

Incorporating Vermont PBS Into Your Classroom

Program: *History Detectives*

Grade(s): 6-12

Ways to watch: [Series website](#), Vermont PBS broadcast stations, streaming services

About: *History Detectives* asks historians to investigate queries submitted by viewers regarding specific historic objects and artifacts. Investigations vary from Civil War memorabilia to the Ronald McDonald costume used to promote Happy Meals. These vignettes incorporate multiple content areas as students have an opportunity to learn about social studies concepts in a way not usually represented in a history book. Most hour-long episodes are divided into three investigations that are approximately 15-20 minutes long. The website also provides educator resources such as lesson plans, bundled “Activity Packs,” and research techniques.

Primary Connection to the [College, Career and Civic Life C3 Framework for Social Studies State Standards](#)

<i>C3 Dimension and Subsection</i>	<i>Indicator</i>
Dimension 1 - Inquiry Constructing Compelling Questions Determining Helpful Sources	D1.1.9-12. Explain how a question reflects an enduring issue in the field. D1.2.9-12. Explain points of agreement and disagreement experts have about interpretations and applications of disciplinary concepts and ideas associated with a compelling question. D1.5.9-12. Determine the kinds of sources that will be helpful in answering compelling and supporting questions, taking into consideration multiple points of view represented in the sources, the types of sources available, and the potential uses of the sources.
Dimension 2 - History Change, Continuity, and Context Perspectives	D2. His.1.9-12. Evaluate how historical events and developments were shaped by unique circumstances of time and place as well as broader historical contexts. D2. His.4.9-12. Analyze complex and interacting factors that influenced the perspectives of people during different historical eras. D2. His.7.9-12. Explain how the perspectives of people in the present shape interpretations of the past.

<i>C3 Dimension and Subsection</i>	<i>Indicator</i>
Historical Sources and Evidence	D2. His.12.9-12. Use questions generated about multiple historical sources to pursue further inquiry and investigate additional sources.
	D2. His.16.9-12. Integrate evidence from multiple relevant historical sources and interpretations into a reasoned argument about the past.
Causation and Argumentation	D2. His.16.9-12. Integrate evidence from multiple relevant historical sources and interpretations into a reasoned argument about the past.
Dimension 3 - Evaluating Sources and Using Evidence	
Gathering Evidence and Evaluating Sources	D3.1.9-12. Gather relevant information from multiple sources representing a wide range of views while using the origin, authority, structure, context, and corroborative value of the sources to guide the selection D3.2.9-12. Evaluate the credibility of a source by examining how experts value the source.
Developing Claims and Using Evidence	D3.3.9-12. Identify evidence that draws information directly and substantively from multiple sources to detect inconsistencies in evidence in order to revise or strengthen claims.

Connections between the [College, Career and Civic Life C3 Framework for Social Studies State Standards](#) and the [Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy](#):

<i>C3 Dimension and Subsection</i>	<i>Common Core State Standards for ELA Anchor Standards</i>	<i>Shared Language</i>
Dimension 1 - Inquiry	Reading Standard 1; Writing Standard 7; Speaking and Listening Standard 1	Questioning; Argument; Explanation; Point of View
Dimension 2 - History	Reading Standards 1–10; Writing Standard 7; Speaking and Listening Standard 1; Language Standard 6	Analysis; Argument; Evidence; Questioning
Dimension 3 - Evaluating Sources and Using Evidence	Reading Standards 1–10; Writing Standards 1, 2, 7–10	Argument; Sources; Evidence; Claims, Counterclaims; Gather

Resources: Use the following carefully curated resources to support teaching social studies and more with *History Detectives*.

- [PBS Learning Media collection](#)
- [Series website](#)
- [Investigation Rubric](#)

- [Detective Techniques](#)
- [COVID Related](#)
- [AOE Continuity of Learning](#)
- [History Detectives – Programming and Resources](#)

Other PBS programs with connections to Social Studies and ELA:

1. American Masters
 - a. [PBS Learning Media collection](#)
 - b. [Series website](#)
2. American Experience
 - a. [PBS Learning Media Collection](#)
 - b. [Series website](#)
3. Latino Americans
 - a. [PBS Learning Media Collection](#)
 - b. [Series website](#)
4. The Great American Read
 - a. [PBS Learning Media collection](#)
 - b. [Series website](#)
5. Masterpiece Collection
 - a. [PBS Learning Media collection](#)
 - b. [Series website](#)