

Undiscovered Country: Library of Congress for Educators

Best place to start: <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/>

Under The Learning Page, select Lesson Plans. Especially note the Media Analysis Tools link.

- Many lesson plans include images and samples of student work, as well as comprehensive handouts, standards and evaluation tools such as rubrics.
- Most are for 6th grade and above, but there are still a variety for grades 4 and 5. Most use social studies or language arts standards, though some might pertain to other curricula such as “Recreation Yesterday and Today”, “Nature’s Fury” or “Photojournalism”.

Under The Learning Page, select Features and Activities. My personal favorites:

- [From Slavery to Civil Rights: A timeline of African-American history](#) – the images are SO compelling and made the previously academic/political issues real, personal and emotional for me.
- [Copyright Exposed \(Taking the mystery out of copyright\)](#) – fun, interactive “comic book” to bring to life this otherwise dull topic that might be uncomfortable to discuss with young students.
- [What in the World is that?](#) – I’ve always been fascinated with wacky inventions!
- [American Memory Time Line](#) – as it says, “...a teachers's wish, come true!” Especially useful for people like me who avoided much formal education in history. Very comprehensive.
- [Immigration](#) – includes personal stories collected from students around the country. This could be a great “prompt” or examples for a project where students interview their relatives and compile their own family stories.

Other Valuable Library of Congress Services...

<http://www.loc.gov/podcasts> Subscribe to their podcasts for interesting interviews with well-known authors, poets and storytellers who spoke at the National Book Festival in September (including Ken Burns speaking about “The War” from PBS).

<http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc> Webcasts: audio and video “lectures” from experts on almost anything you can imagine – browse by subject from science and technology to education and performing arts.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem> Link to American Memory Project home page to directly access collections. Personal favorites include:

- Advertising→ Edison Collections (see first moving pictures ever made!)
- Advertising→ Posters, WPA (cool artwork from 1936-1943 including such memorable slogans as “The fly is as deadly as a bomber!”)
- Environment, Conservation→ Evolution of the conservation movement from 1850 – 1920
- Maps! →Find maps of anything and everything...
- More browse options→Browse collections containing... Sound recordings→near the bottom, Slave Narratives Audio Interviews (or go directly to <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/voices/>)