

Teaching and Learning with Teachinghistory.org

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In the late 1890s, American photographer William Henry Jackson toured North Africa, Asia, Russia, Australia, and Oceania on behalf of The World's Transportation Commission, an organization formed to aid American business interests abroad. Jackson produced nearly 900 images documenting these trips. What do his images tell us about nineteenth-century travel, daily life, industrialization, and colonialism? What can be learned by comparing these images with Jackson's photographs of America taken in the same era for the Detroit Publishing Company?

Teachinghistory.org, a project of the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media at George Mason University, offers an ideal venue for exploring questions such as these. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Teachinghistory.org is a destination website for history education resources such as primary source materials, teaching strategies, and lesson plans. Learn, for example, about the websites *Around the World in the 1890s: Photographs, 1894–1896* (<http://teachinghistory.org/history-content/website-reviews/14619>) and *Touring Turn-of-the-Century America: Photographs from the Detroit Publishing Company, 1880–1920* (<http://teachinghistory.org/history-content/website-reviews/14741>), where you can compare Jackson's photographs created for different audiences and purposes. Investigate a range of world history topics as well as strategies for teaching historical thinking skills to all learners.

Emphasis on Historical Thinking

All good history begins with sound historical thinking. Students demonstrate these skills when they are able to put ideas into context, analyze a variety of sources, and draw conclusions based on their analyses. Teachinghistory.org's "Introduction to Historical Thinking" video (<http://teachinghistory.org/historical-thinking-intro>) presents an overview of key historical thinking concepts and ways to integrate them into the classroom.

In the "Best Practices" section, find examples of teachers and students modeling historical thinking; watch videos of teachers demonstrating specific teaching strategies; and find ideas to help students question textbook authority. These techniques can be applied to any historical topic, whether you are teaching the American, French, or Russian Revolution.

To help encourage historical thinking in your classroom, Teachinghistory.org also offers a free Historical Thinking poster. One side, geared to elementary students, showcases the idea that "Doing History is Like Solving a Mystery," while the reverse, "History is an Argument About the Past," appeals to secondary classrooms. Both sides feature colorful images of primary sources, definitions of primary and secondary sources, and ideas on how historians investigate the past.

Visit <http://teachinghistory.org/poster> to request a free copy.

Access to Primary Sources

Being a historian means going back to the source—through documents, images, objects, or oral histories—to find answers to questions about the past. Search more than 1,100 website reviews for primary and secondary sources to incorporate into your lessons. Thematic searches such as "international relations" or "global contact" open up many world history topics, such as the African Diaspora, World War I, World War II, the Cold War, and global maps. Search for these terms in "History in Multimedia" (<http://teachinghistory.org/history-content/history-in-multimedia>) to find related podcasts, dramatic readings, and lectures.

Visit <http://teachinghistory.org/history-content> to begin exploring.

Creating a Digital Classroom

"Digital Classroom" focuses on strategies for bringing technology successfully into the classroom. Explore an annotated list of free web applications, such as Wordle, Google Maps, or Ning in "Tech for Teachers" and learn how others are using them to teach social studies or history. Watch teachers using technology in their classrooms in "Beyond the Chalkboard."

Whether you are new to using technology in the classroom or an old pro, visit <http://teachinghistory.org/digital-classroom> to spark ideas or try new tools.

Stay connected

In order to learn more about these historical thinking resources, sign-up to receive Teachinghistory.org's free e-news and print newsletters or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, or RSS feed. The teaching strategies and emphasis on historical thinking skills apply to all world history classrooms.

Connect now at <http://teachinghistory.org/outreach>. 

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