

**Title of Session:** Social Studies Forum

**Moderator:** Michael Hutchison

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Room: After School Online Room

**MichaelH:** Hi, everyone...

**MichaelH:** Welcome to tonight's Social Studies Forum....

**MichaelH:** we have a topic that will be of great interest this evening...

**MichaelH:** but first, let's start with some introductions...

**MichaelH:** would everyone like to tell us who you are... where you are... and what you teach?

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

**TaraCo:** I'm Tara, in Orlando and teach US History and Government to 11th and 12th graders.

**BJ:** I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In and a friend of Michael's

**MichaelH** looks to Jeff...

**JeffAW:** I teach World History at a middle school in San Diego California.

**MichaelH:** ok... sounds like a diversified bunch tonight!

**MichaelH:** both east and west coast

**JeffAW:** Tapped In is part of my first year BTSA

**MichaelH:** what's BTSA, Jeff?

**JeffAW:** New teacher orientation

**MichaelH:** so, is this part of a mentorship? Something you have to do to maintain a license?

**JeffAW:** This is the tech part.

**MichaelH:** so you have to show proficiency in technology to maintain a certification?

**JeffAW:** No, not to maintain a credential.

**JeffAW:** Yes, to show that I can use the computer.

**MichaelH:** ok... let me ask you... are you teaching a basic survey WH course?

**MichaelH:** you know... you touch most of the bases about World History during an academic year?

**JeffAW:** yes

**MichaelH:** so, it's the whole time frame from beginning till now?

**MichaelH:** Tara, I'm going to ask you essentially the same thing about US

**RobertLe** joined the room.

**MichaelH** waves to Robert

**JeffAW:** We use the California content standards as a framework stating at the beginning of the year.

**TaraCo:** I teach US History basically from Reconstruction to as close to today as I can get

**MichaelH:** what I'm wondering is if you guys do anything 18th century

**TaraCo:** I do foundations of the US government and brief overview of colonial differences as review

**MichaelH:** Ah!

**MichaelH:** Jeff, Robert?

**MichaelH:** Tara, do you do Declaration of Independence?

**JeffAW:** In 7th grade we get to the Reformation and Scientific Revolution. Also, some New World civilizations

**MichaelH:** American Revolution?

**TaraCo:** I do the Dec in depth in my Govt class, and briefly in my History class

**MichaelH:** US Constitution?

**JeffAW:** I try to get as far as I can

**TaraCo:** very little on the rev

**MichaelH:** well, have I got a good D of I resource for all of you tonight...

**TaraCo:** In govt I do the whole constitution

**MichaelH:** got a good one on that, too...

**TaraCo** smiles

**MichaelH:** there's a PBS series that will re-air soon... and a new web site for it.

**MichaelH:** it basically IS on the American Revolution, but it does a good job of discussing the D of I as well as the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution

**MichaelH:** Tara... do you mind if I ask how long you've been a classroom teacher?

**TaraCo:** this is my 4th or 5th year, I forget...

**MichaelH:** it's ok... I'm in my 26th year... BJ is a bit younger than me...

**TaraCo:** I hope to make it that far...

**MichaelH:** how much technology are you using with your students right now...

**MichaelH:** oh, you'll do fine

**MichaelH:** Hey, you're almost at tenure

**MichaelH:** tell me about your technology use

**MichaelH:** c'mon guys... what are you doing with technology....

**TaraCo:** I have a webquest that I use in government, I try to assign projects with the Internet, and was able to get a hold of an LCD projector this year to enhance my lessons. Plus I try to encourage the kids to use power point when possible. I had a web page for a while but gave it up

**TaraCo:** I may restart it next year...

**MichaelH:** well, let me show you an online activity you can use when you do the declaration of i... and tell me what you think...

**TaraCo:** sounds great

**MichaelH:** the series I am going to tell you about is called "Liberty".

**MichaelH:** it originally aired on PBS in the early 1990s, and is being re-aired this summer... just not sure when

**MichaelH:** all PBS schedule is determined by the local stations anyway, so you might want to check your local listings...

