

Civics Resource Guide

After exploring [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), take a look at the following resources:

LOC Collections

Presidential Papers

While 23 US Presidents' papers reside at the LOC, notable digital collections include those of [Abraham Lincoln](#), [Andrew Jackson](#), [George Washington](#), [James Madison](#), [James Monroe](#), [Martin Van Buren](#), [Thomas Jefferson](#), and [William Henry Harrison](#).

Other presidential-related collections include the [Alfred Whital Stern Collection of Lincolniana](#), [Last Days of a President: Films of McKinley and the Pan-American Exposition](#), [Presidential Inaugurations](#), [Theodore Roosevelt: His Life and Times on Film](#), and [Prosperity and Thrift: The Coolidge Era and the Consumer Economy](#).

Illustrations, Recordings, and Photographs

Cartoon collections at the LOC cover many civics-related topics including popular opinions, major events, and editorial opinions. Explore collections like [Cartoon Drawings](#), [Cartoon Drawings: Herblock Collection](#), [Cartoon Drawings: Swann Collection of Caricature and Cartoon](#), and [Cartoon Prints, American](#). Other illustrations can be found in the [American Time Capsule: Three Centuries of Broadides and other Printed Ephemera](#), or in the [Posters: Yanker Poster Collection](#) and [Posters: WPA Posters Collection](#).

Audio recordings from American leaders can be found in [American Leaders Speak: Recordings from World War I](#).

Although there are dozens of photograph collections at the LOC, notable civics-related groups include the late 19th and early 20th Century labor-related [Goldstein Foundation Collection](#) and the political coverage of the [National Photo Company Collection](#).

Civil Rights Movement

[Slaves and the Courts, 1740-1860](#) is a collection chronicling the experiences of African and African-American slaves in the United States. Expanding upon this massive collection is the [Frederick Douglass Papers](#), [African American Perspectives: Pamphlets from the Daniel A. P. Murray Collection, 1818-1907](#), and [From Slavery to Freedom: The African-American Pamphlet Collection 1822-1909](#). Even more (2,300+) personal accounts and photographs are available in [Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1938](#).

Images showing African American life can be found in the military and social history of the [Gladstone Collection of African American Photographs](#) or the [African American Photographs Assembled for 1900 Paris Exposition](#).

Be sure to listen to the [African-American Band Music & Recordings, 1883-1923](#) and [Voices from the Days of Slavery](#), as well as check out [Jackie Robinson and Other Baseball Highlights, 1860s-1960](#).

Finally, dive into the newly digitized [Rosa Parks Papers](#) and the continuing work of the [Civil Rights History Project](#) collected stories (since May 2009).

Women's Suffrage

Whether looking through Red-Cross founder [Clara Barton's Papers](#), or the [photographs from the Records of the National Woman's Party](#), the LOC has you covered for studying Women's Suffrage. Be sure to also examine the : [Selections from the National American Woman Suffrage Association Collection, 1848-1921](#) and the [Miller NAWSA Suffrage Scrapbooks, 1897-1911](#).

Government Documents and Records

No study of civics is complete without government documents. Start with some foundations in the [Documents from the Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention, 1774-1789](#) and the [Evolution of the Conservation Movement](#).

Next, take a look at the historic materials of the [Confederate States of America Records](#), or the modern Executive documents in the [US Federal Register](#). Diplomatic oral history documents can be found in [Frontline Diplomacy](#) and Congressional Records can be found at [Congress.gov](#) and the [US Congressional Web Archive \(2002-Present\)](#).

The Library of Congress has also been archiving [United States Elections](#) and [Public Policy Topics](#) since the late 20th Century.

Finally, take a look back at the 1940s-50s at the Library of Congress in [Freedom's Fortress: the Library of Congress, 1939-1953](#).

Other Notable Collections

[September 11, 2001 Web Archive](#)

Collection Period: September 11, 2001 to December 1, 2001. The September 11, 2001 Web Archive preserving web expressions of individuals, groups, the press and institutions.

[National Child Labor Committee Collection](#)

Lewis Hine (1874-1940) documents on the working and living conditions of children in the United States between 1908 and 1924.

LOC Exhibitions

[The African-American Mosaic: African-American Culture and History](#); An exhibit exploring Colonization, Abolition, Migrations, and the WPA.

[The African American Odyssey: A Quest for Full Citizenship](#); Showcases the Library's incomparable African American collections.

[The American Colony in Jerusalem](#); Offers a glimpse into the remarkable history and work of the American Colony, a Christian utopian society that formed in Jerusalem in 1881.

[American Treasures of the Library of Congress](#); Provides unique insight into various aspects of American history and culture.

[Arthur Szyk: Artist for Freedom](#); Presents the work of one America's leading political artists, in particular his work during World War II, when he produced hundreds of anti-Axis illustrations and cartoons.

