

TEACHING WITH PRIMARY SOURCES—MTSU

NEWSLETTER: APRIL 2020

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 4

WELCOME!

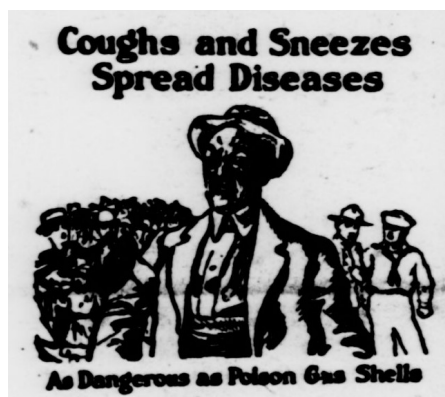
Teaching with Primary Sources—Middle Tennessee State University, administered by the Center for Historic Preservation, engages learners of all ages in using primary sources to explore major issues and questions in many different disciplines.

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NEWS

- TPS-MTSU and TN History Day are exploring options for conducting the April 25th workshop for students competing at National History Day virtually. Details on this will be forthcoming and shared by TN History Day.
- Check out our newest lesson plan "[American Citizenship 1865 to 1965](#)." This lesson plan compares the struggles and triumphs of women, African Americans, and American Indians challenging students to think about how the nature of citizenship changed in the country. This lesson plan can be used as a review to draw larger connections throughout U.S. history.

"AWESOME" SOURCE OF THE MONTH:



[Nassau County leader. \[Fernandina, FL\] \[volume\], October 18, 1918, Image 1](#)

Peruse selected newspaper articles about the 1918 Spanish Flu epidemic from *Chronicle America* with this special [research guide](#).

THEME: ONLINE RESOURCES FROM THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

We had a different theme in mind for this issue of the newsletter at first. Then we decided to shelve that topic for a more appropriate time so we can be a bit more responsive and useful to what's going on in teachers' and students' lives right now. Hence, an issue devoted to highlighting some of the best online resources from the Library of Congress Web site.

Kira, Layla, and Stacey are still at work (well, figuratively; not in the office) bringing you materials for using digital primary sources and delving into meaningful content. So please feel free to email us with any questions or concerns you have in regards to resources and strategies. These are strange times but we'll meet you again on the other side!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **April 25 (Murfreesboro)** - "History Day Workshop: Preparing for Nationals" Open to students and teachers who are advancing to National History Day.
- **May 7-9 (Mars Hill, NC)** - "Slavery in Appalachia" TPS Civil Rights Fellowship with TPS-Mars Hill and TPS-Univ. of South Carolina.
- **June 4 (Harrogate)** - Discover Tennessee History Conference at Lincoln Memorial University from 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. ET. Registration will open [here](#) later this month. — ****POSTPONED****
- **June 18 (Knoxville)** - "Industrial Revolution" workshop at the East Tennessee History Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET. To register, email [Lisa Oakley](mailto:Lisa.Oakley@tnhistorycenter.org).
- **June 23-25 (Nashville)** - "Battle for the Ballot: A Summer Teacher Institute." In partnership with TN State Museum and TSLA. Applications are closed.

FEATURED FEATURE— HIDDEN TREASURES VIDEOS

You may have seen one of these 27 [Hidden Treasures](#) videos in one of our workshops or lesson plans before, since we tend to use them whenever we can. Produced in partnership with the History Channel, these short videos follow a video host as he meets with different librarians at the Library of Congress and learns about some of the coolest books in the Library's collections. Short, quick-paced, and polished, these are perfect for sharing via email or even social media.



[The Book That Saved a Life](#)

Each video focuses on one particular book/document (or object/set of objects) that's significant to U.S. and/or world history, such as the [Gettysburg Address](#), [Columbus's Book of Privileges](#), or [Thomas Jefferson's copy of The Federalist](#). The camera gives you some great close-ups of these amazing artifacts while the host asks basic questions and the librarian answers them in a way that's accessible to all ages, and basically everyone interested in books, libraries, history, and a good story.

The only thing that makes this collection a little difficult to use is that all the videos show up in a list with their titles only, making it unclear what they're actually about. For example, can you tell from the title "A Spiteful Souvenir" that [this video](#) is about the only book that survived the burning of Washington, D.C., by the British in 1814? Probably not. However, the contents are usually summarized in the "Notes" section of each bibliographic page, so you just need to click on the title and scroll down to see what it's about if you don't have time to watch it. I also made this handy [Episode Guide](#) for quick and easy reference.

