

Teaching with Primary Sources at DePaul University

September 2014 Newsletter: the Panama Canal, Labor Day, and more!

Greetings, educators!

Welcome back to another school year. We hope your summer was enjoyable and relaxing. To get you started for your return to the classroom, we've once again assembled a list of resources and news from around the LOC and TPS communities.

Program Scheduling

Our fall calendar is filling up fast! We're hoping to offer a Level I program sometime late this fall, and a Level II program (topic TBA) in early 2015. In the meantime, we are always available to do an on-site program (Level I or Level II) at your school.

As a reminder, the Level I and II programs are 12-hour PD programs (three 4-hour sessions) that are open to teachers of all subject areas and grade levels. And, as always, all of our programs are offered completely FREE of charge.

For more information, please contact Dave Bates at dbates2@depaul.edu.

Important dates in September:

Labor Day: Sept 2nd

Patriot Day: Sept 11th

Constitution Day: Sept 17th

Resources:

Congress.gov

Congress.gov, the official website for U.S. legislative information, got a facelift over the summer, including some new features.

- New to using Congress.gov? The Law blog has a couple of tutorials:
 - Video tutorial: <http://blogs.loc.gov/law/2014/08/an-introduction-to-congress-gov/>
 - Text/image guide to searching nominations, creating an account, and saving searches: <http://blogs.loc.gov/law/2014/06/nominations-accounts-saved-searches-congress-gov-continues-to-grow/>
- If you'd like further guidance, the Library holds free bi-monthly webinars on using Congress.gov. Register here: <http://www.loc.gov/law/opportunities/congress-form.php>
- Also be sure to check out Legislative Explorer, an interactive website that uses Congress.gov resources to visualize Congressional activity going back to 1973: <http://legex.org>

Labor Day

Labor Day, a celebration of the achievements of American workers, was first celebrated in the U.S. on Sept 5, 1882.

- Read about the first Labor Day parade in New York City, which drew a crowd of over 10,000:
 - America's Library (elementary students): http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/gilded/jb_gilded_labor_1.htm

- Today in History (secondary students): <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/sep05>
- For personal narratives of work in the U.S., browse or search the Library's collection of WPA interviews, *American Life Histories*: <http://www.loc.gov/collection/federal-writers-project/about-this-collection/>
- Other collections with significant labor-related content include:
 - Chronicling America (historical newspapers): <http://chroniclingamerica.org>
 - Bain Collection (photos, 1900s-1920s): <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/ggbain/>
 - Detroit Publishing Co (photos, early 20th century): <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/det/>
 - Chicago Daily News (photos, 1902-1933): <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpcoop/ichihtml/cdnhome.html>

Constitution Day

On September 17, 1787, the final draft of the U.S. Constitution was signed by 39 delegates, officially creating the system of government we still use today. The LOC has a number of Constitution resources for teachers.

- This page from Congress.gov contains links to dozens of LOC resources, including documents, lesson plans and activities, webcasts, and a bibliography for further reading: <http://thomas.loc.gov/teachers/constitution.html>
- The Law Library has created a series of links to major legal and legislative pages dealing with Constitution Day: <http://www.loc.gov/law/help/commemorative-observations/constitution-day.php>

The Civil Rights Act of 1964

The LOC has been looking back at the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which turns 50 this year. The Library has a number of resources on civil rights, including:

- A new Idea Book, jointly published with HISTORY, which contains dozens of primary sources and teaching ideas and resources: <http://loc.gov/teachers/newsevents/idea-book/>
- The exhibition *A Day Like No Other* commemorates the March on Washington. The online exhibition includes photos, political cartoons, and other remembrances of the historic day: <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/march-on-washington/>
- Civil Rights Oral History Project, a collection of dozens of digitized interviews with participants in the civil rights movement: <http://www.loc.gov/collection/civil-rights-history-project/about-this-collection/>
- The Library will be opening a new exhibition on the Civil Rights Act of 1964 on September 10: <http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2014/14-084.html>. Look for more resources in the coming weeks!

Jane Addams

September marks not only social reformer Jane Addams' birthday (Sept. 6, 1860), but also the anniversary of her founding of Hull House (Sept. 18, 1889), a settlement house serving the needs of poor and working-class immigrants.

- Read about Jane Addams and Hull House:
 - America's Library (primary students): http://www.americaslibrary.gov/aa/addams/aa_addams_subj.html
 - Today in History (secondary students): <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/sep06.html>
- Learn about Addams' role in the Suffrage movement through the National Woman Suffrage Association collection: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/naw/nawshome.html>

Panama Canal

The Panama Canal (opened August 15, 1914) celebrates a century of connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans this year.

- “Inside Adams,” the LOC science, technology, and business blog, has a full post on LOC resources covering the canal’s history: http://blogs.loc.gov/inside_adams/2014/08/panama-canal-locating-collections-at-the-library-of-congress/
- Chronicling America has a long list of topics related to the canal over the past 100 years: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/news/topics/panama.html?loclr=blogadm>
- September 7 marks the 37th anniversary of the signing of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, establishing Panama’s control of the canal after 1999: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/sep07>

American Cool

The definition of “cool” has naturally changed over the years, despite our attempts to keep up with it. *American Cool* is an exhibit at the National Portrait Gallery with photos and essays about the roots, birth, and legacies of “cool” and counterculture: <http://www.npg.si.edu/exhibit/cool/>