[Benjamin Franklin: In His Own Words](#); Benjamin Franklin's public, professional, & scientific accomplishments through documents, letters, books, broadsides, and cartoons.

[Books That Shaped America](#); Marks a starting point—a way to spark a national conversation on books and their importance in Americans' lives, and, indeed, in shaping our nation.

[Bound for Glory: America in Color, 1939–1943](#); Presents color images taken by photographers of the Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information.

[Cartoon America](#); Presents selections from the Art Wood Collection of Cartoon and Caricature, which contains more than 36,000 original cartoon drawings.

[Churchill and the Great Republic](#); Presents the life of Winston Churchill, his career, and his connection with the United States, a country he called "The Great Republic."

[Civil Rights Act of 1964: A Long Struggle for Freedom](#); Commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964.

[The Civil War in America](#); The Library's unmatched Civil War collections featured in this exhibition chronicle the sacrifices and accomplishments of those in both the North and South whose lives were lost or affected by the events of 1861–1865.

[Coast to Coast: The Federal Theatre Project, 1935–1939](#); Explores a unique time in American history when the federal government organized and produced theater events in an effort to provide work for theater professionals during the Great Depression.

[Creating the United States](#); Offers insights into how the nation's founding documents were forged and the role that vision played in the unprecedented creative act of forming a self-governing country.

[The Cultures and History of the Americas: The Jay I. Kislak Collection](#); Features fifty highlights from the more than 3,000 rare books, maps, documents, paintings, prints, and artifacts.

[A Day Like No Other: Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington](#); Explore when 250,000 people participated in the largest nonviolent demonstration for civil rights.

[Declaring Independence: Drafting the Documents](#); Presents previews of unique documents from the collections of the Library of Congress.

[Enduring Outrage: Editorial Cartoons by HERBLOCK](#); Explore themes important to Herblock that continue to resonate in American society.

[First Among Many: The Bay Psalm Book and Early Moments in American Printing](#); Tells the story of American printing as it evolved from a colonial necessity to the clarion of freedom.

[For European Recovery: The Fiftieth Anniversary of the Marshall Plan](#); Explore George Marshall's speech proposing a solution to the hunger, unemployment, and housing shortages that faced Europeans in the aftermath of World War II.

[From the Home Front and the Front Lines](#); Consists of original materials and oral histories drawn from the Veterans History Project collections at the Library of Congress.

[The Gettysburg Address](#); Shows the Library's two copies of the famous address.

[Herblock!](#); Celebrates the gift of the Herb Block Foundation and features a selection of original cartoons spanning the artist's remarkable career.

[Herblock Gallery](#); Celebrates the work of editorial cartoonist Herbert L. Block—better known as "Herblock"—with an ongoing display of ten original drawings.

[Herblock's Gift: Selections from the Herb Block Foundation Collection](#); Celebrates the gift of the Herb Block Foundation and features a selection of original cartoons spanning the artist's remarkable career.

[Herblock's History: Political Cartoons from the Crash to the Millennium](#); Presents works by cartoonist Herb Block, who chronicled the nation's political history and caricatured twelve American presidents.

[Humor's Edge: Cartoons by Ann Telnaes](#); Celebrates Ann Telnaes's drawings that represent the range of editorial cartooning.

["I Do Solemnly Swear..." Inaugural Materials from the Collections of the Library of Congress](#); Offers a glimpse into the history of American presidential inaugurations. From George Washington to John F. Kennedy.

[Jacob Riis: Revealing "How the Other Half Lives"](#); Repositions Jacob Riis as a multi-skilled communicator who devoted his life to writing articles and books and delivering lectures nationwide to spur social reform.

[John Bull & Uncle Sam: Four Centuries of British-American Relations](#); Brings together for the first time treasures from the two greatest libraries in the English-speaking world—The British Library and the LOC.

[Language of the Land: Journeys Into Literary America](#); Offers a tour of four sections of the United States through literary maps that focus on geographical areas, individual authors, and particular works.

[The Last Full Measure: Civil War Photographs from the Liljenquist Family Collection](#); Features 379 Civil War-era ambrotypes and tintypes of enlisted Union and Confederate soldiers.

[Life of the People: Realist Prints & Drawings from the Ben & Beatrice Goldstein Collection](#); Presents a collection of American prints and drawings informed by a sympathy for the condition of working people, as well as a concern for social and political issues.

[Madison's Treasures](#); Examines documents related to two seminal events in which Madison played a major role: the drafting and ratification of the U.S. Constitution and the introduction of the Bill of Rights.

[Magna Carta: Muse and Mentor](#); Features the magnificent 1215 Lincoln Cathedral Magna Carta and explores its emergence as an enduring symbol of law.

