

Teaching with Primary Sources at DePaul University

April 2014 Newsletter: National Poetry Month, Earth Day, and more!

Greetings, educators!

As the snow thaws and the term “polar vortex” is now a staple of our vocabulary, the warmer weather also brings plenty of springtime activities and resources for you to use in the classroom!

Important Dates in March:

April Fool's Day: April 1st

Tax Day: April 15th

Record Store Day: April 19th

Easter Sunday: April 20th

Earth Day: April 22nd

Arbor Day: April 25th

UPCOMING TPS LEVEL I WORKSHOP SERIES **FULL**

Level I Program: Primary Sources and the Common Core State Standards

- **DePaul - Lincoln Park Campus:** Thursday April 3, April 10, April 17, 4:30-8:30pm
- **DePaul - Naperville Campus:** Saturday April 26, May 10, May 17, 9am-1pm

Though these two upcoming programs are completely full, you can still contact us to be put on a waitlist, or if you would like information about future programming coming this summer.

Also note that we can do a Level I program on-site at your school! All we require is that at least 10 teachers commit to attending the full 12-hour program. For more information and program details, email Dave Bates, Project Director, at dbates2@depaul.edu or visit <http://condor.depaul.edu/tps>.

APRIL RESOURCES

April is National Poetry Month and the Library of Congress has plenty of literary resources for your classroom (<http://blogs.loc.gov/loc/2014/03/where-poetry-lives/>). Educators can take advantage of the [Read.gov](http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/olc/tour/01/01_01.html) and [Poetry180](http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/olc/tour/01/01_01.html) pages that include literary guides, criticisms, and scanned materials.

April is also Arab-American Heritage Month. With so much of today's news taking place in the Arab world, the LOC has numerous collections spanning Arabian photographs, text, artifacts and recordings to help broaden students' understanding of regional histories.

-Photographic collections, such as the Abdul Hamid II and Matson Collections chronicle life in the Ottoman Empire and West Bank area in the late 19th & early 20th Centuries:

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/ahii/>

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/matpc/>

-There are also selections of Arabic, Persian, and Ottoman Calligraphy and cuneiform:

<http://international.loc.gov/intldl/apochtml/apochome.html>

<http://international.loc.gov/intldl/cunehtml/cunehome.html>

-The exhibition on the American Colony in Jerusalem also takes an interesting look at a Christian utopia project in the 1880s: <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/americancolony/amcolony-home.html>

Stay on the lookout! April 1st is **April Fool's Day** so turn pranks into a different kind of lesson and learn the origins of the day at America's Library:

http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/modern/jb_modern_aprfool_2.html

Although many of us do not 'celebrate' **Tax Day**, the history of taxes in the US is a long and complicated tale.

-Learn the origins of the IRS http://www.loc.gov/rr/business/hottopic/irs_history.html) and the origins of Tax Day (http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/progress/jb_progress_taxday_2_e.html)

While you're at it, brush up your own understanding of digital taxes:

<http://blogs.loc.gov/digitalpreservation/2013/03/death-taxes-digital-audits-and-puppies/>

Earth Day and **Arbor Day** both celebrate the beauty of nature and our duty to preserve the planet.

-The LOC has many science guides (<http://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/SciRefGuides/earthday.html>) for the holidays.

-Help students understand the origins of the celebrations to help you enjoy the spring!

http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/modern/jb_modern_earthday_1.html?loclr=blogtea <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/apr22.html?loclr=blogtea> <http://blogs.loc.gov/picturethis/2013/04/its-arbor-day-tree-planting-time/>

Record Store Day was started in 2007 to celebrate local record stores. The LOC has been digitizing millions of recordings that have kept the American people entertained and informed for over a century.

-Learn about Emil Berliner and the birth of the recording industry

(<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/berlhtml/berlhome.html>), as well as the sound recordings of Thomas Edison (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/edhtml/edhome.html>).

-Listen to Civil War band music (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/cwmhtml/cwmhome.html>) and discuss the importance of military bands and morale.

-“American Leaders Speak” chronicles the elections of WWI and the 1920s

(<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/nfhtml/nfhome.html>) while “American Variety Stage” looks more at entertainment of that time (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/vshtml/vshome.html>).

-The Schwartz Collection includes songs, interviews, and programs that show the evolution of radio from its infancy to the modern era (<http://www.loc.gov/rr/record/schwartzcollection.html>).

-Sports fans will appreciate the recordings (since 1988) in the “Sports Byline” collection (<http://loc.gov/collection/sports-byline/about-this-collection/>).

-And don't forget the National Jukebox (<http://www.loc.gov/jukebox/>)!

April 15th also marks the **assassination of Abraham Lincoln** in 1865. Learn more at

http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/civil/jb_civil_lincoln_1.html?loclr=blogtea &

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/apr14.html?loclr=blogtea>.

Finally, in April military history, the United States also **entered WWI on April 6, 1917:**
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/apr06.html?loclr=blogtea>

and **ended the Civil War on April 9, 1865:**
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/apr09.html?loclr=blogtea>