

# NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies

February 2015

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## NJ Council for the Social Studies

**HOLD THE DATES: October 20-21, 2015.** The annual fall conference of the NJCSS, "*Invigorating Your Social Studies Classroom*," has been extended to two days-- Tuesday, October 20, 2015 for grades K-8 and Wednesday, October 21, 2015 for grades 6-12.

A **Call for Workshop Proposals** is available online at [www.njcss.org](http://www.njcss.org). Send us your proposal for a workshop at the fall conference about a great program or idea that you've incorporated into your classroom. Proposals are due by **June 1, 2015**.

## NJSSSA

The New Jersey Social Studies Supervisors Association met on January 30th and had several presentations about developing effective assessments and a workshop on assessment development. NJSSSA sent testimony to the New Jersey State Board of Education regarding the impact of testing on social studies education in New Jersey. Joint membership for 2014-2015 is still open. Go to <http://www.njcss.org/> for a membership form.

## Middle States Council

MSCSS annual spring conference will be held on **Feb. 20-21, 2015** at the Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center, Gettysburg, PA. For additional information and to register go to [www.midstatescouncil.org/?page\\_id=8](http://www.midstatescouncil.org/?page_id=8).

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## Social Studies Issues

There is a push nationally by the Joe Foss Institute to have states require students to take the civics exam given to immigrants who want to become U.S. Citizens. Arizona has passed such a law and several other states are discussing it. This is a multiple choice exam which includes simple factual questions such as "What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution"? Go to <http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/100q.pdf> to see the exam questions.

In December 2014, NJ Assemblyman Troy Singleton (D-Burlington) introduced A-4061 which would allow school districts to require seniors to pass the civics test taken by applicants for U.S. citizenship. His article promoting the bill quips that "High school students who snoozed through civics class may want to start cracking the books..." NJCSS executive director has already spoken with Mr. Singleton to explain that our students aren't sleeping in civics classes; most of them aren't required to take any civics classes!

Although civics was part of every child's upper elementary, middle and high school education 50 years ago, now, less than 39 percent of New Jersey school districts require all of their students to take a civics course in any grade. Most New Jersey students (except for those who take an

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elective American government course, which is usually 10-20% of a high school's student body) are exposed to one to four weeks of civic content knowledge with little emphasis on the role of the citizen as part of their required U.S. history course (See "The Inventory of Civic Education in New Jersey, 2004," the only study ever conducted in New Jersey on the subject of civic education, at <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/files/advocacy/FullReport.pdf>). Unlike more than 30 other states, New Jersey does not require all students to take even a semester of civics at any time in their K-12 education.

A meeting with Mr. Singleton and other legislators is scheduled to discuss better ways to ensure that our young people have the skills, knowledge and dispositions to be informed, engaged citizens. Send me your thoughts ([agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu))!

The U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) is marking up a draft bill to reauthorize the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA...aka NCLB) until Valentine's Day. There is NOTHING in the bill for social studies!

Write to Senator Menendez at <http://www.menendez.senate.gov/contact/> and Senator Booker at <http://www.booker.senate.gov/?p=contact>, as well as Senate Committee Chair Lamar Alexander (R-TN) at <http://www.alexander.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Email> and Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA) at <http://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Contact> to urge the Committee to adopt a provision establishing a competitive grant program that will support innovative, research-based approaches to civic learning, history, geography and economics, which may include hands-on civic engagement activities, to the Programs of National Significance in the bill reauthorizing the Elementary & Secondary Education Act. Don't wait!

## Student Events



East Brunswick High School wins the 2014-2015  
*We the People* Competition

Although national surveys indicate that our young people don't know anything about the history and functioning of our democracy, 250 New Jersey high school students proved them wrong! On Wednesday, January 21, 2015, students from eight schools across New Jersey participating in the 28<sup>th</sup> annual New Jersey State ***We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution*** State High School Competition at Rutgers University in Piscataway showed that they know, understand and can explain quite a bit about our democratic system of limited government.

