

Resource Description: This is a list of various resources related to U.S. history. This is not an exhaustive list of resources for every major period of U.S. history. This list was created to help teachers brainstorm ideas for U.S. history lessons. The tips and resources provided are intended for a Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) class in U.S. history or for general lessons related to U.S. history in ESL/EFL classes. Adaptations may be needed depending on the students' level and age. Some of these ideas can be used for other types of history classes.

Audience: Middle School, High School, Adult, University

Level: Intermediate and Advanced

Civics resources: These resources may be helpful for students who want to learn more about the U.S. government. Some students may be preparing for the civics portion of the U.S.

Naturalization Test.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services: <http://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learners/study-test/study-materials-civics-test/100-civics-questions-and-answers-mp3-audio-english-version>

Douglas County Election Center: <http://cltr.co.douglas.nv.us/Elections/100QuestionTest.htm>

Free digital U.S. history textbooks: These free digital textbooks can be used for lessons on U.S. history or for CLIL U.S. history classes.

American Yawp: <http://www.americanyawp.com/index.html>

Digital History: <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/>

Interactive websites: There are many interactive websites online related to different historical events. These websites can help make history come to life.

Examples:

History Channel: <http://www.history.com/interactives/civil-war-150#/home>

History Channel: <http://www.history.com/interactives/inside-wwii-interactive>

Interesting facts about history: Many students enjoy learning about fun history facts. There are a lot of fun fact websites.

Examples:

History Channel: <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/presidents-day/videos/presidential-fun-facts>

Random Facts: <http://facts.randomhistory.com/civil-war-facts.html>

Maps: Historical maps can be helpful for visual learners especially. Maps can also help students improve their geography knowledge.

Examples:

Upworthy: <http://www.upworthy.com/this-is-roughly-200-years-of-american-history-in-one-mesmerizing-gif>

Voting America: <http://dsl.richmond.edu/voting/index.html>

Movies & documentaries: Use Internet lists of top movies about historical periods or topics that students may be interested in watching at home or possibly in class. Just be sure that the movies or documentaries are age appropriate. There are a lot of history videos on YouTube. Paid sites such as Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Hulu have a lot of selections as well.

Music video lessons: Students can learn about U.S. history through music videos. Instructors can create activities (pre-listening questions, fill-in activities, vocabulary exercises, discussion questions) to go along with the videos.

Examples:

Sam Cooke, “A Change is Gonna’ Come” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JkWZjTPIQhc>

Flocabulary, “Jefferson and Hamilton” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pnCuwV29eBQ>

Billy Joel, “We Didn’t Start the Fire” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTQ6bSefxL4>

“Women’s Suffrage” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYQhRCs9IHM>

Oral history projects: Students can listen to oral interviews online. There are a lot of video interviews on YouTube. Students can also be assigned their own interview projects.

This is an oral history project conducted by students.

Telling their Stories: <http://www.tellingstories.org/index.html>

This day in history: Students can learn about what happened on a specific day or research the events that took place on their birthday.

History Channel: <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history>

Virtual or traditional field trips: If you are teaching classes in the U.S., you may be able to arrange a field trip to go to a local historical site. If you are teaching outside of the U.S., you may want to explore local museums or historical sites that may have some type of exhibits or connections to U.S. history. You can explore different historical sites online. Many museum

websites have virtual tours. Try to research museums that are related to topics that you are discussing in class.

History museums (examples):

Cold War Museum: <http://coldwar.org>

National Museum of the American Indian: <http://nmai.si.edu/>

National Women's History Museum: <https://www.nwhm.org/>

National World War II Museum: <http://www.nationalww2museum.org/>

Virtual timelines: Try to search for virtual timelines related to topics that you are discussing in class. In a traditional classroom, students could make their own timelines after researching different periods or topics.

Examples:

American Revolution Center: <http://timeline.americanrevolutioncenter.org/>

History Channel: <http://www.history.com/interactives/black-history-timeline>

Additional ideas for the U.S. history classroom:

- Studying the history of holidays
- Participating in hands on learning activities (playing historical games, making costumes, acting out events through role playing, making food from different periods)
- Bringing in guest speakers
- Playing historical detectives (students are assigned a historical “case” to examine)
Historical Scene Investigation: <http://hsionline.org/>
- Taking part in an online history scavenger hunt
- Using current events/news sites that relate to historical topics
- Brainstorming everyday people who made a difference in history
- Examining historical artifacts
- Making postcards with messages from different historical periods
- Reporting on historical events as a journalist in class
- Writing diary entries as a person from a particular time period
- Debating historical topics
- Discussing family history
- Reflecting on our individual experiences in the past
- Using cell phone apps (do a search for U.S./American history games or apps) to help learn more about history
- Learning about the history of different majors or career