



AMA Educational Service District

**2011 Lesson Kits
American History Project**



In 2010, the AMA Educational Service District received a three-year federal Teaching American History grant. As part of this grant, a cohort of teachers was created. This cohort group received intensive professional development in American History.

Each cohort teacher created a lesson plan and was given funds to purchase material for two kits containing all supplies needed to implement their lesson plan in the classroom. The teacher kept one kit to use in his or her classroom and the second kit has been given to the Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan to be checked out and utilized free of charge by other teachers.

This booklet provides a thumbnail sketch of the twelve kits completed in year one of the three-year grant. **Questions about kit availability and check out procedures should be directed to the Besser Museum staff at 356-2202.**

Table of Contents

- #1 The Constitution: Three Branches of Government
- #2 Constitutional Convention
- #3 Core Democratic Value Kit
- #4 Early European Explorers of Michigan
- #5 Getting to Know the Bill of Rights
- #6 The Great Depression – The Crash of 1929
- #7 How the US Government Works
- #8 Boston Massacre: Massacre or Political Spin?
- #9 The Spanish American, “A Splendid Little War”
- #10 Triangular Trade: The Middle Passage
- #11 The Underground Railroad in the Great Lakes Region
- #12 World War I Simulation and Newspaper

#1 The Constitution: Three Branches of Government

Author: Amy Carlson

Level: Grade 8



Using *Interact Branches of Government Simulation* materials, this kit is packed full of materials to help your students understand the branches of government through the use of notes, graphic organizers, activities, and cooperative groups.

#2 Constitutional Convention

Author: Patti Martinez
Level: Grade 8



Reenacting parts of the debates leading to the Great Compromise, the Three-Fifths Compromise and the Electoral College, students will experience some of the drama and frustration of the Founding Fathers. After the reenactment, students will use picture books, a video clip, and text book to explore problems facing the delegates in 1787.

#3 Core Democratic Value Kit

Author: Tricia Udell
Level: Grade



Quick and already prepared resources, this kit helps teach and reinforce the principles of the Core Democratic Values through the use of children's literature. The books provide diversity within their examples which broaden students' perceptions of the world they live in.

#4 Early European Explorers of Michigan

Author: Maureen Regan

Level: Grade 3



Early European Explorers of Michigan is a small group activity that gives third graders the chance to be teachers. Each group is assigned an early Michigan Explorer. The groups research their explorer, present their findings to the class, and map their explorer's route on a large reusable map. Using each group's findings, the class will put together a comprehensive timeline.

#5 Getting to Know the Bill of Rights

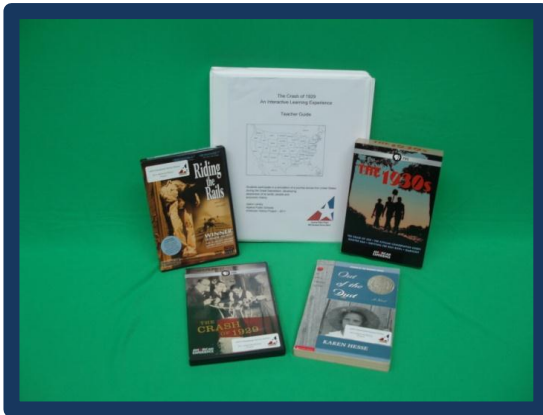
Author: Kim Cardwell
Level: Grades 6, 7, 8 Special Ed.



Covering the history of the Bill of Rights--the first ten amendments of the U.S. Constitution, this kit is designed to help special needs students connect this historical document to their lives. Not only will students learn about their rights, they will apply them to their lives, and then form a vision of life without them.