Set up in the format of simulated legislative hearings, the students made oral presentations and responded to questions about the principles, history and continuing importance of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights from panels of attorneys, judges, political scientists, and social studies educators, including former New Jersey State Supreme Court Chief Justice Deborah Portiz, who gave the students high praise.

Vying for the opportunity to represent New Jersey at the National *We the People* competition in Washington, D.C., were teams of students from Bayonne High School, East Brunswick High School, Hopewell Valley Central Regional High School, J.P. Stevens High School in Edison, Marlboro High School, Montclair High School, Steinert High School in Hamilton and West Windsor-Plainsboro High School.

Amid stiff competition, East Brunswick High School placed first, West Windsor-Plainsboro second and Montclair High School third.

***We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution*** is the most extensive civic education program in the country. It is the remaining legacy of the 1987 Bicentennial of the Constitution. The program is coordinated in New Jersey by the New Jersey Center for Civic Education at Rutgers, The State University, in Piscataway. For additional information go to <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/wethepeople.html> or contact Arlene Gardner at [agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:agardner@njclre.rutgers.edu) or at (848) 445-3413.

***TCNJ is offering an Interdisciplinary week-long series of events*** revolving around the 10th anniversary of ***Hurricane Katrina***, with culminating event is on Saturday, **March 7**, for high school students. Information and registration is at <http://artscomm.tcnj.edu/resources/the-katrina-ballads>.

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**The World of 7 Billion Student Video Contest** can help bring technology and creativity into your high school social studies classes. The contest challenges students to create a short (60 seconds or less) video illustrating the connection between world population growth and one of three global challenges: available farmland, global education, or the sixth extinction. Students can win up to \$1,000 and their teachers will receive free curriculum resources. Deadline: **Feb. 19, 2015**. Go to [www.worldof7billion.org/student-video-contest](http://www.worldof7billion.org/student-video-contest) for guidelines and resources.



**Project Citizen** is a project based civic education program for students in grades 3-12. It emphasizes responsible participation in local and state government. Students work cooperatively in small groups to identify a problem in their community that requires a public policy solution; gather and evaluate information on the problem; examine and evaluate alternative solutions; develop a proposed public policy to address the problem; develop an action plan to get their policy adopted; organize the materials into a portfolio to present to the appropriate governmental agency and to share at the annual State *Project Citizen* Showcase, and reflect on the learning experience.

Projects have ranged from child abuse, bullying, binge drinking, obesity to recycling, energy conservation, voting, state standards, the cost of high education and fracking. Michael Savino, a teacher from Ridgefield Park who has involved his students in doing projects every year for the past decade, stresses that "tools like *Project Citizen* are the kinds of tools students need to develop the hands-on application of civic knowledge and skills gained in the classroom. Students sift through issues, consider how they are being handled, and through research, contacting decision-makers and critical thinking, determine the changes that need to be made and then attempt to effect those changes. My students thank me for this opportunity. It becomes the highlight of their year."

The New Jersey Center for Civic Education hosts an annual *Project Citizen* Digital Showcase where the portfolios that document the students' projects are reviewed and the winning middle school portfolio is sent to the National **Project Citizen** Showcase. The digital portfolios are uploaded to a website (<http://civiced.rutgers.edu/projectcitizen.html>) where they can be shared with other classes. Digital portfolios must be submitted by **May 22, 2015**. If you want your students to

learn how to be change agents (and learn about government and improve the community in the process!), have them do a project. You don't have to send your project to the State Showcase, but that only adds to its value. If you would like to send a digital project, register your class by **the end of February** by emailing [civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu](mailto:civiced@njclre.rutgers.edu). This deadline is to ensure that classes have enough time to complete their projects. Most teachers take one day a week for six to twelve weeks.



**Leadership and Legacy in History** is this year's theme for National History Day. New Jersey History Day is looking for Volunteer Judges for the 2015 student competitions:

- Sunday, **March 1** at Rutgers University
- Saturday, **March 7** at Kean University
- Saturday, **March 28** at Princeton University
- Saturday, **May 2** State Competition at William Paterson University

For more information, contact Nicolette Solomita at [njhistoryday@wpunj.edu](mailto:njhistoryday@wpunj.edu).

