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*** LINKING TO CURRENT EVENTS ***

Volcanoes in the News

Last month, drifting ash from the erupting Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland closed airports throughout Europe. The volcano erupted for the second time in less than a month -- melting ice, shooting smoke and steam in the air, and forcing hundreds of people to flee rising floodwaters. Exactly 30 years ago, on May 18, Mount Saint Helens erupted in Washington state -- the deadliest and most economically destructive volcanic event in U.S. history.

“Volcanism” is covered in program 13 of Earth Revealed, a course on geophysics. Learn about the different types of volcanoes, features of volcanoes and eruptions, and how geologists study these fascinating and dangerous structures.

http://www.learner.org/vod/vod_window.html?pid=324

In Planet Earth, program 1, “The Living Machine,” plate tectonics is explored at the site of the erupting Kilauea volcano on the island of Hawaii, which may be the world’s most active volcano. <http://www.learner.org/resources/series49.html>

In the geography course, Power of Place, program 22 focuses on the “Dynamic Pacific Rim,” where scientists in Ecuador monitor the Tungurahua volcano for signs of activity. <http://www.learner.org/resources/series180.html>

Grades 7-12

Students can learn about the earth’s structure and how it drives volcanoes using two learning interactives. Dynamic Earth shows the underground action at plate boundaries, which contributes to volcanic activity.

<http://www.learner.org/interactives/dynamicearth/index.html> To learn how scientists try to predict volcanic eruptions, go to Volcanoes at <http://www.learner.org/interactives/volcanoes/>

In Teaching Geography, workshop 2, the Tungurahua volcano is again the subject of study, as geographers put their research to work to try to lessen harmful impact, and students weigh the pros and cons of living near natural hazards. <http://www.learner.org/workshops/geography/wkp2intr.html>

Addition to the Periodic Table

Element 117 is the last holdout in the last row of the Periodic Table. Recently, a team of Russian and US researchers produced the element -- lasting a fraction of a second -- in a particle accelerator in Russia. Until it is confirmed, element 117 has been given the placeholder name "ununseptium," Latin, roughly, for "117-ness."

Start with our Periodic Table interactive to understand how the table works and to learn how and why elements interact. <http://www.learner.org/interactives/periodic/index.html>

In our popular course, The World of Chemistry, program 6 looks at how atomic structure determines chemical behavior and program 7 examines the development and arrangement of the Periodic Table. <http://www.learner.org/resources/series61.html>

High School

Reactions in Chemistry, workshop 1 focuses on "Atoms and Molecules" and features a number of activities, including one to help students make their own periodic table. <http://www.learner.org/workshops/chemistry/workshop1/index.html>

The 2010 Census

The world's oldest census data comes from China, more than 4,000 years ago. Today, most countries have a census. In the U.S., the Constitution mandates that a census be taken every 10 years, which has been done continuously since 1790. That makes the 2010 Census the 23rd one that has been conducted.

High School

Primary Sources: Workshops in American History devotes an entire workshop to teaching the census, "The Census: Who We Think We Are." On the Web site, you will find the video, lectures, classroom applications and teaching resources. <http://www.learner.org/workshops/primarysources/census/introduction.html>

In Teaching Geography, workshop 3, "North America" uses case studies in Chicago, Philadelphia, and San Antonio to examine suburban sprawl and its implications. A class in San Antonio uses census data to study the future of their city's expansion. <http://www.learner.org/workshops/geography/wkp3intr.html>

Against All Odds: Inside Statistics focuses on random sampling and the census in program 13, "Blocking and Sampling," as ways to obtain reliable information about a population. <http://www.learner.org/resources/series65.html>

The Habitable Planet, an environmental science course for teachers, features interviews with noted scientists on the Web site, including Martha Farnsworth Riche, who served as director of the U.S. Census Bureau between 1994 and 1998, <http://www.learner.org/courses/envsci/scientist/transcripts/riche.html> and Deborah Balk, a demographer, who discusses the use of census data from a global perspective. <http://www.learner.org/courses/envsci/scientist/transcripts/balk.html>

Coal Mining Disasters: China and West Virginia

Two disasters have brought our attention once again to the tragedies often associated with mining. To help you understand both the economic and physical risks for individuals and communities at the center of coal mining, look at the poignant segments in two courses: Rural Communities and Art Through Time.

