news for you all...

MichaelH: Craig, right now they are re-airing Jazz, and they re-aired his film on Congress about a month ago...

AlbaM: Oh, I think I have seen part of the baseball episode.

MichaelH: did you like it, Alba?

MichaelH: Baseball (the whole series) is 18 hours long....

AlbaM: I saw some of it. Interesting.

MichaelH: but it is divided into sections (innings) that you can use what you would like and leave the rest...

JudithVM: That's a whole lot of baseball

MichaelH: here's a lesson you could easily use with grade school kids (just a second)

MichaelH: Well, it is all wonderful... I would think I need a few minutes of something for a lesson, and found myself unable to leave the TV... just all so interesting...

MichaelH: click on this, everyone...

MichaelH: <http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/baseball/teachers/lesson3.html>

MichaelH: I know the guy who wrote this one...

JudithVM: Nice!

MelissaRD: looks good.

MichaelH: if you scroll down to the bottom of the lesson, you can see the biography of the author...

MichaelH: like I said, that guy I know....
CraigW: What'
PamelaK: Good Job, Michael!
AlbaM: Good stuff Michael!!! Wish I could do that!!!
CraigW: What's Empire of the Air?
MichaelH: thank you, Pamela...and Alba
MichaelH: Now, I bet you all could...
JudithVM: thanks for all your help Michael
MichaelH: Empire of the Air was about the beginnings of radio
MelissaRD: "Teacher of the Year"!!!
JudithVM: Congrats on the teacher of the award for teacher of the year
MichaelH: thanks
MichaelH: would you believe we had Ken here last September?
MichaelH: in our forum?
MichaelH: and...
MelissaRD: wow!
JudithVM: super!
MichaelH: we might have him again....
MichaelH: in the fall...
MelissaRD: Thank you for all the great information.
MichaelH: he's doing a wonderful film right now on the first cross-country automobile trip...
MichaelH: it's called "Horatio's Drive", and lessons will probably be up in August...
MelissaRD: I will keep checking for him
JudithVM: Wonderful info, but I must leave now... I'll get back to you about Colonial Williamsburg joining the forum! Thanks!
MelissaRD: I will definitely be using those sites!
MichaelH: well, can you all keep a secret?
MelissaRD: yes!
MichaelH: I can give you the Horatio site now... there' s not much there, but you can bookmark it and look at it later...
MichaelH: it's <http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/films/horatio.html>
MichaelH . o O (nothing like being prepared)
AlbaM: Michael, Thank you for everything. I have to go to my EDTECH class. It was great. To Michael keep up the good work and for the rest, good luck in finding a job!!!
MelissaRD: It looks good!
MelissaRD: Thank you so much.
MelissaRD: Have a good night!
MichaelH: please feel free to e-mail me if I can help with resources, etc...
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