

Celebrating America: Teaching about Patriotic Holidays

Curriculum Materials Center

A selection of resources for teaching about patriotic holidays, symbols, and history in Preschool through grade 8 classrooms.

Teaching Resources:

Barnes, P. W. (1999). *A “mice” way to learn about voting, campaigns and elections with Woodrow for President: Teaching about voting, campaigns, elections and civic participation with Woodrow for President: Curriculum guide*. Alexandria, VA: VSP Books. (Grade K- 4).

Call Number: Curr.Mats. JK524 .B375 1999

Bisson, J. (1997). *Celebrate!: An anti-bias guide to enjoying holidays in early childhood programs*. St. Paul, MN: Redleaf Press. (Grade PreK-K).

Call Number: Curr.Mats. GT4083 .A2 B57 1997

Buehler, S. (2000). *Elections: Primary*. Westminster, CA: Teacher Created Materials. (Grade 1-3).

Call Number: Curr.Mats. JF1001 .B845 2000

Patriotic holidays activities. (1996). Huntington Beach, CA: Teacher Created Materials. (Grade 1-3).

Call Number: Curr.Mats. GT4803 .A2 P288 1996

Spann, M .B. (1991). *Literature-based seasonal and holiday activities*. New York: Scholastic. (Grade K-3).

Call Number: Curr.Mats. LB1527 .S63 1991

Reference: Available in CMC Reference Room

Marks, D. F. (2003). *Let's celebrate today: Calendars, events and holidays*. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited.

Call Number: Curr.Mats. Ref. GT3930 .M35 2003 (also available as an electronic book)

Pilger, M. A. (2002). *Multicultural projects index: Things to make and do to celebrate festivals, cultures, and holidays around the world*. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited.

Call Number: Curr.Mats. Ref. LC1099 .P55 2002

Shearer, B. F. (1994). *State names, seals, flags and symbols: A historical guide*. Westport, CO: Greenwood Press.

Call Number: Curr.Mats. Ref. E155 .S44 1994

Picture Books:

Bertrand, D. G. (2001). *Uncle Chente's picnic*. Houston, TX: Pinata Books.
(Grades 3-5).

A big rainstorm and a power failure during a Fourth of July picnic in honor of Uncle Chente cause a change in plans, resulting in a very special family gathering.

Call Number: P J Ber

Bunting, E. (1990). *The Wall*. New York: Clarion Books. (Grades K-3).

A boy and his father come from far away to visit the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington to find the boy's grandfather's name.

Call Number: P J Bun

Guthrie, W. (1998). *This land is your land*. Boston: Little, Brown. (Grades K-3).

This well-known folk song is accompanied by a tribute from folksinger Pete Seeger, the musical notation, and a biographical scrapbook with photographs.

Call Number: P J Gut

Hoff, S. (1981). *Henrietta's Fourth of July*. Champaign, IL: Garrard Publishing Co.
(Grades K-3).

Farmer Gray and the barnyard friends, including Henrietta, join in the annual Fourth of July festivities.

Call Number: P J Hof

Keller, H. (1985). *Henry's Fourth of July*. New York: Greenwillow Books.
(Grades K-3).

Henry has a fun-filled day celebrating the Fourth of July with his family and friends

Call Number: P J Kel

Biographies:

Adler, D. A. (1989). *A picture book of George Washington*. New York: Holiday House. (Grades PreK-3).

A brief account of the life of the "Father of Our Country."

Call Number: jB Washington

Adler, D. A. (2004). *George Washington: An illustrated biography*. New York: Holiday House. (Grades 4-6).

The full story of the life of our first President, told with the help of quotes from his correspondence and accounts from his peers.

Call Number: jB Washington

Cohn, A. L. (2002). *Abraham Lincoln*. New York: Scholastic Press. (Grades K-5).
A simple biography of the Illinois lawyer who served the country as president through the difficulties of the Civil War.

Call Number: jB Lin

Dodson, M. W. (2003). *Christopher Columbus*. New York: Children's Press. (Grade PreK-3).
Presents a brief look at the life of Christopher Columbus and his search for a new route to the Indies.

Call Number: jB Col

Fritz, J. (1976). *Will you sign here, John Hancock?* New York: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan. (Grade 3-7).
A biography of the first signer of the Declaration of Independence outlining what he did for himself, Massachusetts and his new nation.

Call Number: jB Han

Krull, K. (2004). *A woman for president: The story of Victoria Woodhull*. New York: Walker and Co. (Grade 3-8).
This picture book biography traces Woodhull's many careers and accomplishments. The emphasis is on her 1872 run for the presidency as a candidate of the Equal Rights Party.

Call Number: jB Woodhull

Juvenile Non Fiction:

History and Facts:

Ansary, M. T. (1999). **Holiday histories series**. Des Plaines, IL: Heinemann Library. (Grades K-3).

This series introduces American holidays and explains the historical events behind it, how it became a holiday, and how it is observed.