In Rural Communities, program 2, "Economic Base" uses McDowell County, West Virginia as a case study of a community whose population grew dramatically in late 19th and early 20th century when coal mines needed thousands of workers. Yet once workers started to be replaced by machines, the economic impact on the community and its people was massive. In program 4, "Legacy," visit McDowell County again and hear the residents' emotional stories about their families, and why they can't stay out of the mines despite the dangers and health risks. <http://www.learner.org/resources/series7.html>

Art Through Time, program 3, "History and Memory" includes a segment featuring an artist who visited Aberfan, a small coal-mining village in South Wales. In 1966 an avalanche caused by mining buried the town's only elementary school. Artist Shimon Attie <http://www.learner.org/courses/globalart/theme/3/experts.html> helped the community to translate this terrible event into a video installation, as a means of using art to reflect what is human, both tragic and hopeful. <http://www.learner.org/resources/series211.html?pop=yes&pid=2309#>

Nuclear Arms Agreement

Last month, the United States and Russia signed the most extensive nuclear arms control agreement in nearly two decades. Use these historical and literary resources to help your students understand the importance of these ongoing negotiations.

High School/Middle School

By the late 1940s both the U.S. and the former USSR had atomic bombs - the U.S. had already used them in Japan in 1945, and the USSR successfully detonated one in 1949. America's History in the Making, unit 19 focuses on the Cold War, as Americans feared the possibility of mass destruction from atomic weapons, the expansion of communism, and an arms race. <http://www.learner.org/courses/amerhistory/units/19/themes/2.html>

Another American history resource, Primary Sources, workshop 8, "Korea and the Cold War" illustrates how the fear of nuclear arsenals was at the heart of U.S. involvement in Korea.

<http://www.learner.org/workshops/primarysources/coldwar/introduction.html>

For a literary perspective, look at American Passages unit 14, "Becoming Visible," which focuses on writers of the 1950s, and how they approached key issues of their day, including anxiety over the threat of nuclear annihilation.

<http://www.learner.org/amerpass/unit14/instructor.html>

Health Care

Love it or hate it, health care legislation is law, and the largest social reform effort the U.S. has seen since Medicare and Social Security. Help your students understand the context for this new law with the resources listed below.

In Growing Old in a New Age, program 12, "Societal and Political Aspects of Aging" examines the health care system and the key role of older Americans in influencing policy. <http://www.learner.org/resources/series84.html>

Learn about the history and economic rationale behind national health care programs -- Medicare and Medicaid -- for vulnerable Americans in Economics U\$A, program 26, "Public Good and Responsibilities."

<http://www.learner.org/resources/series79.html>

Against All Odds: Inside Statistics, program 2, "Picturing Distributions" explores the mathematics of soaring health care costs.

<http://www.learner.org/resources/series65.html>

In Ethics in America II, program 1, "Three Farewells: Medicine & the End of Life," discussants weigh various considerations in the delivery of health care.

http://www.learner.org/series/ethics2/three_farewells/

For a glimpse at how both citizens and government can influence what options are made available to the public, see Democracy in America, unit 14, "Interest Groups: Organizing to Influence," and unit 8, "Bureaucracy: A Controversial Necessity." <http://www.learner.org/courses/democracyinamerica/>

Native American Writers, Educators, and History

Draw on a rich variety of video and Web resources that feature Native American authors and educators, and K-12 teachers who teach Native American literature, culture and history.

Three contemporary authors -- Leslie Marmon Silko, Simon Ortiz, and Luci Tapahonso -- are featured in "Native Voices,"

<http://www.learner.org/amerpass/unit01/> the first program of American Passages: A Literary Survey. Find information on Chippewa Songs, Ghost Dance Songs, and several authors. <http://www.learner.org/amerpass/unit01/authors.html> Also, search

the archive for pictures of Navajo soldiers and code talkers and other relevant artifacts.

Watch an interview with celebrated author N. Scott Momaday in Literary Visions, program 9, "Suggested Meanings: Symbolism and Allegory in Short Fiction." <http://www.learner.org/resources/series41.html> Momaday discusses the mythological references in his Pulitzer Prize-winning book "House Made of Dawn."

