



What is Historical Thinking Matters?

Historical thinking matters. Not only does it matter, it needs to be learned.

The initial release of Historical Thinking Matters (coming Spring 2007) provides high school students with a framework that teaches them to read documents like historians.

Using these "habits of mind," they will be able to interrogate historical sources and use them to form reasoned conclusions about the past. Equally important, they will become critical users of the vast historical archives that have recently been freely made available on the web. Historical Thinking Matters equips students to navigate the uncharted waters of the World Wide Web.

How is the site organized?

WHY HISTORICAL THINKING MATTERS introduces the site's approach by exploring conflicting first-hand accounts of the 1775 Lexington Green skirmish.

STUDENT INVESTIGATIONS focuses on five central topics from the post-Civil War U.S. history curriculum. Each investigation includes:

- An introductory movie framing a question of historical debate;
- Ten historical sources;
- Guided questions that foster historical thinking skills such as sourcing, contextualization, close reading, and corroboration;
- Text annotations and audio and video clips that provide additional commentary;
- An assignment that asks students to respond to the investigative question by drawing on their previous engagement with the sources;
- Directed explorations of web-based archives.

Student Investigations

- The Spanish American War and American Imperialism
- The Scopes Trial and American Culture in the 1920s
- Social Security and the New Deal
- Women and the 1950s
- Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott

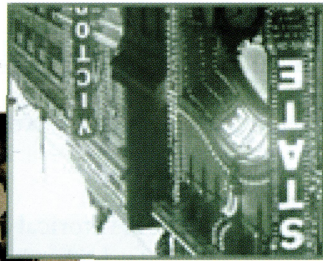
TEACHER MATERIALS offers instructors, pre-service teachers and teacher-educators classroom materials and strategies, examples of student and teacher work, and supplementary resources.

<http://historicalthinkingmatters.org>



historical thinking matters

<http://historicalthinkingmatters.org>



For more information, contact:

Center for History and New Media
Department of History and Art History
George Mason University
4400 University Drive, MSN 1E7
Fairfax, VA 22030-4444
(703) 993-9277
<http://chnm.gmu.edu>
chnm@gmu.edu

Sam Wineburg
School of Education
485 Lasuen Mall
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305-3096
(650) 725-4411
wineburg@stanford.edu

Who is the Historical Thinking Matters team?

This project brings together a group of distinguished scholars, educators, and new media professionals from the Stanford University School of Education and the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University. Combining unique credentials in education, history, cognitive psychology, and technology, we are developing resources that will transform the way that history is taught and learned.

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has provided funding for this project. Additional support has come from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.