**MichaelH:** here's what I will do...

**MichaelH:** first, I'll type the web address for the main Liberty page so you can see it...

**MichaelH:** you can just click on the link, and it will load in a separate window...

**MichaelH:** don't take too long, though... because I want to show you the lesson too.

**MichaelH:** here's the web page

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

**MichaelH:** BTW: one of the cool things about the series is that James Taylor sings the theme song.

**MichaelH:** . o O ( if anyone asks who James Taylor is... both BJ and I are in a lot of trouble... )

**MichaelH:** can everyone see the main page?

**JeffAW:** yes

**TaraCo:** nods

**MichaelH:** I know that Liberty will re-air this summer ... just don't know when

**MichaelH:** are you ready to see the lesson...

**MichaelH:** let me know when you're ready to move on...

**JeffAW:** yes

**TaraCo:** yes indeed

**RobertLe:** ready

**MichaelH:** ok, here's the lesson... you can look at the web page, but you can also print it out in .pdf form...

**MichaelH:** and, as a special treat, I've brought the author of this lesson with me tonight, in case you have questions...

**MichaelH:** here's the url

**MichaelH:** [http://www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty/tguide\\_2.html](http://www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty/tguide_2.html)

**MichaelH:** I'll give you a couple of minutes to look at it, then we'll talk. Don't forget to come back to the chat...

**MichaelH:** can everyone see the page?

**JeffAW:** yep

**RobertLe:** yes

**TaraCo:** not yet, but it's coming....

**MichaelH** reminds everyone that the lesson will be in the transcript for tonight, too...

**MichaelH:** everyone back?

**RobertLe:** yes

**MichaelH:** Jeff?

**MichaelH:** anyway, the author is here if you'd like to ask questions

**JeffAW:** I am done checking out the lesson

**MichaelH:** is this something you could use?

**JeffAW:** Not in 7th grade, but for 8th grade it would work nicely

**RobertLe:** I love history and this is a great lesson. I work at a middle school and our biggest struggle is getting the kids to engage, to make what happened 200+ years ago relevant to their lives today...

**MichaelH:** Robert, the accompanying video is excellent, by the way...

**JeffAW:** Hopefully I will get a chance to teach 8th.

**MichaelH:** I think you would probably have to adapt it a bit for middle school, but it would work...

**TaraCo:** I like the lesson Michael. It will work well in my government class, and for Declaration of Independence week in my other classes.

**MichaelH:** anyone have questions they'd like to ask the author?

**MichaelH:** have a Constitution one for you , too, Tara...

**RobertLe:** I'm sure it is, like all of the PBS materials I have seen. I agree that it would need to be adapted somewhat, esp. for some of the special needs kids I work with.

**JeffAW:** I think mixing up the materials used in class and allowing students to participate in something like this online would generate interest.

**MichaelH:** me, too, Jeff...

**TaraCo:** I'd love to see the constitution one too. I already have the kids read the constitution, but would love to see other ways to do it..

**MichaelH:** I'd be interested to hear how the lesson works with special needs kids, Robert...

**MichaelH:** the lessons are actually developed for middle and high school, but I don't know if this one is above the average reading level or not.

**JeffAW:** In order to do something like this, students would need to have prior computer experience. A lot of my students do not have computers at home. They might get lost

**TaraCo:** Do you have access to a computer lab at school, Jeff?

**MichaelH:** Jeff, what if you printed out the documents?

**MichaelH** didn't mean to interrupt Tara

**TaraCo:** no, my bad--sorry Michael.

**MichaelH:** that's ok, Tara, you asked first

**MichaelH:** by the way, if anyone would like to see information about the author....

**MichaelH:** [http://www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty/tguide\\_writer.html](http://www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty/tguide_writer.html)

**TaraCo:** I was just thinking that if Jeff's school has a lab he could walk his kids through the lesson and teach them some tech at the same time

**JeffAW:** I have a computer lab, students would just need to be in there from the start of the year in order to get comfortable.