**The Virtual Supreme Court competition** offers teams of high school students the opportunity to research cutting-edge constitutional law, write persuasive appellate briefs, argue against other students through video chats, and try to persuade a panel of attorneys during oral argument that their side is correct. The winning team will receive a free trip to Washington, D.C. to attend the ConSource Constitution Day celebration in September 2015. Teachers interested in having their students participate should sign up at [www.HarlanInstitute.org](http://www.HarlanInstitute.org). The deadline for submissions has been extended to **March 27th**.

**The National Economics Challenge** lets high school students test their economic knowledge at state and national levels. Teachers can view rules and register at <https://ecochallenge.unl.edu>. The online competition begins **March 10-April 2** and the state champions are announced April 7th. National semi-finals are April 14th and the four top teams in each division compete for the national title in New York City May 16-18.

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**Speak Truth to Power Video Contest** gives middle and high school students the opportunity to embrace the responsibility of making the world a better place through learning about social justice. The contest is a collaboration with the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, the American Federation of Teachers and the Tribeca Film Institute. Judges will look for 3-5 minute videos that demonstrate independence, content knowledge and creative storytelling. The winning film will be premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival. For details, resources and a look at past winners, visit: [www.speaktruthvideo.com](http://www.speaktruthvideo.com)



**Rho Kappa**, the National Social Studies Honor Society for high school students, provides nation recognition and opportunities for exploration in the social studies. Sponsored by the National Council for the Social Studies, Rho Kappa is the only national organization that recognizes high school juniors and seniors for excellence in the field of social studies and participation in community service. Consider starting a local chapter at your high school Visit <http://rhokappa.socialstudies.org>.



**The Office of Legislative Services State House Tour.** Trained staff and volunteers provide tours and programs that match school curriculum and bring the lessons of the classroom to life in our State's capitol. For additional information go to [http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/legislativepub/visiting\\_teacher\\_guide.asp](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/legislativepub/visiting_teacher_guide.asp). To schedule a visit or ask a question, call the Tour Office at 609-847-3150

Eagleton's Youth Political Participation Program "State House Express" program provides awards of up to \$350 to help eligible middle and high school classes to pay for bus rental costs to take classes on field trips to the State House in Trenton. For application details and teacher resources visit [yppp.rutgers.edu](http://yppp.rutgers.edu).

## Awards and Prizes

**Law-Related Education Teacher of the Year Awards** are sponsored by the American Lawyers Alliance. One middle school and two high school teachers will be chosen. Teachers using materials such as the *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution*, Mock Trial and other law-related programs and materials have won this award in the past. Each winner will be presented a \$1500 cash award and expenses at the annual meeting of the American Lawyers Alliance. Deadline: **March 15, 2015**. Go to <http://www.americanlawyersalliance.org> or contact [kitty.oreilly@verizon.net](mailto:kitty.oreilly@verizon.net) or [annesanto@aol.com](mailto:annesanto@aol.com).

## Professional Development

**Master Teacher Institute on Holocaust Education** for middle and high school teachers at Rutgers University in New Brunswick: Six spring sessions Wednesdays, **Feb. 18-May 27**, 4:30-7:30 p.m. and Summer program **June 29-July 2**. For details and an application go to [BildnerCenter.rutgers.edu](http://BildnerCenter.rutgers.edu) or call [jmarcou@rutgers.edu](mailto:jmarcou@rutgers.edu) or 848-932-4165.

The **Rutgers Institute for High School Teachers** provides teachers with an opportunity to work with noted scholars for in-depth study and analysis of topics central to their teaching. All workshops run 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Seminars include: African and Global History Feb. 27; Maritime History Mar. 13; Edison and the History of Technology and Industry Mar. 27; Teaching about War in American History Apr. 23; and U.S. Occupation of Postwar Japan May 1. Go to <http://rcha.rutgers.edu/institute-for-high-school-teachers/seminars/2014-2015-seminar-schedule> for full course descriptions and registration information.