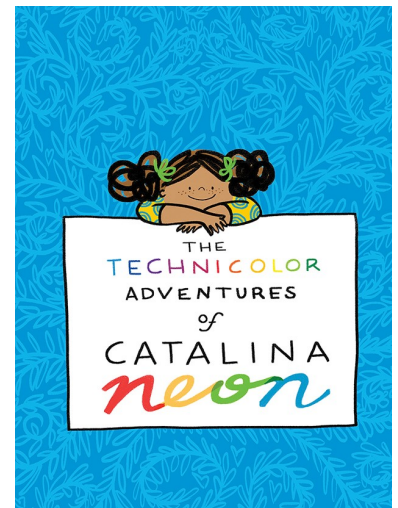
IMPORTANT LINKS:

- [Parents! Smart Fun for Kids](#) (blog)
- [Story Corps—To Lift Your Spirit](#)
- [Museum Center at Five Points: Virtual Museum](#)
- [Download Tennessee State Parks Screensavers](#)
- [National Archives—Connecting from home](#)
- [Dav Pilkey Collaborating with the Library of Congress to Serve Families at Home](#)
- [Best of the National Book Festival—video highlights every day](#)
- [Tennessee "Aquarium at Home"](#)

LESSON IDEA— *THE TECHNICOLOR ADVENTURES OF CATALINA NEON*

[Read.gov](#) is the Library of Congress' site for readers of all ages, and therefore an excellent resource for English Language Arts teachers and K-12 librarians as well. Separated into sections for Kids, Teens, Adults, and Educators & Parents, the site provides illustrated books online, book lists, and other resources compiled by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

[The Technicolor Adventures of Catalina Neon](#) started out as a bilingual (English/Spanish) poem written by Juan Felipe Herrera (21st U.S. Poet Laureate) and illustrated by Juana Medina. At the end of the first chapter, Herrera included a question prompt and let teachers, librarians, and students at the 2nd and 3rd grade levels decide what comes next. Many different teams contributed to Chapters 2-5 to create a vibrant, imaginative, unique story that you can read (& turn pages!) or listen to [here](#).



This project reminds me of one of the first projects I saw on Read.gov about ten years ago, [The Exquisite Corpse Adventure](#), which was a story with each chapter written by a different author. (We did a Featured Feature about it in the [April 2010 newsletter](#), in fact.) "Exquisite Corpse" is actually the name of an old parlor game—the story doesn't have to be gory or exquisite at all! No matter what the subject matter, the tone shift from chapter to chapter makes for fun and unpredictable reading. This can also serve as a model for a classroom storytelling project, in which each student builds on the work of a classmate.

FEATURED FEATURE— SCIENCE: EVERYDAY MYSTERIES

[Science: Everyday Mysteries](#) addresses questions and encourages learners to create new questions through deep investigation and further research and reading. Everyday Mysteries allows users to search by looking through featured questions or browsing by category. Each mystery is answered in an article response with images, documents, and other interesting primary sources. At the end of each article, Everyday Mysteries lists interesting facts, related Web sites, and options for further readings.

A few fun articles to get readers started on Science: Everyday Mysteries can be found below:

- The question [“Who invented frozen food?”](#) is asked and answered in the [Technology](#) category.
- The question [“Why do we yawn?”](#) is asked and answered in the [Biology and Human Anatomy](#) category.
- The question [“How did the squash get its name?”](#) is asked and answered in the [Agriculture](#) category.
- The question [“Can a groundhog’s shadow really predict if there will be six more weeks of winter?”](#) is asked and answered in the [Meteorology, Climatology](#) category.
- The question [“Why is Pluto no longer a planet?”](#) is asked and answered in the [Astronomy](#) category.



[Preparation for point rationing. While mother keeps handy her war ration book two, daughter examines the frozen foods which require removal of point stamp](#) [1943]



[Frozen Food Lockers, 1706 Broadway, San Antonio, Texas](#) [1982]

FEATURED FEATURE— TODAY IN HISTORY

[Today in History](#) highlights at least one event for every day of the year. The collection includes events in entertainment history, military history, literary history, and many other topics. Each date has an event and a brief article of explanation, including primary sources and a list of links for further reading. Some days will have more than one article to read.

