

Title of Session: Social Studies Forum

Moderator: Michael Hutchison

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MichaelH: Hi, everyone, welcome to tonight's Social Studies forum!

MichaelH: we'll get started in just a second...

MichaelH: but first, would everyone like to introduce themselves?

MichaelH: let us know who you are and where you're from... what you teach?

MichaelH opens the floor for introductions

DouglasRM: my name is Doug, preservice teacher, university of Houston Texas

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a social studies groupie

MichaelRu: Michael Russo, Williamsville, NY (suburb of Buffalo), Technology Integration Teacher

LisaWh: Hi everyone, my name is Lisa, I am from Louisiana and I am here to attend a meeting for a class I am taking working on my Masters in Education.

MarcusA: I am Marcus Abel, I am from Lake Charles, La. and I sell Budweiser for a living.

MichaelH looks to the rest of the assembled throng

MichaelH wonders if Marcus brought free samples?

MichaelRu hopes he did

DouglasRM: y'all can have mine...

HeatherNJ: Hi My name is Heather Jackson, Lake Chareles, LA,

MichaelH: there was a time when we could do "virtual champagne", but I don't know about virtual beer...

MichaelH looks to see if Sue would like to say "hi"....

SusanR: Hi Sue from Ontario, Canada

MichaelH: How's the weather in the Great White North, Sue?

DouglasRM: eh

SusanR: Spring has Sprung

MichaelH: cool... well, we hope not too "Cool"...

SusanR: Snow has disappeared.

MichaelH: We were a little chilly today... probably only in the mid-50s... it was in the upper 70s this weekend

DavidCamp: what is this forum about?

DouglasRM: haven't started yet

MichaelH: this is the social studies forum...

DavidCamp: good

MichaelH: well, guys, you folks from the U of H are going to tell me what the topic is for tonight... what's on your minds?

DavidCamp: graduation

DouglasRM: senioritis

MichaelH: got a job yet?

DouglasRM: nope

MichaelH: looking for one?

DouglasRM: sort of...

MichaelH: well, good luck...

MichaelH: are you secondary or primary ed?

DavidCamp: he's 4-8

DouglasRM: thanks, I'll let you know

DouglasRM: yeah, what Dave said, 4-8

MichaelH: departmentalized or non-departmentalized?

DouglasRM: ???????

DavidCamp: social studies 4-8

DouglasRM: I am concentrating on social studies, if that's what you mean

MichaelH: that's what I mean.

DouglasRM: okay, then I am departmentalized

MichaelH: so, you'll either be elementary or middle school?

DavidCamp: definitely middle school

DouglasRM: middle school. I am leaning toward seventh grade Texas history

MichaelH: or, wherever you get a job

MichaelH: so, are you looking at a specific geographic area for a job?

MichaelH: . o O (where do you want to teach?)

DouglasRM: I have narrowed my parameters to Houston and Houston

DavidCamp: it's a little town in Texas

DouglasRM: ha ha

MichaelH: never heard of it... they used to have a baseball team there, didn't they?

DouglasRM: I don't know, I think they might have, but they never did anything worthwhile..

MichaelH: ok...

MichaelH: so, what are you doing as far as looking for a job?

MichaelH: how easy is it to get a teaching job down there/

DavidCamp: Michael, are you from Canada?

MichaelH: no, just Indiana

DouglasRM: well, I am still in the going to school stage, and I haven't done a whole lot on the end of looking yet

MichaelH: but you'll graduate in May?

DavidCamp: May 14

MichaelH: I can tell you from experience, it's not the easiest thing to get a social studies job

DouglasRM: we have to do a semester of student teaching here, is that required anywhere else?

BJB2 wonders if Michael has pulled a topic for tonight's discussion out of his magic hat?

MichaelH: Indiana schools require a "professional semester", but it isn't a whole 16 weeks... pretty close, though

DavidCamp: he can always join the Marines

MichaelH: still thinking, BJ

DouglasRM: student teaching or internship

BJB2: baseball and apple pie?

DouglasRM: I'm too old for the Marines

MichaelH: Well, I can do baseball....

DavidCamp: how about technology in the classroom, the class that sent us here thinks that schools have access to a lot more than I have seen anywhere

DouglasRM: I could go for the apple pie...