[Mapping a New Nation: Abel Buell's Map of the United States, 1784](#); Abel Buell's *New and Correct Map of the United States of North America* is the first map of the newly independent United States compiled, printed, and published in America by an American.

[Maps in Our Lives](#); Explores surveying, cartography, geodesy, and geographic information systems. It draws on the Library's American Congress on Surveying and Mapping Collection.

[The Mexican Revolution and the United States in the Collections of the Library of Congress](#); Tells the dynamic story of the complex relationship between Mexico and the United States during the Mexican Revolution.

[Monstrous Crows & Character Flaws: Masterpieces of Cartoon and Caricature at the Library of Congress](#); Reveals how for centuries great graphic artists have created enduring images that demonstrate the power of art as a vehicle for social and political commentary.

[Out of the Ashes: A New Library for Congress and the Nation](#); Marks the two-hundredth anniversary of the acquisition of Jefferson's 6,487-volume library.

[Pointing Their Pens: Herblock and Fellow Cartoonists Confront the Issues](#); Features editorial cartoons by Herblock paired with the work of his contemporaries.

[Politics and the Dancing Body](#); Explores how American choreographers between World War I through the Cold War realized this vision, using dance to celebrate American culture, to voice social protest, and to raise social consciousness.

[Religion and the Founding of the American Republic](#); Documents the role religion played in the shaping of early American life and in forming the American republic.

[Rivers, Edens, Empires: Lewis & Clark and the Revealing of America](#); Features the Library's rich collections of exploration material documenting the mid-eighteenth to mid-nineteenth century quest to connect the East and the West by means of a waterway passage.

[Temple of Liberty: Building the Capitol for a New Nation](#); Presents the story of building the nation's Capitol and its symbolic, aesthetic, and pragmatic issues.

[Thomas Jefferson](#); Draws on the Library's Thomas Jefferson materials to examine the influence Jefferson's thoughts and interests had on his own life, the American republic, and the world.

[Thomas Jefferson's Library](#); Reveals how books were vital to Thomas Jefferson's education and well-being and how his personal library provided Jefferson with a broad knowledge of the contemporary and ancient worlds.

[Voices of Civil Rights](#); Documents events during the Civil Rights Movement in the United States through personal stories, oral histories, and photographs collected by the "Voices of Civil Rights" project, as well as marking the arrival of these materials to the Library.

[Voices from Afghanistan](#); Highlights letters sent by citizens of Afghanistan to Radio Azadi, the Afghan branch of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

[Voices, Votes, Victory: Presidential Campaign Songs](#); Presents a sampling of the rich collection of campaign songs housed in the Music Division of the Library of Congress.

["With an Even Hand": Brown v. Board at Fifty](#); Commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the landmark judicial case, which declared that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."

[With Malice Toward None: The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Exhibition](#); Commemorates the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of the nation's revered sixteenth president.

[Witness and Response: September 11 Acquisitions at the Library of Congress](#); Features the collections that the Library amassed during the year following the attacks of September 11, 2001.

[Women Come to the Front: Journalists, Photographers, and Broadcasters During WWII](#); Features women journalists who were chosen because of the strength and variety of their collections in the Library.

[World War I: American Artists View the Great War](#); Presents the work of American Artists who galvanized public interest in World War I from its onset through its aftermath (1914–1918).

Teacher Resources

Don't forget many of the collections listed above have "[Collection Connections](#)." But that's not all the LOC has for teachers! First take a look at the "[themed resources](#):"

[Abraham Lincoln](#)
[Civics and Government](#)
[Civil Rights](#)
[Elections](#)
[Labor](#)
[Immigration](#)
[Native Americans](#)
[Political Cartoons](#)
[Women's History](#)

Primary source sets:

[Abraham Lincoln: Rise to National Prominence](#)
[Assimilation through Education](#) (Native American History)
[Baseball: Across a Divided Society](#)
[The Civil War: The Nation Moves Towards War, 1850-61](#)
[The Constitution](#)
[Immigration: Challenges for New Americans](#)
[Jamestown](#)
[Japanese American Internment](#)
[Jim Crow and Segregation](#)
[The NAACP: A Century in the Fight for Freedom](#)
[The New Deal](#)
[Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln: Three Great Presidents](#)
[Women's Suffrage](#)

Presentations and Activities

[From Slavery to Civil Rights](#)
[Elections](#)
[Immigration](#)
[Inaugurations: Stepping into History](#)
[Interviews With Today's Immigrants](#)
[Pages from Her Story](#)
[Rosa Parks: A Primary Source Gallery](#)
[Who's That Lady?](#)
[Women's Words of Wisdom](#)
[Women Pioneers](#)
[Creating the United States: Word Search](#)
[The Declaration of Independence: Rewriting the Rough Draft](#)
[Thomas Jefferson's Library: Word Search](#)