**Princeton East Asia Seminar** for K-12 teachers offers free seminars at Princeton University once a month on Saturdays, November 2014-May 2015 and a study tour of China and Japan or South Korea. For information contact Richard Chafey at [chafey@princeton.edu](mailto:chafey@princeton.edu) or Lesley Solomon at [lesley86@hotmail.com](mailto:lesley86@hotmail.com).

**Webinars introducing the use of primary sources** across the curriculum will be held on Tuesdays, **Feb. 10 through March 3**, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Offered by Waynesburg University as part of the Library of Congress

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Teaching with Primary Sources program, the webinar will equip educators with methods and tools to address the need to focus on depth of knowledge, critical thinking and student literacy and earn 15 continuing education credits. To register go to <https://forms.waynesburg.edu/machform/view.php?id=371467>



**Teaching with Primary Sources: Evidence-Based Learning** is a statewide project of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education and the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies to provide teachers with an ability to use primary sources to help students develop critical thinking and evidence-based decision-making skills. If you prefer to meet in person, the next workshop will be held on **April 2, 2015** at Rutgers University in Piscataway. [Click](#) for additional information and the registration form. Deadline **March 12, 2015**. An advanced program will be offered on **June 30, 2015**.

The NJ Department of Education is sponsoring a series of webinars on **Using Primary Sources** by the National Archives:

[Feb. 11](#), 3-4 pm focus on civil rights  
[March 11](#), 3-4 pm focus on women's history  
[April 8](#), 3-4 pm for K-12 educators  
[May 13](#), 3:30-4:30pm for elementary educators

**High School Educator Workshop at Rider University:** A presentation of Gentile rescuers during the Holocaust discussing the context, the dangers involved, the numbers of rescuers, and their motivations with examples. **March 16, 2015**, 4-6 p.m. To register, go to: <http://education.state.nj.us/events/>

**The Global Economy & New Jersey Workers**, a two-day workshop and tour for teachers, will be sponsored by the American Labor Museum. Methods of integrating labor and immigrant studies into the curriculum during a full-day workshop at the Botto House on **March 18, 2015**. Period-costumed guides will lead a half-day tour of Paterson's labor and immigrant heritage sites on **May 13, 2015**. For the two-day program, teachers will receive 8 professional development hours and teaching materials for grades 4-12 will be distributed. Registration fee: \$65 for museum members, \$75 for non-members. For registration form,

email [labormuseum@aol.com](mailto:labormuseum@aol.com) or call (973) 595-7953.

**“Toward Justice: How Teachers Can Shape a More Equitable America”** is a collaborative endeavor of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Education Project, The College of Education and Human Services, and the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, and Facing History and Ourselves, offered at Montclair State University on March 27, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.<sup>th</sup>. The program is free but advanced registration is required at: <http://education.state.nj.us/events/>

The **NJ Council for the Humanities** is offering two spring workshops: “Social Justice in Young Adult Literature” at Montclair State University on Saturdays, **April 11 and 18** and “Teaching Ferguson and Beyond” at Kean University on Friday, **April 24<sup>th</sup>**.

**“The Many Faces of Genocide,”** a workshop for teachers, will be held at Mercer County College on **April 14**. Go to <http://www.nj.gov/education/holocaust/programs/041415Faces.pdf>

On the **70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz** bring your students to meet local Holocaust Survivors at Brookdale Community College on **May 12**, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. For more information go to <http://www.nj.gov/education/holocaust/programs/051315Tomorrow.pdf>.

**Echoes and Reflections** free training programs in Cherry Hill on **March 24, 2015**, 3:30-6:30 and **June 30**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.--register with Helen Kirschbaum at [hkirschbaum@jfedsnj.org](mailto:hkirschbaum@jfedsnj.org) or 856-751-9500 x1249; and at Updike Farmstead in Princeton on **April 16**—register with Eve Mandel at [eve@princetonhistory.org](mailto:eve@princetonhistory.org) or 609-921-6748, x102.