#6 The Great Depression – The Crash of 1929

Author: Joann Landry
Level: Upper Elementary – High School

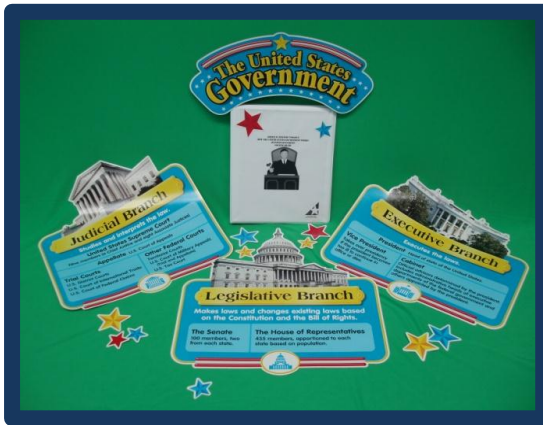


The Great Depression: The Crash of 1929 is an interactive learning experience that simulates a journey through our country's history as students encounter one of the worst economic disasters of our time. Each learning activity brings a new perspective of the state of our country during this disastrous time period.

#7 How the US Government Works

Author: Jennifer McInerney

Level: Grade 4



Using historical documents such as *The Articles of Confederation*, *The Constitution*, and *The Bill of Rights*, students will learn about the U. S. political system in historic context and from the standpoint of present-day practices. The students will analyze amendments and apply them to present day. Using scenarios, they will learn the importance of individual rights.

#8 Boston Massacre: Massacre or Political Spin?

Author: Bob Thomson
Level: Grade 5

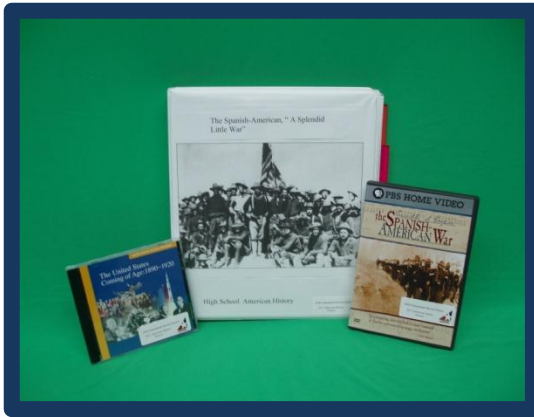


The Boston Massacre, a killing of five colonists by British regulars on March 5, 1770, was the culmination of tensions in the American colonies that had been growing since 1768. Using a combination of primary sources and a textbook, students will read and hypothesize as to why information in the text is different from primary sources. After assimilating the information, students will rewrite portions of the text book chapter.

#9 The Spanish American “A Splendid Little War”

Author: Glen Campbell

Level: High School



Designed to cover the Spanish-American War in depth, especially the events leading up to the war, students will look at some of the important people who were key players as well as the U.S. policy of expansion leading up to and following the war. Included in the kit is a DVD entitled “Crucible of Empire, the Spanish-American War,” a detailed account of this event.

#10 Triangular Trade: The Middle Passage

Author: Mike Baarlaer
Level: Grade 5



Made to go along with a historical study of slavery, *Triangular Trade: Middle Passage* is a great way to teach your students about the slave trade system. Student will research the Atlantic slave trade, identify a typical triangular trade route, calculate distances, and demonstrate understanding of the harsh and inhumane treatment of Africans during this time period.

#11 The Underground Railroad in the Great Lakes Region

Author: Karen Cordes
Level: Grade 4



Using primary source documents, pictures, paintings, quilt squares, and songs from the 1800's, students will learn about slavery and the development of the Underground Railroad. A key focus of this kit is on Michigan's involvement in this secret railroad and the abolitionists who assisted slaves with their pursuit to freedom.

#12 World War I Simulation and Newspapers

Author: Terry Terpstra

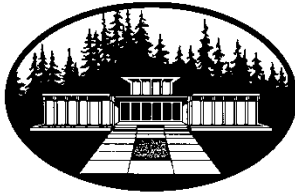
Level: High School



Geared for high school, students will travel back in time by reading primary sources, participate in simulated trench warfare, and write a newspaper about the four main causes of World War I. Using rubrics and checklist, students will plan and monitor their work as well as write an essay about World War I.



Alpena-Montmorency-Alcona
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