The Expanding the Canon: Teaching Multicultural Literature in High School, features three Native American authors and their work: James Welch in session 1, <http://www.learner.org/workshops/hslit/session1/index.html> Mourning Dove in session 2, <http://www.learner.org/workshops/hslit/session2/index.html> and N. Scott Momaday in session 6. <http://www.learner.org/workshops/hslit/session6/index.html>

Professor Greg Sarris demonstrates the use of Native American Pomo baskets to enhance the teaching of literature in "Ceremonial Artifacts," workshop 8 of Artifacts & Fiction: Workshop in American Literature. <http://www.learner.org/workshops/artifacts/sessions.php?s=8>

In Teaching Multicultural Literature, workshop 3, "Research and Discovery," authors Shirley Sterling, and Laura Tohe discuss their work, while teachers present literature lessons to their classes.

<http://www.learner.org/workshops/tml/workshop3/index.html> Workshop 8, "Social Justice in Action" features author Joseph Bruchac, who writes extensively on Native American themes. <http://www.learner.org/workshops/tml/workshop8/index.html> America's History in the Making looks at Columbus's encounters with Native Americans in unit 2, "Mapping Initial Encounters," <http://www.learner.org/courses/amerhistory/units/2/> while unit 3, "Colonial Designs," discusses the complex relationships between Native Americans and European colonial powers. <http://www.learner.org/courses/amerhistory/units/3/> As railroads and ranchers moved West, Native Americans were displaced from their homelands. Look at Biography of America, unit 16, "The West" for video and Web resources, including interactive maps of Native American lands and battles. <http://www.learner.org/biographyofamerica/prog16/index.html>

Visit our United States History Map interactive <http://www.learner.org/interactives/historymap/indians.html> for historical information about 34 Indian nations and tribes.

Art Through Time: A Global View, program 4, "Ceremony and Society" includes a segment about a soul recovery ceremony site, presented by CHiXapkaid (Dr. Michael Pavel), Associate Professor at Washington State University, and two other Traditional Bearers of the Skokomish Indian Reservation. <http://www.learner.org/courses/globalart/theme/4/index.html> Program 10, "The Natural World," spotlights the work of Native American artist and educator Kay Walkingstick. <http://www.learner.org/courses/globalart/theme/10/index.html>

Rural Communities: Legacy & Change shows both losses experienced by Indian communities and more positive developments. See program 4, "Legacy," and program 5, "Act Locally...and Invest." <http://www.learner.org/resources/series7.html>.

Native American Classrooms

K-5

Social Studies in Action is a K-12 Video Library featuring footage of teachers from a variety of classrooms. In program 3, "Historical Change," watch the bilingual classroom of first-grade teacher David Kitts on the Santo Domingo Indian Reservation in New Mexico, where his Native American students study the history of farming.

http://www.learner.org/libraries/socialstudies/k_2/kitts/index.html

Inside Writing Communities looks at how to motivate young children to write. Watch featured teacher Christine Sanchez, who is Navajo, in several of the videos, working with children from the Navajo reservation at Tohaali Community School, a boarding and day school.

<http://www.learner.org/workshops/writing35/index.html>

*** CALENDAR CONNECTIONS TO LEARNING ***

National Mental Health Month

Annenberg Media has a number of video and Web resources that delve into mental health issues from childhood to advanced age. Not only are they useful for teaching psychology, sociology, human development, and the health sciences, but also for child development and gerontology.

For an introduction, look at Discovering Psychology, an overview of historic and current theories of human behavior,

<http://www.learner.org/resources/series138.html> and The World of Abnormal Psychology, which looks at the theory and practice in the treatment of the mentally ill. <http://www.learner.org/resources/series60.html>

Seasons of Life explains the biological, psychological, and social "clocks" that are the essence of life-span development.

<http://www.learner.org/resources/series54.html>

Turning to the youngest and oldest groups, The Whole Child focuses on the physical, emotional and cognitive development of children from birth to age 5, <http://www.learner.org/resources/series59.html> while Growing Old in a New Age discusses the quality of life in later years, by measuring age chronologically, biologically, psychologically and socially.

<http://www.learner.org/resources/series84.html> Death: A Personal Understanding uses case studies and personal stories to provide a better understanding of the psychological impact of death and dying.