BJB2: any other requests?

MichaelH: so what do you guys study as far as integrating technology into the classroom

MichaelRu: As I have been out of college for a few years, and there are fresh ideas in here, what are some of your "to die for" web resources you plan to use in your classroom?

MichaelH: Michael, are you teaching now?

MichaelH . o O (this year)

MichaelRu: yes, have been for 15 yrs

DavidCamp: they have us play with all kinds of uberexpensive toys that are truly awesome, but no real school has them

MichaelRu: such as?

MichaelH the former technology facilitator in me is now interested...

MichaelRu likes the term uberexpensive

DavidCamp: wall monitors that are touch sensitive

MichaelH . o O (Smart Boards?)

DavidCamp: those too

MichaelH: those aren't that expensive, David

DouglasRM: these tools that are used by disabled students to help them to use computers

MichaelH: like what, Douglas?

DouglasRM: that's it!! smart boards!!

MichaelH: Smart boards are for a lot more than disabled students...

DavidCamp: voice converters

MichaelRu: we have just started to incorporate them in our classrooms (smartboards)

DavidCamp: a ton of software

MichaelH: there are a lot of possibilities there... and smart boards aren't that unberexpensive, either

DavidCamp: the ones we played with are

MichaelH: what, Michael, a good smart board would run about \$2000?

DouglasRM: it was a few semesters ago, and as I recall, we were looking at the tools designed to help those students be active in the electronic presentations, and to use computers

DavidCamp: my point is I have yet to see a middle school using them

DouglasRM: me too

MichaelH: what did you do with the smartboards?

MichaelRu: also usign interwrite tablets - "portable" smart board things - very nice

DavidCamp: just experimented to see the possibilities

MichaelRu: and cheaper

DouglasRM: the school I am observing in has one computer in the classroom for the teachers' use only

MichaelH: David, we have at least one in each of our five elementary schools, and one in the hs and middle school

DavidCamp: we always watched internet lesson plan ideas

DavidCamp: ok well our schools are behind the times

MichaelH: David, watched?

DavidCamp: yes streaming video

MichaelH: not quite sure what that means...

DavidCamp: I forget the website

MichaelRu: unitedstreaming?

MichaelH: streaming video...

DavidCamp: you go to a website and click on a movie and it plays instantly

MichaelH: Isn't United Streaming (or one of them) free to K-12 schools?

DavidCamp: no idea

MichaelRu: not free - depends on what your state sets up

DouglasRM: what is united streaming?

MichaelRu: www.unitedstreaming.com

DavidCamp: I'm sure you can find plenty on the net

MichaelH: I know we're going that direction... betting though the key is going to be the speed of the computer processor and video card

MichaelRu: on-demand videos in all content areas - you'll want to check it out

MichaelH: we've seen a bit of that here with PBS

MichaelRu: in ny, the public tv stations purchased unitedstreaming for every teacher in the state

DavidCamp: yes MikeH you are very correct -- esp with DSL

DouglasRM: I'll take a look at that later...

MichaelH: yeah, but most schools would be networked, so the stream shouldn't be too much of a problem

MichaelH: I don't think....

DavidCamp: any gaming machine will have no problem, but some of the comps I have seen may be a little slow

MichaelRu agrees w/mikeh

HeatherNJ: What is united streaming?

DavidCamp: try the link

MichaelH: ok... we've bellyached enough... how about some free resources you can use....

DavidCamp: sure

DouglasRM: what do you got?

MichaelH: remember what BJ said... you can click on the link, but if you are using a pop up blocker, hold down the control key

MichaelH: well, you shoot me an idea for something you want to teach, and let's go with that.

MichaelH: I'll see if I can dig something up

DavidCamp: geography

DouglasRM: social studies?

DavidCamp: Texas history

MichaelH: Alamo?

DouglasRM: YES, Texas history

DouglasRM: Alamo is great

MichaelH: ok... talk amongst yourselves for two minutes...

MichaelH: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/alamo/tguide/index.html>

MichaelH: here you go

MichaelH: where on earth did this come from?

MichaelH: ok, gang, what can we do with this?

DouglasRM: that looks pretty good, I like how it covers history, civics, econ and geog, all in one lesson

MichaelH: what's the source on this lesson (or sets of lessons)

MichaelH: . o O (where did it come from?)

