Online Teaching Resources

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A Paradigm Shift

A paradigm shift is taking place in education: This is a shift from instruction – conveying content -- to active learning.   The goal is not simply to transmit information, but help students master essential knowledge and skill and apply those competencies broadly.

Learning, we now know, is an active process in which a student must construct, process, and apply knowledge rather than simply acquire it. Students also need to reflect on how their understanding is evolving and accurately appraise their strengths and weaknesses. Learning, therefore, requires active engagement, interaction, and frequent feedback.

As teachers, we need to engage, motivate, and challenge our student, tap into their innate curiosity, and challenge them with activities that they find authentically meaningful. And we need to provide students with frequent formative assessments and feedback, so that they can develop a better understanding of what they know and what they don't know.

To do this, we can ask students to:
▪ Interpret conventional and unconventional primary sources.
▪ Experiment with new ways of organizing, visualizing, analyzing, and presenting data and other forms of information.
▪ Undertake investigations, solve problems, and engage in role playing, brainstorming, and debates.
▪ Create knowledge by presenting history themselves.

Here we can see how education is changing:

A mass production model is giving way to:	A more student-centered approach
An emphasis on instruction to…	A stress on learning
A transmission model to…	A more interactive model
A one-size-fits-all model to…	A more personalized, adaptive approach
A goal of separating the wheat from the chaff to…	To an ideal of bringing more students to mastery
A focus on coverage and content delivery to…	A focus on learning outcomes
High-stakes testing to…	Regular evaluations throughout a course
Outcomes assessed largely through tests to…	Outcomes assessed by authentic performances

Benefits of Online Teaching

We often hear of the many ways that online learning is inferior to face-to-face instruction. But online learning also can offer certain benefits:
1. Students can have anytime, anywhere access to class materials.
2. We can make a wealth of primary sources and data readily available to students: textual, visual, and aural.
3. We can give all students the opportunity to participate and contribute.
4. We can survey our students, to probe their background knowledge, identify their interests, and ask how their lives and their families' experiences intersect with history (for example, by participating in war or migrating).

5. We can poll our students and get their considered opinions about historical controversies.
6. We can monitor student engagement and understanding in real time.
7. Students can create multimedia rich 21st century projects.
8. Students can acquire communication and collaboration skills they'll need in life and in the workplace.

Digital Teaching Tools

Annotation Tools
1. Explicate and annotate a text or document collectively, using Hypothes.is or Perusall.
2. Annotate video clips with VideoAnt.

Citation Tools
1. Create a citation from a URL with Mybib citation creator
2. Manage citations with Zotero

Collaboration Tools
1. Collectively create documents and presentations with Google Docs, Slides, and Sheets.
2. Padlet.com lets users create a collaboration space.
3. Google Jamboard offers a digital whiteboard on which students can collaborate.
4. Slack and MS Teams are team communication and collaboration tools.
5. Project management tools include Basecamp, Kanbanchi, and Trello.

Concept and Network Mapping
Concept, causal, and network mapping tools include Coggle, Cliovis, Lucidchart, Popplet, and Sketchboard.

Content Libraries
Leading content libraries in U.S. history include American Memory (Library of Congress), Digital History, Digital Public Library of America, DocsTeach, Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, History Matters, and the Stanford History Education Group.

Conversion Tools
1. A tool for file conversion is Zamzar
2. A tool for video conversion is Media.io

Curation Tools
1. Bookmark websites with Symbaloo.com or elink.io.
2. Aggregate content with Google Keep Paper.li, livebinders.com, wakelet.com, or webjets.io
3. Curate visual as well as textual resources with Google Keep.

Data Visualization
1. Map creation and annotation tools: Google MyMaps
2. Plot primary sources, descriptive text, or boxes for student response on a historic map, outline map, or other document using the National Archive's DocTeach.org.
3. Create Word Clouds with Wordle.
4. Create visualizations of census data with http://www.census.gov/dataviz/
5. Analyze word frequency with Google Ngrams.

Exhibition Creation

Use Google Slides to create virtual exhibitions.

Feedback
Peer feedback offers a way for students to provide constructive feedback to classmates.
Students can also participate in the collaborative construction of rubrics.

Geomapping
Use theclio.com to identify sites of historical or cultural significance.

Global Learning
Examples of global learning include:
1. Paired classrooms
2. Virtual pen pals
3. Skype in the Classroom: virtual field trips, conversations with content-area specialists

Images
Royalty-free images are available at Photos for Class.

Interactive Lessons
1. Students can respond to a video with edpuzzle.com.
2. Students can enhance a website: insertlearning.com.
3. An instructor can build lessons around TED talks with ed.ted.com.

Mapping
HistoryPin is a collaboration tool to share images history across time and space, and place those memories on maps and timelines.

Portfolios and Digital Galleries
1. Create portfolios and digital galleries with Showcaseedu.com.
2. Create and annotate a portfolio with seesaw.me.

