



World History Matters <http://worldhistorymatters.org>

World History Matters is a growing online resource created to help world history teachers and students locate, analyze, and learn from online primary sources and further their understanding of the complex nature of world history, especially issues of cultural contact and globalization.

World History Sources includes the following four sections:

Finding World History is a guide to the best online primary source archives in world history. Reviews written by historians describe materials available and the strengths and weaknesses of each site, as well as specific suggestions for classroom use.

Unpacking Evidence offers eight guides to analyzing evidence as part of world history. Categories emphasize non-textual sources and promote the use of evidence to deal with cultural contact and globalization. Each guide begins with an introductory essay, then focuses on “critical reading strategies”—a list of questions to ask when working with a particular type of evidence. Interactive quizzes and multimedia features focus attention on key analytical points. Six guides are now available and feature Joni Seager (maps), David Trask (official documents), Jerry Bentley (travel narratives), Beverly Mack (personal narratives), Irene Bierman (images), and Daniel Waugh (objects).

Analyzing Documents is devoted to making the work of historians experienced in world history sources more visible. This section offers eight multimedia models of scholars analyzing various historical documents including the Codex Mendoza (Dana Leibsohn), the Hagia Sophia (Lawrence Butler), personal narratives by seventeenth-century German midwives (Merry Weisner Hanks), French newspapers (Jack Censer), Gerald Danzer (world maps), travel narratives (Thomas Ewing), and nineteenth-century Ottoman official documents (Dina Khoury). In each model, scholars illustrate the strategies they use, the questions they ask, and the additional sources they consult when trying to make sense of evidence.

Teaching Sources provides case studies where experienced classroom teachers offer a look “behind the scenes” into the planning and implementation involved in teaching a particular source in world history. Authors discuss how they teach with a particular document and provide exemplary models of teaching with primary sources.

Women in World History (coming spring 2005) is designed to help high school and college world history teachers and their students locate, analyze, and teach with primary sources dealing with the history of women around the world. The materials in this project will encourage teachers to integrate the latest scholarship in the history of women and world history into their courses and will give students a more sophisticated framework for understanding global women’s history.