## Summer Institutes

**NEH Summer Institute for Teachers: Voices Across Time: Teaching American History Through Song** will be held **June 29-July 31, 2015** at the University of Pittsburgh. This five-week summer institute will allow 25 secondary school teachers to explore topics in American history through the lens of music. Additional information, along with application materials, is available at [www.voices.pitt.edu](http://www.voices.pitt.edu) or email: [amerimus@pitt.edu](mailto:amerimus@pitt.edu).

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**"Richest Hills: Mining and the Far West,"** is a week-long NEH summer program exploring the geographies and histories of mining in Montana. For details and the application go to <http://www.archiva.net/richesthills/>. The program includes a \$1,200 stipend for travel, meals, and lodging. Application deadline is **March 2, 2015**.

**NEH Summer Seminar for Teachers:** "The Dutch Republic and Britain: The Making of Modern Society and a European World Economy" will be offered in London, England, and Leiden, The Netherlands, **June 28-July 31, 2015**. NEH stipend of \$3,900 for expenses. Application deadline is **March 2, 2015**. Go to <http://www1.umassd.edu/euro/> or [vkoot@umassd.edu](mailto:vkoot@umassd.edu).

**Political and Constitutional Theory for Citizens: The National Academy for Civics and Government** is a three-week Summer Institute offered by the Center for Civic Education in Los Angeles, **July 11-August 1, 2015** for upper elementary, middle and high school teachers. Through a grant provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities, 25 Americans and up to five international educators will have the opportunity to engage in serious study and seminar-style discussion of basic ideas of political theory, the principles of the founding of the Constitution of the United States, and the values of American constitutional democracy. For more information and an application go to <http://civiced.org/national-academy-for-civics-and-government>. Applications are due **March 2, 2015**.

**Korea's Journey into the 21st Century: Historical Contexts, Contemporary Issues** is a four-day residential summer program for secondary teachers, **July 13-17, 2015**, at the University of Colorado. Sponsored by the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia, participants will work with specialists to consider modern and contemporary South Korea's history, geography, intra-peninsular and international relations, and transnational cultural transmissions. Application deadline: **March 13, 2015**. For additional information and an application go to <http://www.colorado.edu/cas/tea/ncta/downloads/KoreaSI2015Application.pdf>.

The **Supreme Court Summer Institute for Teachers** will include two sessions for secondary level social studies teachers and supervisors: June 18-22 and June 25-30, 2015. Sponsored by Street Law, Inc. and the Supreme Court Historical Society, the Institute offers six days on Capitol Hill and inside the Supreme Court learning about the Court, its past and current cases, and how to teach

about them from top Supreme Court litigators and educators. Cost: \$150. For full information and to apply online, go to [www.streetlaw.org/scsi\\_apply](http://www.streetlaw.org/scsi_apply) under the "Registration Info" tab. The application deadline is **March 16, 2015**.

**The Middle East in Transition** is a five-day Choices Leadership Institute at Brown University in Providence, RI, **July 13-17, 2015**. Scholar presentations will investigate the recent history of the Middle East and multiple perspectives on current U.S. policy towards the region. Participants will examine instructional strategies for engaging secondary students in the study of contested international issues, share best practices with other dedicated and innovative teachers, and explore plans for conducting effective professional development. For an application, go to <http://choices.edu/pd/institutes/institute-2015>. Deadline: **March 16, 2015**.

**Citizens, Society & the State: Adaptation and Transformation in Contemporary China** is a four-day residential program, **July 27-31, 2015**, at the University of Colorado. Sponsored by the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia, participants will examine the rapidly changing social and political dynamics of contemporary China, with special attention to the emerging roles of citizens, including ways in which individuals and groups respond to and enable social and political change through protests, political participation, and self-organization. For details and application go to [http://www.colorado.edu/cas/tea/ncta/downloads/China\\_SI15\\_application.pdf](http://www.colorado.edu/cas/tea/ncta/downloads/China_SI15_application.pdf). Application deadline: **March 18, 2015**.