Project-Based Learning
1. Make an Infographic: Infogram, Picktochart. Venngage
2. Make an Interactive Poster: Glogster, Thinklink
3. Make a Presentation
4. Make a Podcast: Anchor.fm
5. Make a Digital Story: Adobe Spark, iMovie, MS Photo Story 3, MS Movie Maker
6. Contribute to a Blog: blogger.com, WordPress.com
7. Create a Word Cloud: Wordle
8. Create a Virtual Museum or Exhibition: Google Slides
9. Create a podcast: Audacity
10. Create a virtual tour: PowerPoint, Google Slides

Student Response Systems
1. Polling
2. Quizzing

Survey Tools
To conduct surveys use Google Forms or Survey Monkey.

Text Mining
To mine a text use https://voyant-tools.org/.

Timelines
Tools to create timelines include Timeline.js and Time Mapper, which allows students to quickly create a timeline from a spreadsheet.

Other active learning strategies include:
1. **Brainstorming**: Generating ideas collaboratively.
2. **Breakout Rooms**: Divide students into small discussion groups.
3. **Debates**: Stage debates over historical controversies.
4. **History Behind the Headlines**: Uncover the backstory behind a current event.
5. **Role Playing**: Have students assume the role or persona of historical actors.
6. **Scavenger Hunts**: Students must hunt for sources of information or answers to questions.

Other Approaches

American Icons
Examine the history of the symbols of American nationhood, freedom, and the landscape.

Forecasting the Future
How did our ancestors imagine the future?

Historical Judgments
Wrestle with the troubling moral dilemmas of evaluating past decisions.

History as It Happened
Examine eyewitness accounts of key historical events.

History Happened Here
Identify and discuss the historic landmarks that lurk all around us.

History in the Headlines
Examine the backstory of a current event.

History Through Sight and Sound
Use art, music, and photography to provide fresh insights into U.S. history.

Hollywood versus History
Examine how feature films represent and misrepresent the past.

How Do We Know What We Know?
Discover how we know what we think we know.

My History is American History
How family history illuminates the country's history.

Reading Maps
See what maps can tell us. Includes geospatial literacy, geo-visualization, trend analysis, the politics of maps, and expanding geographical knowledge.

The Uses of History
Explore how advocates and partisans use history to advance their causes.

What If…
Ask how history might have turned out differently.

The Future of History Teaching
1. Student-Developed Apps
2, Simulations
3. 3-D Reconstructions of Historical Sites
4. Virtual Reality Immersive Environments

Interrogating a Primary Source
Treat every source as a text – as a text that needs to be interrogated and contextualized. Issues to discuss include:

Authorship: Who was its creator?
Purpose: Why was it created?
Audience: What is its intended audience?
Message: What is its explicit message?
Insights: What does a careful reading reveal?
Context: How does an understand of context influence your interpretation?

History Through…

Advertisements
Advertisements are much more than mere mechanisms for selling products. They also provide insights into the growth of a consumer economy and American society's shifting conceptions of masculinity and femininity and its changing attitudes toward sex and sexuality. Advertising played a crucial role in the transformation of the American economy from one in which most goods were produced and sold locally to one dominated by brand names and products distributed nationally.

Architecture
Houses do not simply provide shelter. They offer valuable clues into the nature of the values that people held in the past and to the way that household members interacted. Between the early colonial period and the Civil War, American architecture underwent far-reaching changes--transformations that tell us a great deal about shifting ideas about privacy and refinement.

Art
Historical art works of art are not simply "illustrations" or "replications" of historical events or settings; rather, these works actively shape meanings, values, and attitudes and construct and deconstruct cultural myths.

Cemeteries

Graveyards provide a great deal of useful information about peoples' lives in the past and the evolution of cultural ideas about death. Why did early Americans call places for the dead "burying grounds" or "graveyards"—not "cemeteries"? Why did they treat graveyards as meadows, not as sacred or spooky places? How common was death in early America and who was most likely to die prematurely? How and why has the iconography of tombstones change over time? What was life expectancy in the past and how did this differ among women and men. Graveyards can help answer these questions.

Fashion
Clothing is not simply a bodily covering or an adornment. Clothing can signify an occupation or a status. It is often associated with particular age ranges. Fashion is also a form of communication. Fashion can emphasize or deemphasize status and rank. It can accentuate or minimize sexual differences. Fashion can also give outward expression to deeply held values.

Film
Popular films are cultural artifacts that contain messages about class, ethnicity, and gender; sociological documents that record the look and mood of a period; and psychological texts that speak to social anxieties and tensions. Films are also power educators, that express political ideas and moral values, construct cultural myths, and shape our view of history.

Food
Every region, ethnic group, and era has its own distinctive cuisine, which provides insights into its values and tastes. The history of food also provides insights into the intermixture of cultures and shifts in food production and distribution.

Hairstyles
Hair can be styled in extraordinarily diverse ways. Think Afro, Beehive, Bob, Bouffant, Caesar, Cornrows, Crewcut, Dreadlocks, Ducktail, Grunge, Mohawk, Mullet, Pageboy, or Pixie. It can be blow dried, braided, colored, cropped, curled, feathered, gelled, knotted, layered, parted, and straightened. It can be worn short, long, or in between, and disheveled, geometric, shaggy, slicked back, spiked upward, or tousled. It can also be greased, highlighted, permed, powdered, sprayed or treated with gel, mousse, ointments or pomade. The forehead can be covered with bangs or left exposed.

