

Title of Session: Social Studies Forum

Moderator: Michael Hutchison

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MichaelH: Welcome to tonight's Social Studies Forum

MichaelH: We'll be discussing some topics of great interest to social studies teachers in a second, but let's start with some introductions

MichaelH: would you like to tell us who you are, and what you teach?

SusanPy: I teach 4th grade in VA so my social studies is VA history

BjB: hi, Ann and Susan and Michael. I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a social studies groupie

MichaelH is a technology facilitator in southwestern Indiana and a former social studies teacher

AnnJe: I am a math teacher and a former s.s. teacher in 6th grade in VA

MichaelH: so, Susan, you are teaching Va state history?

SusanPy: yes I teach the regions, early settlement, colonies, revolution, new nation, civil war, reconstruction, 20th cent

SusanPy: I think that's all the topics

MichaelH: I'm guessing Va. state law requires state history be taught on the fourth grade level?

SusanPy: to be honest I couldn't tell you who made the decision

SusanPy: we have tests called SOL's too

MichaelH: are you using a specific text book?

MichaelH . o O (for Virginia state history....)

SusanPy: yes, but it is old

SusanPy: I use it for background "story"

MichaelH: are you using primary sources?

SusanPy: such as?

BjB: Library of Congress

SusanPy: no

SusanPy: our county has a mapping guide that breaks down what we are to teach

BjB: please join Leni Donlan on Thursday, Feb 17, Susan

SusanPy: what is she covering?

MichaelH: a primary source is something that comes direct from the past... a diary entry, a photograph, a letter, etc

BjB: civil war is the topic this month

SusanPy: cool, thanks

MichaelH: Leni has a bunch of sources she shares every month. A lot of reall cool stuff

SusanPy: I will try to check it out

MichaelH: and of course, Civil War would be right up your alley as far a Virginia state history

BjB thinks Michael has a few primary sources he can also suggest

MichaelH: what do you cover in Revolutionary War, Susan?

SusanPy: how do I get my hands on primary resources

MichaelH: there are a lot of ways to do that, Susan...

MichaelH: let's talk about that.

SusanPy: for the revolution we cover the reasons, important people

MichaelH: so, do you cover Washington, for example?

SusanPy: everything we do is in relation to VA

SusanPy: some

MichaelH: Jefferson?

SusanPy: yes

SusanPy: we have a picture bio that we read on him that is great

MichaelH: any primary source material on TJ?

SusanPy: not that I can think of

MichaelH: how about I show you a source or two, and see if you could find a way to work that into fourth grade

SusanPy: great

MichaelH: In what context are you discussing TJ?

MichaelH: In other words, do you focus on the Declaration of Independence, or something else with him?

SusanPy: right now we are getting into his writing the dec of id

MichaelH: I see. Tell me a bit about what you are teaching your fourth graders about the writing of the Declaration

SusanPy: the reason for i , the purpose of the document, who wrote it

MichaelH: ok. Let's take a minute and look at a resource or two...

MichaelH: let's check this out:

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

SusanPy: you want me to go there now?

MichaelH: Susan, just click on the link and another web page will open

MichaelH: take a minute or two and look, and come back here

SusanPy: ok, back in a sec

DavidWe joined the room.

DavidWe waves

DavidWe: Hi, Michael

MichaelH wonders if Susan is coming back...

MichaelH: David, I was showing Susan the link for the PBS "Liberty" series... Susan is teaching fourth grade Virginia history, and I wanted to give her some ideas for primary source material

MichaelH: it was a good idea when I think it....

SusanPy: sorry I took so long- I got caught up in the quiz

MichaelH: how did you do?

SusanPy: not too bad I stopped part way through - didn't finish

MichaelH: well, the quiz will be there when you check again

MichaelH: Have you seen the Ken Burns film on Jefferson?

SusanPy: no

MichaelH: check this one out:

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

SusanPy: ok hold on

MichaelH is giving Susan a workout tonight

SusanPy: Michael

MichaelH listens to Susan...

SusanPy: am I supposed to be able to see the movie at this site?

MichaelH: no... these are just related resources.

SusanPy: ok

MichaelH: you can buy the film, or you might be able to borrow it from the library, or possibly your school or district has a copy

MichaelH: it is an excellent film... I'm sure you are familiar with Ken Burns's work

SusanPy: I'll check it out

MichaelH: and you do Civil War in your class, right?

SusanPy: yes

MichaelH: are you familiar with his Civil War film?

SusanPy: no

MichaelH: oh, check out <http://www.pbs.org/civilwar>

SusanPy: ok hold on

MichaelH: you might also want to look at the related lessons for it... some of them might be workable for fourth grade...

MichaelH: the lessons are at <http://www.pbs.org/civilwar/classroom/activities.html>

SusanPy: interesting-can't wait to tell one of the girls I teach with

MichaelH: And, the Civil War film is probably pretty suitable for fourth grade

SusanPy: and check about getting some of these

MichaelH: The Jefferson one is probably suitable also, but you should preview it first

SusanPy: I will

MichaelH: You might look at the Civil War lessons that accompany the film... there's a couple of good ones there on Civil War Music, as well as newspaper writing during the war

MichaelH: the lessons are at <http://www.pbs.org/civilwar/classroom/activities.html>

SusanPy: I saw the music one

MichaelH: You can easily play the songs through your computer, and then have the kids analyze them. The only thing is... some of the lyrics might be a bit controversial because of the racial slurs that were common in those days, but wouldn't pass muster today

SusanPy: would be nice for us to listen

MichaelH: sure... you probably would just have to prep the kids a bit that people shouldn't call other people names like that anymore...

MichaelH: There's a primary source lesson on Robert E. Lee, also

SusanPy: through the same place?

MichaelH: yes... it's at http://www.pbs.org/civilwar/classroom/lesson_appomattox.html

SusanPy: thanks

MichaelH: It's technically for grades 7 and up, but you could always adapt it

SusanPy: I will check it out

MichaelH: sure...

MichaelH: well, I hope I've given you one or two things you might be able to use with your fourth graders...

SusanPy: you have thanks so much

MichaelH: And, be sure to come back for Leni's session on the 17th, at 8 p.m. Eastern

SusanPy: I will put it on my calendar

MichaelH: it'll be right here (in the ASO room). Leni will have a LOT of resources, but don't worry, because as a TI member, you'll get them all in the transcript for the session

SusanPy: isn't that the great part

MichaelH: sure is. You'll have enough stuff to look at that you'll be busy for a long time

SusanPy: I also know where to come for more help too

MichaelH waves so long for now...

SusanPy: I need to run - thank you Michael