MichaelH: plays the Jeopardy theme in the background...

DouglasRM: pbs.org?

MichaelH: anyone know where I got this lesson?

MichaelH: yes... very good Douglas!

MichaelH: I got it from a specific resource from PBS

DouglasRM: I mean where is pbs.org?

MichaelH: well, it's more "what is pbs.org"

DouglasRM: okay

MichaelH: what is PBS?

DouglasRM: public television

DavidCamp: PBS=sesame street

MichaelH: ah....

MichaelH: well, as we just found out, it's much more than Sesame Street

DavidCamp: most people recognize that

MichaelH: tell me something Social Studies that is on PBS...

DavidCamp: specials all the time- check your local listings

MichaelH: well, there are also great series... did anyone catch the series this Alamo episode was on?

DavidCamp: the PBS affiliate in Houston is broadcast from UofH

DouglasRM: I didn't know that

DavidCamp: KUHT

DouglasRM: that I knew, just never put it together...

MichaelH: I understand, David, BUT... if you are going to utilize a lot of great resources in the classroom, you have to have a way to glean those resources and use them

MichaelH: and that includes video

MichaelH: and... the related web sites

DavidCamp: I agree, but I will make a list until school is over

MichaelH: and PBS has a lot of great ones...

MichaelH: anyone here a US History teacher, or want to become one?

DavidCamp: maybe - that is eighth grade for us

MichaelRu: going along with the pbs theme, the pbs teacherline website is a great area to find educator resources available from them

MichaelH: but you have a substantial amount of coursework in it, as a major, right?

DouglasRM: I could do that too

MichaelH: absolutely, Michael

LisaWh: I have used PBS information to help make lesson plans for some of my classes

DavidCamp: yes

MichaelH: Michael, are you familiar with PBS TeacherSource?

MichaelRu: teacherline.pss.org/teacherline

MichaelRu: teachersource? no

MichaelH: check this out... you'll want to share this with your teachers...

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

MichaelH: they have over 3500 lesson plans on site.

MichaelH: . o O (not just social studies)

DouglasRM: ZOOM is still on!?!?!?!?

MichaelH: when the U of H gang wanted an Alamo lesson, I just went to TeacherSource and did a quick search, and found it

MichaelRu: nice

MichaelH: Actually, I was hoping that someone would tell me that the Alamo lesson I just demonstrated is part of the American Experience series...

MichaelH: and they are going to have a big retrospective on an event which happened 30 years ago at the end of this month... anyone know what that is?

DavidCamp: I noticed that in the toolbar

DavidCamp: I was three months old

MichaelH: it's something that affects us a lot even until this day

MichaelH: I was 20

MichaelH: I'll give you the URL and see if you can tell me what the event was...

MichaelH: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/vietnam/>

DouglasRM: "what is the fall of Saigon"

DavidCamp: ummm the fall of Saigon? I have an M-16

DouglasRM: do I win?

MichaelH: not yet, Douglas, what IS the fall of Saigon?

DavidCamp: it proved the point that we wasted our time over there taking up slack for the French

DouglasRM: a huge event in the Vietnam war

DavidCamp: (as usual)

MichaelH: well, the fall of Saigon was the final capitulation of the South Vietnamese to North Vietnam, which led to unification of the country

DavidCamp: which lasted all of not and it went back to the way it was before we started

DouglasRM: so that means it marked the end of the war.

MichaelH: but, this is something you would want to teach to your students, right (the fall of Saigon)

DavidCamp: yes, same with Korea

DouglasRM: Semper Fi, Dave.

DavidCamp: of course you would mention the broader theme of containment of communism

MichaelH: agree

MichaelH: but, do you all see that there are resources you can use to do this that are absolutely free?

DouglasRM: yes, and great resources free, at that.

DavidCamp: yes and it's good to have a long list to search from when looking for material for a lesson

MichaelH: and, did you check out that the program (at least some of it) airs in late April

MichaelH: so you can tape it?

DouglasRM: yes

LisaWh: I will be watching for that program

MichaelH: here's the teacher's guide if you want to check that out:

MichaelH: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/vietnam/tguide/index.html>

MichaelH: and, if you would like to see the teachers who helped put together the teacher's guide for WGBH, here's the web credits:

MichaelH: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/vietnam/series/webcredits.html>

MichaelH: want one more resource before we quit for toniht...?