Hair is among humans' most malleable physical attributes. Humans are the only animals that dye, flatten plait, shave, or weave their hair. They are also the only animals to wear wigs or hair pieces or extensions. Thus hairstyles are ideal for expressing a person's public identity. Hair is much more than a filament growing out of skin follicles. Hair carries important symbolic, cultural, and even political significance. Hair is associated with status, breeding, and identity. Whole lifestyles are symbolized by hair: Hippies, Punk, Rastafari, or Skinhead.

Holidays
Not timeless traditions, certain holidays, including Halloween and Christmas, arose at a particular time and took distinct forms in different eras. Explore when trick-or-treating appeared or Santa Claus appeared

Language
Each generation coins its own distinctive words. The 1920s brought "attaboy," "bootleg," and "skedaddle." World War II brought us "swell" and "gung ho." The 1960s popularized "cool," "groovy," and "psychedelic." The 1970s and 1980s brought "slacker" and "grunge." As conditions of life shift, so does the vocabulary. Some new words are technology driven, like "networking" or "selfie." Some result from shifts in demography, like "blended family," which arose as rates of divorce and remarriage became increasingly common.

Names

Naming practices offer a window into how values and tastes have shifted over time. Fewer parents today name a first born child for a father or mother. Fathers' influence on children's names appears to have waned, with many fathers ceding the choice of a first name to the mother in exchange for using his last name. Today's parents appear to spend more time musing over a child's name than parents in the past. The most striking trend in recent years has been a heightened emphasis on individuality, originality, and adventurousness in names.

Popular Music

Today, Americans use music to pass time, to relax, to set a mood, and, in religious services, to express spiritual beliefs. In the past, music served other functions. Immigrant groups passed down traditions through song. Work songs helped laborers to cope with the hardship of their tasks and synchronize their movements. Many social movements created a repertoire of protest songs. American popular music is the product of a mixture of diverse elements, including Native American, African, English, Scottish and Irish, German, Latin American, and Hawaiian musical cultures. Technology, economics, shifting tastes, and cross-cultural contact and borrowings all shaped American popular music.

Photography

Photographs are not simply mirrors of reality. They are documents that need to be read and interpreted. A photograph is a selective recording and interpretation of a visual scene. Understanding the degree of photographic manipulation is necessary to evaluate any particular image.

Political Cartoons

Political cartoons use caricature, symbols, humor, ridicule, and exaggeration to make arguments and comment on political events.

Propaganda Posters

Throughout the twentieth century, posters were intended to rouse the nation's spirit and convey a sense of common purpose. They promoted patriotism, productivity, and sacrifice. Some demonized the enemy, appealing to hatred and bigotry. Propaganda posters use visual symbols and such techniques as sentimentality and appeals to patriotism, fear, duty, and sacrifice to whip up public emotions.

Song

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Statistics

History provides an ideal vehicle for teaching statistics. History not only provides a wealth of concrete problems to solve, but often accessible and manageable data sets that can be used to address these problems.

PRIMARY SOURCE REPOSITORIES

Ad Access

https://repository.duke.edu/dc/adaccess

ArtStor

Digital Archive of American Architecture

https://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/cas/fnart/fa267/

Farber Gravestone Collection
http://www.davidrumsey.com/farber/

G. Robert Vincent Voice Library
https://lib.msu.edu/vvl/

Perry-Castañeda Map Collection
https://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/

Online Etymology Dictionary
https://www.etymonline.com/

Popular Baby Names by Decade
https://www.ssa.gov/oact/babynames/decades

Slavery Images: A Visual Record of the African Slave Trade and Slave Life
http://www.slaveryimages.org/

Virginia Runaways
http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/gos/

Wayback Machine
https://archive.org/web/

DATABASES

Historical Census
https://www.census.gov/library/publications/1975/compendia/hist_stats_colonial-1970.html

Transatlantic Slave Trade Database
http://www.slavevoyages.org/

VISUALIZATIONS

African American Migration
Forced Migration
http://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/forcedmigration/#tab=1&narratives=true&cotton=true&sugar=true&labels=false&decade=1810&loc=5/-9.622/12.788

Mapping the Great Migration
http://depts.washington.edu/moving1/map_black_migration.shtml

Census Data
Social Explorer (UT database)

Civil War
Infographics
https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/battles-civil-war-infographic
https://visual.ly/community/infographic/education/american-civil-war

Visualizing Emancipation
http://dsl.richmond.edu/emancipation/

Presidential Elections
http://dsl.richmond.edu/historicalatlas/108/c/

Immigration
http://metrocosm.com/us-immigration-history-map.html

https://migrationdataportal.org/blog/10-coolest-visualizations-migration-data

Lynching
http://www.monroeworktoday.org/explore/

Slave Trade
http://www.slate.com/articles/life/the_history_of_american_slavery/2015/06/animated_interactive_of_the_history_of_the_atlantic_slave_trade.html

DIGITAL RECONSTRUCTIONS OF HISTORICAL SITES

1893 World's Columbian Exposition
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtX3MtWZDrs