<http://www.learner.org/resources/series108.html>

For those looking for short video clips that can be used for quick viewing or discussion, check out the modules from The Brain, with footage and research on schizophrenia, autism and Alzheimer's disease,

<http://www.learner.org/resources/series142.html> and additional topics on

cognition and human behavior in The Mind.
<http://www.learner.org/resources/series150.html>

Astronomy Week (May 16-22)

Our award-winning series, Planet Earth, unifies Earth science, astronomy, and comparative planetology. <http://www.learner.org/resources/series49.html>

Watch The Mechanical Universe...and Beyond, program 1, "Introduction;" program 2, "The Law of Falling Bodies," and program 4, "Inertia."
<http://www.learner.org/resources/series42.html>

Earth Revealed, program 2, "The Restless Planet," traces the development of astronomical theory. <http://www.learner.org/resources/series78.html>

K-6

Essential Science for Teachers: Earth and Space Science, program 8, "The Solar System: Order out of Chaos" probes young students' ideas about Earth's origins and their concept of the Solar System.
<http://www.learner.org/courses/essential/earthspace/session8/>

K-12

The Private Universe Project in Science explores the challenges of teaching science. Workshop 1 looks at how teachers learn to elicit ideas from students, with astronomy as the main topic. <http://www.learner.org/resources/series29.html>

Pulitzer Prize Established (May 7, 1917)

The Prize was established posthumously in the name of Hungarian-American publisher Joseph Pulitzer, who is also credited for originating the practice of "yellow journalism" with William Randolph Hearst.

American Passages, unit 8, features an activity that looks at the context for journalism in Pulitzer's day,

http://www.learner.org/amerpass/unit08/context_activ-3.html and Democracy in America, unit 10, "Understanding the Media," also includes a discussion of Pulitzer and Hearst.
http://www.learner.org/courses/democracyinamerica/dia_10/dia_10_topic.html The archives of America's History in the Making has an example of a sensational front page for Pulitzer's New York World in 1898.

http://www.learner.org/courses/amerhistory/resource_archive/resource.php?resourceType=1&resourceID=10169&unitChoice=16&ThemeNum=1 or <http://tinyurl.com/34h24cm>

Numerous Pulitzer Prize winners are featured and discussed in Annenberg Media courses -- too many to mention here. You can look for them, among others, in Voices & Visions, <http://www.learner.org/resources/series57.html> Literary Visions, <http://www.learner.org/resources/series41.html> American Passages, <http://www.learner.org/resources/series164.html> The Expanding Canon, <http://www.learner.org/resources/series178.html> Teaching Multicultural

Literature, <http://www.learner.org/resources/series203.html> and News Writing.
<http://www.learner.org/resources/series203.html>

And finally, Art Through Time, program 3, “History and Memory,” includes among its resources the memorable photograph, American Marines Raising American Flag on Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima, by Joe Rosenthal, Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist. <http://www.learner.org/courses/globalart/work/215/index.html>

VE Day (May 8, 1945)

Victory in Europe Day celebrates the unconditional surrender of the armed forces of Nazi Germany to the Allies in World War II.

A Biography of America uses personal narratives, photos, film footage and documents to show the human side of history. Program 22, about World War II, follows the events from Pearl Harbor to VE Day.

<http://www.learner.org/biographyofamerica/prog22/index.html>

In The Western Tradition, a favorite of many teachers, Professor Eugen Weber discusses how World War II introduced new tactics and strategies (program 48).

<http://www.learner.org/resources/series58.html>

In America’s History in the Making, program 19 looks at “Postwar Tensions and Triumphs,” including those following the return of World War II veterans.

<http://www.learner.org/courses/amerhistory/units/19/>

For a different perspective from Hollywood, don’t miss program 6 in American Cinema, “The Combat Film,” which begins with those films produced under directives from the federal government.

<http://www.learner.org/resources/series67.html>

Beginning of Lewis and Clark Expedition (May 14, 1804)

Look at the U.S. History Map interactive,

<http://www.learner.org/interactives/historymap/indians3.html> and learn about the Nez Percé tribe, first encountered by Lewis and Clark in 1805.

In A Biography of America, unit 6, “Westward Expansion,” uses maps of the Lewis and Clark Expedition to discuss the “re-mapping” of history.