**JeffAW:** Printing out the material would be fine too.

**MichaelH:** Jeff, what you might do is schedule some computer time early in the year, to get them acclimated, and then go from there.

**MichaelH:** be sure to set some strict rules and guidelines for what you expect from the kids.

**MichaelH:** maybe have them do a scavenger hunt to find information online for you...

**JeffAW:** I feel I would need to teach them tech first with some basic activities.

**MichaelH:** do you have a lab monitor or someone who teaches computer skills in your middle school? Maybe get buddy-buddy with them...

**JeffAW:** A scavenger hunt is just what I was thinking

**MichaelH:** I've got some if you have a sec.,.. can forward you the web address... and you can see what I did...

**MichaelH** waves bye to Cynthia

**JeffAW:** Have them able to look for information

**MichaelH:** yes.

**MichaelH:** give them a time limit, and tell them they only can work within that stretch to get their answers.

**MichaelH:** ok, ready for the next lesson?

**JeffAW:** yes

**MichaelH** checks the time...

**TaraCo:** ready

**TaraCo:** got it marked!

**MichaelH:** here it is...

**MichaelH:** [http://www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty/tguide\\_6.html](http://www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty/tguide_6.html)

**RobertLe:** We've already done this piece this year, using other materials, but I like this lesson and will recommend it for the next year for our 8th graders. Michael, I'm wondering if you have to adapt this for special needs kids in your classroom?

**MichaelH:** Robert, I haven't used it with special needs kids.. but what you might do is be a little more visual for them... maybe spend more time on the video end of the series, and less on the reading? (just guessing)

**RobertLe:** Yeah, they have good web skills, and are very visual and auditory learners. Reading and writing is what gets them bogged down

**MichaelH:** I wonder if you might be able to find the D of I or Constitution recited by someone... maybe a real audio file?

**TaraCo:** I like this lesson too Michael--it's a keeper

**RobertLe:** Maybe, or we have just taped things ourselves - we do a lot of taped books and things...

**TaraCo:** I want to say how much I like that you include the video marks and times in the lesson. It really makes planning and running the lesson much easier

**MichaelH:** I don't know how long the lessons will be up, Tara, but they should be for some time...

**MichaelH:** Don't forget, Tara, the series will re-air soon, so set your VCR...

**MichaelH:** you'll see a lot of big name actors and actresses play the main characters in the series... so it's kind of fun to watch them, too

**TaraCo:** I'm on it! Plus I got that new fangled DVR so I can plan in advance

**MichaelH** applauds for the technologically advanced Tara!

**MichaelH:** It took me the longest time to figure who sang the theme song at the end of the episodes, though... kept on thinking, "who is this thin, bald guy?"

**MichaelH:** I thought the theme was on the web site as a download... can't find it now...

**RobertLe:** I just checked the TV guide for my area and the series is running 21, 24, 28 June and 1 Jul.

**TaraCo** is jealous

**MichaelH:** Thanks, Robert... I just need to remind everyone that each local PBS station sets its' own schedule, so it may be different in Florida, Indiana, or California

**MichaelH:** Tara, I have a hint for you to find out when the series is on....

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

**MichaelH:** then, personalize the site for your area

**TaraCo:** Neither of my channels have any air dates listed

**TaraCo:** could be that here in FL we don't want to encourage radical thinking

**MichaelH:** go to the TeacherSource site... much more complete... you can also get a weekly newsletter called PBS Teacher Previews

**JeffAW:** Thank you for sharing these wonderful lessons with me. I hope to be back in Tapped In soon.

**TaraCo:** thanks, I'll check that out

**MichaelH:** which has the weekly schedule based on your preference

**MichaelH** waves to all...

**TaraCo:** thanks Michael

**MichaelH** left the room (signed off).

