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DF 18 Great History and Social Studies Web Resources that Inspire

Katie McKnight, Ph.D.

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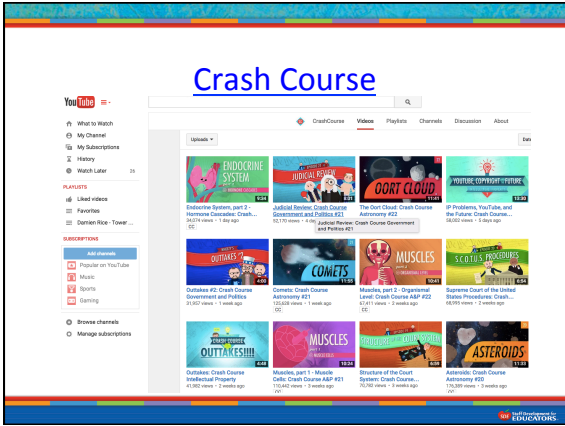
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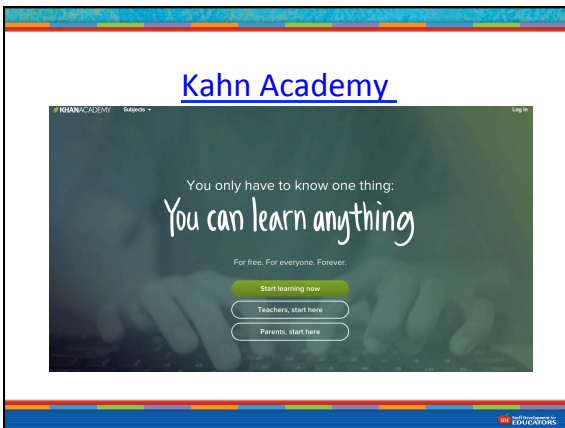
This official website of the Smithsonian, the world's largest museum and research complex, with 19 museums, 9 research centers, and affiliates around the world. Includes links to: African American History and Culture Museum, Air and Space Museum, American History Museum, American Indian Museum, the National Zoo, Natural History Museum, research centers, newsroom, and more.



Excellent news stories about science, education, innovation and tech, animals, the environment, ancient history, archeology, and more. Plus, of course, maps!



Tons of awesome courses in one awesome channel: John Green teaches World History 2; Hank Green teaches Anatomy & Physiology; Phil Plait teaches Astronomy; Craig Benzine teaches U.S. Government and Politics. Check out the playlists for past courses in World History, Biology, Literature, Ecology, Chemistry, Psychology, and US History. All in entertaining 10-15 minute episodes!



This organization’s mission is to provide a free, world-class education for anyone, anywhere. They offer K-12 (and beyond) courses in math, sciences, economics, computing, and arts & humanities. Partner content includes links to organizations such as: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Brookings Institution, Stanford School of Medicine, NASA, and others. Of particular interest is the “LeBron Asks” feature in which experts answer LeBron James questions about basketball’s relationship to math and science.



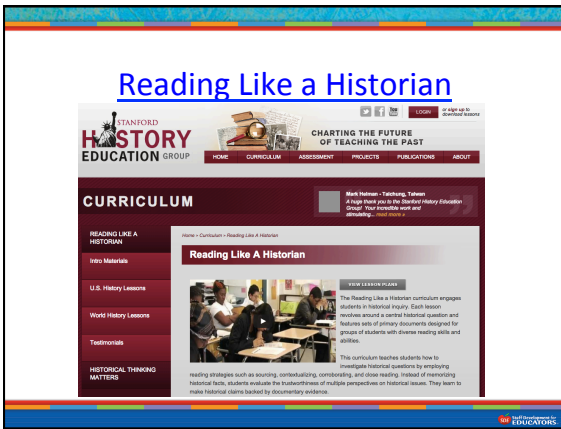
Provided by a partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Trust for the Humanities, EDSITEment! is “the best of the humanities on the web!” Great resources on Arts & Culture, Foreign Language, History & Social Studies, Literature & Language Arts. Includes customizable lesson plans and a “Closer Readings”, a blog for and about humanities in the classroom.



The National Archives site is an excellent source for students to research History and Social Studies topics. The site includes DocsTeach, a collection of primary source teaching resources full of activities for educators. Documents are organized by periods in American History. Click on a topic, such as “Civil War and Reconstruction” to find primary source documents. DocsTeach also provides audio, video, charts, graphs and maps.

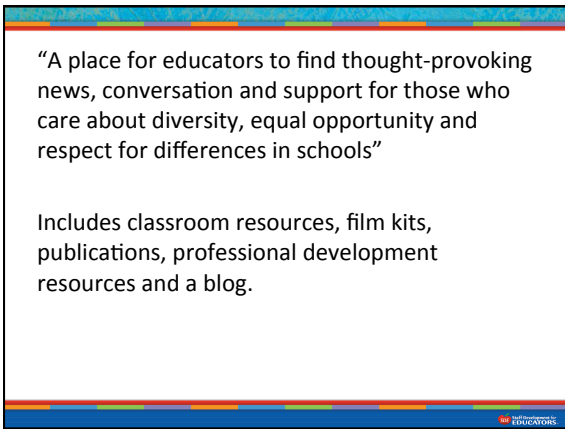


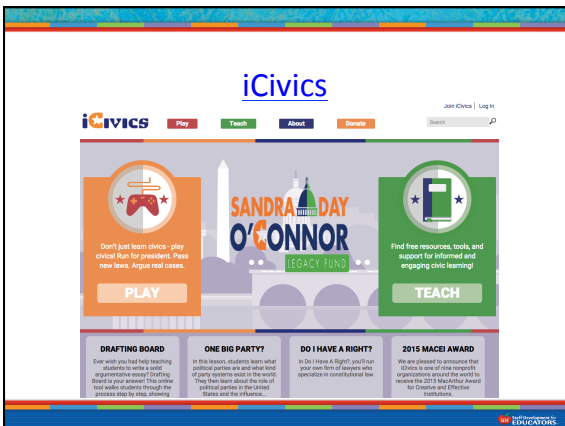
The Library of Congress is an excellent Historical and Social Studies resource. The site includes links to digital collections, newspapers, films, manuscripts, books, music, art, archived web sites, 3-D objects, maps and more. Digital collections can be browsed by topic and/or date. The Library of Congress also offers Primary Source Sets and access to free lesson plans and presentations, example:
[“Abraham Lincoln: Rise to National Prominence.”](#)



Reading Like a Historian is part of the Stand History Education Group. Lessons and Resources on US and World History are provided, each lesson revolves around a central historical question and uses primary source documents. Students learn how to research historical questions with reading strategies. Students go beyond memorizing facts to evaluate multiple perspectives on historical events and argue claims backed by historical evidence.







iCivics provides interactive learning resources, print and go lesson plans, games and digital interactives. The games place students in civic roles where they get to choose how to address real world issues. The curriculum is grouped into units that align with the Common Core.



A great blog from the NYT, includes Common Core aligned [lesson plans](#) published weekly on current NYT news stories. Great for current events teaching. There are also searchable archives for student research. There is a monthly "Text to Text" lesson available that pairs an often-taught work in history and literature with a piece from the NYT. Students can strengthen their literacy skills with ["Test Yourself"](#) quizzes, participate in online visual literacy discussions, and more.







































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