MichaelH: any of you guys like baseball?

DouglasRM: sure

DavidCamp: my wife loves it

DouglasRM: I could take it or leave it

DouglasRM: but let's see

MichaelH: David, maybe we should put your wife online????

MarcusA: yeah, I coach baseball at a local hs

MichaelH: ok, let's brainstorm some ideas about how we can integrate baseball into social studies?

MichaelH can do it in two words...

DavidCamp: this Saturday my observation school is doing that

MichaelH . o O (Jackie Robinson)

DouglasRM: baseball has been able to unite the country in times of strife

DavidCamp: they are "pitching" questions and taking bases for correct answers

MichaelH: absolutely... think about World War II, Douglas

DouglasRM: yep

DavidCamp: like when the Yankees lost finally

HeatherNJ: yes

MichaelH: the country is at war, everything is rationed, men are being drafted, and yet, FDR demanded that baseball go on...

DouglasRM: no matter what bad things are happening, there has been baseball to comfort the fans

MichaelH: think about "League of their Own"...

DavidCamp: women leagues

MichaelH: Think about the 2001 World Series

MichaelH: right after 9-11

DouglasRM: oh yeah

MichaelH: and, don't forget Jackie Robinson...

MichaelH: he was... class????

DavidCamp: a baseball player

DouglasRM: the first black man to play in the bigs?

MichaelH: for which team?

DouglasRM: Dodgers??

HeatherNJ: Yes he was

MichaelH: 1947

MichaelH: and even into the 1970s, people couldn't stand for a black man to beat Babe Ruth's career home run record

DouglasRM: Hank Aaron

MichaelH: . o O (Hank Aaron)

MichaelH: even geography... how can we implement baseball into geography?

MichaelH: How long has Houston had a team compared to Boston, Chicago, New York, Philadelphia?

DouglasRM: talk about historic parks in historic cities. i.e. Fenway

MichaelH: Think about teams in Arlington, LA, Phoenix, Denver... how new those teams are...

MichaelH: Astros came in around what... 1964?

DavidCamp: Colts?

MichaelH: they were the Colt '45s

MichaelH: and then when the space center went in, they changed their name to Astros

MichaelH: and their stadium was... the...

DavidCamp: eighth wonder of the world

DouglasRM: astrodome,

DouglasRM: what Dave said

MichaelH: and the grass was made out of

DouglasRM: astroturf

MichaelH: because

MichaelH . o O (because...)

DavidCamp: LBJ was from Houston

DouglasRM: indoors, can't grow grass

MichaelH: because they....?

MichaelH . o O (David, he was from Johnson City)

DavidCamp: shhhh

DavidCamp: Texas anyway

MichaelH applauds

MichaelH: anyway, here's a really good PBS resource on baseball

DouglasRM: for what

MichaelH: getting the right state

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

DavidCamp: I live next to the Johnson space center

MichaelH: this site has it all... lesson plans, resources, all sorts of fun stuff.

MichaelH: and, it's a Ken Burns series...

DavidCamp: thanks

MichaelH: Ken also did another famous PBS series

MichaelH: called the...

MichaelH: You guys in Texas were part of it...

MichaelH: a big thing back in the 1860s...

DouglasRM: Civil War

MichaelH: absolutely...

DouglasRM: ya me!!

BJB2 looks at the clock

MichaelH: if you ever get a chance to see any of that, it's filmmaking at its best

MichaelH: you'll love it.

DouglasRM: I'll try to check it out

MichaelH: BJ is telling me that the clock on the clubhouse wall is close to the end of our time

DavidCamp: Thanks Mike

MichaelH: any questions before we call it a night?

DouglasRM: thanks, Michael

MichaelH: glad you could all come

HeatherNJ: Thanks for the websites

MichaelRu: thank you

DouglasRM: this has been fun, did our professor tell you to single us out?

MichaelH: they'll all be in the transcript if you want to check them later

LisaWh: Thanks for the web sites

MichaelH: Your professor didn't tell me you were coming... he/she should have

DouglasRM: okay, just checking

MichaelH waves goodnight