The articles and additional sources and readings available are great resources to get students’ brains working before, during, or at the conclusion of a lesson. For example, here is the beginning paragraph of the article for April 2nd:

“On [April 2, 1865](#), Ulysses S. Grant’s army attacked Confederate lines at Petersburg, Virginia. By mid-afternoon, Confederate troops had begun to evacuate the town. The Union victory ensured the fall of Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy, located just twenty-five miles north of Petersburg.”



[Richmond, Va. Ruins of Richmond & Danville Railroad bridge](#) [1865]



[Richmond, Va. Street in the burned district](#) [1865]

Using [Civil War glass negatives](#) and [Civil War map](#) collections available through the Library of Congress alongside the entry for April 2nd, students can create their own visual representations of the Civil War, while reading about and discussing battles, people, causes and consequences, and other important events.

The Library of Congress collections of [maps](#) and [photos](#) can be coupled with any Today in History feature to provide students with context while making lessons more interactive and cross-curricular. Students can also look up what historic events happened on their birthdays (by using the “Part Of” search filter in the left-hand column).

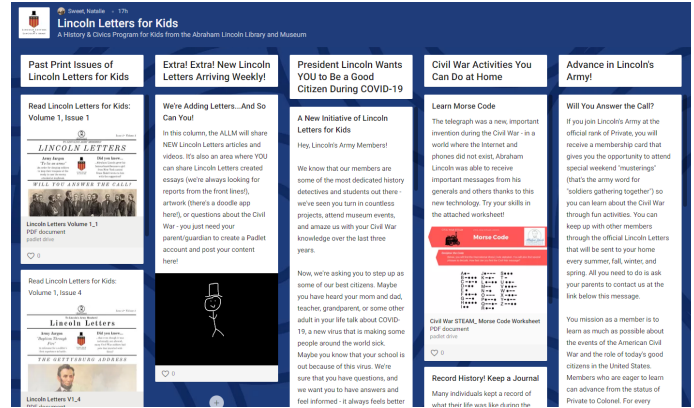
Online Resources from Education Partners in Tennessee

EAST TENNESSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The East Tennessee Historical Society has created a [Padlet page](#) with tons of fun online resources to keep your K-12-age children learning about the world even if they're stuck at home. And you can always find plenty of materials for teachers at their site, [Teach Tennessee History](#). [Follow them](#) on Facebook.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN LIBRARY & MUSEUM



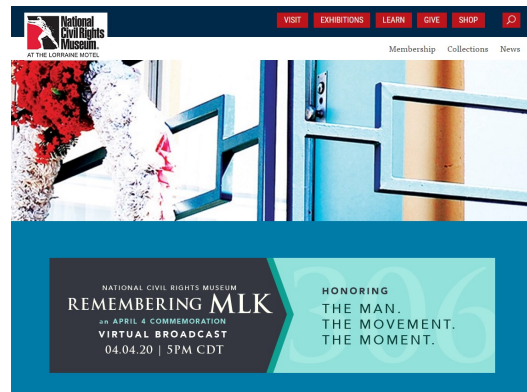
The [Abraham Lincoln Library & Museum](#) at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, TN, is closed at the time—not for the Coronavirus but rather for an expansion of their space and programs to offer even more resources for teachers, students, researchers, and the public. In the meantime, they have created a [Padlet page](#) for students and teachers. You can also [follow them](#) on Facebook.

TENNESSEE VIRTUAL ARCHIVE



The [Tennessee Virtual Archive](#), called TeVA for short, is an enormous database of online primary sources made available by the Tennessee State Library and Archives. Many educators already know that TeVA has been around for years and therefore is not a specific response to the Coronavirus-induced switch to homeschooling. Like the Library of Congress Web site, it can be overwhelming due to the large number of collections, but it's set up to be easy and fun to browse. This means you can let your kids loose on the site and they can assuredly discover something that piques their interest.

REMEMBERING MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



The National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, will move its [MLK memorial event](#) to virtual platforms this Saturday, April 4, starting at 5 p.m. Saturday marks the 52nd anniversary of the assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Says NCRM president, Terri Lee Freeman, “We are seeing just how fragile the financial safety net is for far too many people. Celebrating King’s acceptance of humanity, but disdain of inequity and injustice, is very important in 2020.”