



May is Labor History Month Labor History Month Celebrates Workers' Contributions to California and American History

http://www.cft.org/images/labor_education/Labor_History_Map_Exhibit.pdf



Speaker's Commission on Labor Education

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/LaborEducation/default.aspx>

The Speaker's Commission on Labor Education promotes labor awareness in California and works to ensure students have an informed understanding of labor's role in and contributions to the history of California. This site explains the goals of Labor History Month.

H-SS Content Standards

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/>

The State Board of Education's approved Content Standards in History-Social Science make multiple references to labor or unions. EC Section 60040(c) also calls for study of "The role and contributions of the entrepreneur and labor in the total development of California and the United States."

Calisphere

<http://www.calisphere.universityofcalifornia.edu/>

The Calisphere site, developed by the University of California Berkeley, offers primary source photos and documents. Teachers and students may access documents and images of California's labor history from the Gold Rush to the Twentieth Century by entering "workers", "labor", or specific themes into a site search.

Golden Lands, Working Hands

<http://www.cft.org/member-services/labor-education/golden-lands,-working-hands.html>

The California Federation of Teachers web site features an award winning ten-part video series on the history of the California Labor Movement, Golden Lands, Working Hands. Users may view sample clips and ordering information online. The series is available on DVD, with a CD of lesson plans. It is a CDE-approved supplementary history/social science text.

Labor History Link Homepage

<http://www.laborhistorylinks.org/index.html>

This site is a comprehensive bibliography of information, documents, lesson plans and links to U.S. labor history sites on the internet. It was developed by labor historian Rosemary Feurer for the Labor and Working Class History Association, an organization of scholars, historians, K-12 educators, and activists.

César Chávez

<http://chavez.cde.ca.gov/ModelCurriculum/Intro.aspx>

The California Department of Education created a model K–12 curriculum on the life and work of César Chávez on his birthday, March 31, a State holiday. This site also includes a bibliography and other resources on César Chávez and farm labor issues.

Child Labor Public Education Project

http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/laborctr/child_labor/

This University of Iowa website has materials on the meaning, the history and the consequences of child labor in the US. It then provides resources on child labor in the current international environment and efforts to end it.

Keating-Owen Labor Act of 1916

<http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=true&doc=59>

The 1900 census revealed that approximately 2 million children were working in mills, mines, fields, factories, stores, and on city streets across the United States. The photography of Lewis Hine made public the labor and living conditions of many of these children. The result was the Keating-Owen Act limiting the working hours of children and the prohibition of the interstate sale of goods produced by child labor.

Illinois Labor History Society

<http://www.illinoislaborhistory.org/education/curriculum.html>

This is a resource that teachers of US history can use to incorporate social and labor history into the curriculum. The concepts and lessons build on each other so that by the end of the school year students understand the importance of labor in society and how laborers earned a voice in the workplace and increased their share of the economic pie.

The Industrial Age in America: Sweatshops, Steel Mills, and Factories

<http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plan/industrial-age-america-sweatshops-steel-mills-and-factories>

The Haymarket Affair, the Homestead Strike, and the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire are incidents that illustrated the harsh conditions faced by workers and the great success of business owners in the 19th c. as the U.S. became one of the most industrialized nations in the world. A disagreement continues today over the proper line between acceptable business practices and unacceptable working conditions. Can an industrial—and indeed a post-industrial—economy succeed without taking advantage of those who do the work?

Slavery's Opponents and Defenders

<http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plan/slaverys-opponents-and-defenders>

While the morality and legality of slavery remained at the forefront of the controversy in the 19th c., considerations of the economics of slavery, its impact on human civilization and progress, and the personal experience of both the enslaved and slaveholders led the opposing sides to drift further away from resolving what had become a sectional crisis. This lesson plan will explore the wide-ranging debate over American slavery by presenting the lives of its leading opponents and defenders and the views they held about America's "peculiar institution."

How Labor Got Its Day

<http://www.econedlink.org/lessons/projector.php?lid=745&type=educator>

In this Econ/Ed lessons students learn why workers organized unions during the 19th c. to fight for higher pay and better working conditions. Students review the economic evidence that unions help balance the power between workers and employers—yielding a higher standard of living for society.

Business v. Labor and the Role of Government

<http://hti.osu.edu/opper/lesson-plans/business-versus-labor-and-the-role-of-government>

In this Ohio State University lesson students explore the relationship between big business, organized labor and government through editorial cartoon analysis and research.

Work, Money and Power: Unions in the 21st Century

<http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/publications/index.shtml>

This 24-page pamphlet from the University of California Berkeley, Center for Labor Research and Education, explains what unions are and do, including an overview of labor history. It is a California Department of Education approved supplementary history/social science text.

Links to Labor History Resources

<http://www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org/resources/links>

This Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's curriculum website, assembled with the support of the Wisconsin Labor History Society, features active learning lessons and resources on the history of labor.

Collective Bargaining Project

<http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/lausd/offices/cbep/>

The Los Angeles Unified School District and United Teachers of Los Angeles support the Collective Bargaining Project, which brings role-playing and simulations about labor history and collective bargaining to middle and high school classrooms.

Adapted from a resource list provided by Stacey Greer, Educational Programs Consultant at the California Department of Education by Margaret Hill, Chair CCSS, Publications & Technology Committee