<http://www.learner.org/workshops/writing35/session8/sec2p2.html>

Program 15, Inside Writing Communities, Grades 3-5, focuses on writing across the curriculum, and uses a social studies lesson about Lewis and Clark as the basis for writing newspaper stories.

<http://www.learner.org/workshops/writing35/session8/sec2p2.html>

John F. Kennedy’s Birthday (May 29, 1917)

Democracy in America, unit 13, looks at election strategy, and in particular, strategies to gain the party's nomination. Watch footage of Senator Kennedy as he stumps for president in West Virginia before that state's primary.

http://www.learner.org/courses/democracyinamerica/dia_13/dia_13_video.html

America's History in the Making, unit 20, discusses the influence of the mass media with respect to political events, such as the Kennedy-Nixon debates in the election of 1960, and the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and Robert Kennedy.

<http://www.learner.org/courses/amerhistory/units/20/themes/3.html>

Art Through Time, program 9, focuses on "Portraits," and features the work of Mark Shaw, photojournalist and fashion photographer who served unofficially as the Kennedy family photographer throughout Kennedy's presidency.

<http://www.learner.org/courses/globalart/work/95/index.html>

In News Writing, long-time reporter Helen Thomas is interviewed about her time covering the White House during the Kennedy Administration.

<http://www.learner.org/catalog/extras/interviews/hthomas/ht04.html>

In Primary Sources, workshop 8, "Korea and the Cold War," one of the documents available to teachers is President Kennedy's speech at the University of Washington prior to the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, outlining his stance for U.S. foreign policy.

<http://www.learner.org/workshops/primarysources/coldwar/docs/jfk.html>

*** Distance Learning ***

Enrollment and Licensing Reminder

Please remember to send us, if you have not already done so, your enrollment numbers for the Spring 2010 semester. Also, we want to remind you to send us your Summer license intentions. And, as you're thinking of the Fall semester ahead, keep us in mind during your planning.

Video Streaming Demo Available

Schedule a hands-on demonstration with your school utilizing the entire Annenberg Media collection through the fully customizable streaming service of CollegeAnywhere. At your convenience, we can show you how best to incorporate our video into your online, hybrid, and face-2-face classes. Email us at distancelearning@learner.org to schedule a demo today!

Courses that include a FREE online textbook and guide as well as our coordinated Web sites:

Art Through Time: A Global View

Rediscovering Biology: Molecular to Global Perspectives Mathematics Illuminated

The Habitable Planet: A Systems Approach to Environmental Science Ethics in

America II Democracy in America

Video Updates

Available Now -- Art Through Time: A Global View

<http://www.learner.org/resources/series211.html>

Take a trip across the world and back through the ages to experience the art of many cultures and historical periods. This thematic approach to the study and appreciation of art offers viewers a unique perspective on human history, beliefs, and their expression. Hundreds of images are viewed and reviewed by a team of scholars to uncover the enduring themes of humankind. An extensive Web site with FREE online text will help viewers explore the topics in great depth and detail. The series, text and Web materials can be used as a supplement to art history, humanities, or anthropology courses, or for individual learning.

See how easy it is to view and download the online text and study guide for the Art Through Time series at

<http://www.learner.org/courses/globalart/resources.html>

Coming Fall 2010 -- Physics for the 21st Century Preview this course for Spring 2011 licensing. Produced by the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. Dark matter, string theory, particle accelerators, and other big topics of modern physics come together in this 11-part multimedia course in physics. An extensive companion web site will provide background content in a printable online textbook, web-based interactive activities, a facilitators' guide, and other online resources. Watch for more information coming soon.

Coming Spring 2011 -- Invitation to World Literature Produced by WGBH with Seftel Productions.

A multi-media resource for teaching, appreciating and -- most importantly -- reading works from many eras and cultures. Works covered include The Epic of Gilgamesh (Akkadian, 1200 BCE and older), The Tale of Genji (Murashi Shikibu, c. 1014), and One Hundred Years of Solitude (Gabriel Garcia Marquez, 1967). Each episode will feature a discussion by a cast of artists and scholars of personal connections, key scenes, and modern interpretations of these timeless stories.

Upcoming Conferences

SIDLIT, August 5-6, 2010, Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, KS
Sloan-C, November 3-5, 2010, Orlando, FL

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