

# Teaching with Primary Sources at DePaul University

## May 2014 Newsletter: Cinco de Mayo, Memorial Day, and more!

Greetings, educators!

We hope you're enjoying the spring weather as your school year winds down. Be sure to check your email throughout the summer for communications on upcoming TPS-DePaul events!

### Important Dates in May

May Day: May 1<sup>st</sup>

Cinco de Mayo: May 5<sup>th</sup>

National Nurses Day: May 6<sup>th</sup>

VE Day: May 8<sup>th</sup>

Mother's Day: May 11<sup>th</sup>

Indianapolis 500: May 25<sup>th</sup>

Memorial Day: May 26<sup>th</sup>

National Photograph Month

Even though May 1<sup>st</sup> is also "Law Day" (<http://www.loc.gov/law/index.php>), most of us know it as "**May Day**." Watch Jennifer Cutting talk about folk traditions of the day (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3Ls4drd0z8>) or look through the FSA photo collection's coverage of a May Day Pageant in 1941 (<http://blogs.loc.gov/picturethis/2012/05/a-may-day-pageant/>). Here in the US, May Day is also International Worker's Day, beginning as a commemoration of the Haymarket Massacre of 1886 in Chicago, and the LOC has a collection connection on the topic: (<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/connections/haymarket/thinking.html>).

Sorry, May 5<sup>th</sup>, **Cinco do Mayo**, is NOT Mexican Independence Day (<http://blogs.loc.gov/law/2011/05/cinco-de-mayo-is-not-mexican-independence-day/>), though the LOC does have many resources on the holiday (<http://blogs.loc.gov/law/2012/05/150th-anniversary-of-the-battle-of-puebla-aka-cinco-de-mayo-pic-of-the-week/>), including some on the history of US-Mexican relations ([http://www.americaslibrary.gov/es/co/es\\_co\\_cinco\\_1.html](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/es/co/es_co_cinco_1.html)).

May 6<sup>th</sup> is **National Nurses Day!** Although nurses have been around since the Ancient Era, the image of the "traditional" nurse image can be traced to Florence Nightingale ([www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2004672058/](http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2004672058/)) during the Crimean War. Be sure to thank the nurses in your lives for all they do, and maybe read some stories from nurses in during the Depression (<http://www.loc.gov/item/wpalh001697/>) or about the history of nursing (<http://lccn.loc.gov/06031450>)!

**VE Day** marks the Allies' "Victory in Europe" in 1945. Although the number of veterans from WWII is shrinking, the LOC has scores of oral histories from those who fought in the "Good War" in the Veterans History Project (<http://www.loc.gov/vets/>).

Don't forget **Mother's Day** is coming up ([http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/jazz/jb\\_jazz\\_mother\\_3.html](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/jazz/jb_jazz_mother_3.html)), and you can read all about its history at the LOC (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/may09.html>). If you're ambitious, try your hand at

some of the sheet music about mothers (<http://blogs.loc.gov/music/2011/05/sheet-music-of-the-week-mothers-day-edition/>), too!

The Indianapolis Motor Speedway opened in 1909 and is the home to the **Indy 500** ([http://www.americaslibrary.gov/es/in/es\\_in\\_indy500\\_1.html](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/es/in/es_in_indy500_1.html)). The LOC has resources from driver Mario Andretti (<http://www.loc.gov/about/awards-and-honors/living-legends/mario-andretti/>) as well as the history of automobile racing in the US ([http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/progress/jb\\_progress\\_autorace\\_1.html](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/progress/jb_progress_autorace_1.html)), and even Chicago (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/nov28.html>)!

**Memorial Day** was originally known as Decoration Day and honored those who fought in the Civil War (<http://blogs.loc.gov/law/2011/05/memorial-day-2011/>). Today the holiday has been extended to honor all those who have died while in military service, and includes services and celebrations. Don't forget that the LOC not only has the history of the day (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/may30.html>), but also has plenty of music, (<http://blogs.loc.gov/music/2010/05/memorial-day/>), and even an exercise from the 1892 observation of the holiday (<http://www.loc.gov/item/37025903/>).

What a better way to celebrate National Photograph Month than to look through the LOC's dozens of collections in the Prints and Photographs Catalog: <http://loc.gov/pictures/> (other than taking pictures, of course)!