**The American Institute for Economic Research** is offering its Teach-the-Teachers Initiative course at Ramapo College in Mahwah, NJ, for experienced high school teachers whose concentrations are in Economics, Business Education, History, Mathematics, English/Language Arts, Social Sciences, and related fields. Includes 40 Professional Development hours and a fully integrated economics lesson plan. Dates: **July 13-16, 2015**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Fee is \$415. Breakfast and lunch are included, and housing is available at no additional fee. Register at: [www.ramapo.edu/cipl/TTI](http://www.ramapo.edu/cipl/TTI). Register by March 25, 2015 and save \$25.

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***Putting the Pieces Together: Integrating Civics and Economics into Teaching History.*** The NJ Council for Economic Education and the NJ Center for Civic Education are sponsoring their third joint summer institute **July 22-23, 2015** at Rutgers University in Piscataway. This two-day program for middle and high school U.S. history, economics and civics teachers includes ten hours of professional development focused on decision-making in the past and today. A \$50 registration fee is required. Application deadline: **May 30, 2015**. Go to <http://civiced.rutgers.edu> or [www.njcss.org](http://www.njcss.org) for an application and additional information.

## Resources for Teachers

**Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> is Presidents' Day** and this week offers a perfect opportunity to teach about the executive branch, to reflect on the achievements and difficulties of many of our past presidents and the extent and limits of executive authority. Many lessons are available online, including:

- <http://www.crf-usa.org/presidents-day/presidents-day.html>
- <http://new.civiced.org/resources/curriculum/presidents-day>
- <http://constitutioncenter.org/learn/civic-calendar/presidents-day-weekend>
- <https://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/presidents-day-activities.html>
- <http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/collection/presidents-united-states>
- <https://www.teachervision.com/presidents-day/teacher-resources/6658.html>

***"After the Crossing: NJ and the American Revolution,"*** sponsored by the Washington Crossing Park Association, invites you to help celebrate George Washington's birthday on Sunday, **Feb. 22**, from 2- 6 pm at the Union Fire House in Titusville with lectures about New Jersey and the American Revolution. Donation: \$10.00. Register by sending response to Washington Crossing Park Association, P.O. Box 83, Titusville, NJ 08560, or contact Bill Marsch by email [wrmarsch@earthlink.net](mailto:wrmarsch@earthlink.net)

**February is Black History Month**--a perfect opportunity to focus on Africans in American history that is often missing from or trivialized in textbooks.

- **Feb. 21**, 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.: Marion Thompson Wright Lecture series at Paul Robeson Campus

Center, Rutgers-Newark. Contact 973-353-3891 or <http://ethnicity.rutgers.edu/>

- **Feb. 28-Mar. 1**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.: Three Centuries of African American Soldiers at the Old Barracks Museum, Trenton. Learn about the integral role African American soldiers played in our nation's history from the American Revolution to World War II. Call (609) 396-1776 for more details.
- **Living Voices** presents dynamic solo performances uniquely combined with archival film that turns history into a moving, personal journey for students. Two performances are especially valuable for Black History month: *The Right to Dream* about the struggle for civil rights, and *Our Revolution*, about the American Revolution from an African American soldier's perspective. For information go to <http://www.livingvoices.org/main/main/html>.
- As part of New Jersey's 350th anniversary, classroom lessons about New Jersey have been developed and placed online, including several that might be valuable for Black History month: *the Underground Railroad in New Jersey* for grades 4-8, and *Slavery in New Jersey* for grades 6-12. Both lessons can be found at <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/njlessons.html>. The Library of Congress has a vast array of materials about African-American history available online for classroom use <http://www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/>
- The Biography channel has inspiring stories of African-Americans available in video online at <http://www.biography.com/people/groups/black-history>
- The Center for Civic Education offers five downloadable lessons for grades 6-12 that focus on the civil rights movement and the power of nonviolence at <http://new.civiced.org/resources/curriculum/black-history-month>
- The Constitutional Rights Foundation has a series of lessons as well as a listing of prominent African Americans, literature and films by and about African Americans at <http://crf-usa.org/black-history-month/blog>
- Scholastic has a series of articles, images and useful classroom materials at <http://www.scholastic.com/browse/collection.jsp?id=706>

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### ***Put a Little New Jersey in Your Classroom.***

Commemorate the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of New Jersey by incorporating lessons about New Jersey into your curriculum! Over 30 lessons have been placed online and additional ones are added on a regular basis. Go to <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/njlessons.html> or [www.njcass.org](http://www.njcass.org).



To commemorate the 350th anniversary of the founding of New Jersey, the **New Jersey Historical Commission** has sponsored the development of a series of 90 second videos, “It Happened Here in New Jersey,” highlighting innovation, diversity and liberty in the history of New Jersey. The videos are available on the Commission’s website at <http://nj.gov/state/historical/>, and the NJ350 website at <http://officialnj350.com>, along with lessons.



**Crossroads of the American Revolution** has a variety of education resources about the American Revolution in New Jersey, including field trips, trunk shows, information about battles and encampments and a timeline, at [www.revolutionarynj.org/learn](http://www.revolutionarynj.org/learn); as well as lectures, walks, exhibits, reenactments and games from Bergen County to Cape May at [www.revolutionarynj.org/events](http://www.revolutionarynj.org/events); and short stories about individuals who “lived, worked, struggled and fought in the American Revolution” at [www.revolutionarynj.org/meet-your-revolutionary-neighbors](http://www.revolutionarynj.org/meet-your-revolutionary-neighbors). Visit your “Revolutionary Neighbors” to get a first-hand perspective on the American Revolution in New Jersey.

“**Celebrating New Jersey**” is a performance for young audiences by **Pushcart Players**. This folk musical reaches across more than three centuries and explores the innovations and diversity that continue to define the state, from the arrival of the first settlers to the American Revolution, from the writing of the Constitution to the significant participation in the Civil War, from Thomas Edison’s life-changing work in West Orange to New Jersey’s pivotal role in industry. For further information contact 973.857.1115 or visit [www.pushcartplayers.org](http://www.pushcartplayers.org).

Free Webinar **[Using Games to Teach Global Interconnectedness](#)** by NJCSS board member Matt Farber is archived for viewing at any time.

**[Gamify Your Classroom: A Field Guide for Game-Based Learning](#)**, by NJCSS board member Matt Farber, is available from Peter Lang Publishing, as well as on [Amazon](#). The book is a field guide on how to implement game-based learning and gamification techniques to the everyday teaching, aggregated from interviews with experts in the field. Each chapter concludes with practical lesson plan ideas, games to play (both digital and tabletop), and links to research further. Much of the book draws on the author’s experiences implementing games with his middle school students.

**Global Exploration for Educators Organization (GEEO)**, a non-profit organization that runs professional development travel programs designed for teachers, is offering 8-21 day travel programs for 2015 to: India/Nepal, i Lanka, Bali/Lombok, Italy, Eastern Europe, Portugal/Spain, Greece, Uzbekistan, Vietnam/Cambodia, Thailand/Laos, Belize/Guatemala, Morocco, The Baltics, China, Eastern Turkey, Western Turkey, Zambia/Botswana/Namibia/South Africa, New Zealand, The Galapagos, Costa Rica, and Peru. Educators have the option to earn graduate school credit and professional development credit while seeing the world. Deadline: **June 1**. Go to [www.geeo.org](http://www.geeo.org) for details.

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## **New Jersey Council for the Social Studies**

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If you have information about an event, resources, professional development or other activity of interest to social studies educators, please send it by the end of the month for inclusion in the next month's e-newsletter to Arlene Gardner at [agardner@niclre.rutgers.edu/](mailto:agardner@niclre.rutgers.edu) Information will be included at the discretion of the editor.

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