Columbus Day. **Call Number: j394.264 Ans**

Labor Day. **Call Number: j394.264 Ans**

Memorial Day **Call Number: j394.262 Ans**

President's Day **Call Number: j394.261 Ans**

Veterans Day. **Call Number: j394.264 Ans**

Bausum, A. (2005). *Our country's Presidents*. Washington, DC: National Geographic Society. (Grade 4-8).

A brief biography of the Presidents of the United States from George Washington to George W. Bush. With added information about elections, life in the White House and the First Ladies.

Call Number: j973.09 Bau

Crouthers, D. D. (1973). *Flags of American history*. Maplewood, NJ: Hammond Inc. (Grade K-5).

Describes a selection of flags from American history. Includes the Flag Code of the United States and pictures of every state flag.

Call Number: j929.9 Cro

Ditchfield, C. (2003). *Memorial Day*. New York: Children's Press. (Grade 4-8).

Simple text and photographs describe the origins of Memorial Day, and why it is important to honor those who gave their lives for their country.

Call Number: j394.26 Dit

Freedman, R. (2000). *Give me liberty!: The story of the Declaration of Independence*. New York: Holiday House. (Grade 4-7).

Describes the events leading up to the Declaration of Independence as well as the personalities and politics behind its framing.

Call Number: j973.3 Fre

Maestro, B. (1987). *A more perfect union: The story of our Constitution*.

New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books. (Grade 2-5).

Describes how the Constitution was drafted and ratified.

Call Number: j342.73 Mae

Marzollo, J. (1991). *In 1492*. New York: Scholastic. (Grade K-3).

Rhyming text describes Christopher Columbus's first voyage to the New World. Includes teachers guide.

Call Number: [Big Book] j970.01 Mar

Miller, N. (1965). *The story of the Liberty Bell*. Chicago: Children's Press.

(Grades K – 3).

Relates the story of this famous bell which was cast in England but became the symbol of American Independence.

Call Number: j974.81 Mil

Murphy, P. J. (2002). *Election Day*. New York: Children's Press. (Grade K-2).

Explains the importance of voting, different methods of voting, and how voting helps us take part in our government.

Call Number: j324.6 Mur

The pledge of allegiance. (2000). New York: Scholastic Inc. (Grade K-3).

Big book format with teachers guide. Learn the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance through photographs.

Call Number: [Big Book] j323.65 Ple

- St. George, J. (2000). *So you want to be president*. New York: Philomel Books. (Grade 3-5).
Presents an assortment of facts about the qualifications and characteristics of United States presidents, from George Washington to Bill Clinton.
Call Number: j973.099 Sai
- Shapiro, M. J. (1985). *How they built the Statue of Liberty*. New York: Random House. (Grade 4-8).
Panoramas, cross sections, and diagrams provide a detailed portrayal of the construction of the Statue of Liberty.
Call Number: j974.71 Sha
- United States National Archives and Records Administration. (2003). *Our documents: 100 milestone documents from the National Archives*. New York: Oxford University Press. (Grade 6-12).
A collection of one hundred documents that were important in the development of the United States from its founding to 1965.
Call Number: j973 Uni

Plays, Poetry and Stories:

- Boiko, C. (1972). *Plays and programs for boys and girls; A collection of thirty royalty-free, one act plays for young players*. Boston: Plays, Inc. (Grade 3-8).
Among other topics, includes plays on various American patriotic holidays.
Call Number: j812.08 Boi
- Giblin, J. (1983). *Fireworks, picnics and flags*. New York: Clarion Books. (Grade 6-8).
Giblin provides us with an opportunity to learn about the freedom of our country by taking us back in time to the days leading up to and following the first 4th of July.
Call Number: j394.268 Gib
- Granfield, L. (1995). *In Flanders fields: The story of the poem*. New York: Doubleday Books for Young Readers. (Grade 6-8).
Presents the context for the writing of the famous poem by the Canadian medical officer who attended injured soldiers in Flanders during the First World War.
Call Number: j811.52 Gra
- Hopkins, L. B. (1977). *Beat the drum, Independence Day has come*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. (Grade K-4).
An anthology of poems about American independence.
Call Number: j811.5 Bea

Key, F. S. (1973). *The Star-Spangled Banner*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday.
(Grade PreK-5).

Illustrates three verses of our national anthem, written at the battle of Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. Music score is included.

Call Number: j784.7 Key

Nipp, S. H. (1987). *Wee sing America*. Los Angeles, CA: Price Stern Sloan.
(Grade PreK-4).

Book with cassette includes patriotic selections as well songs from our American history. The songs tell the story of the struggles and successes of our young country.

Call Number: j781.5 Wee

Wesley, V. W. (1997). *Freedom's gift: A Juneteenth story*. New York: Simon and Schuster Books. (Grade 3-6).

When a girl from New York visits her cousin in Texas, she learns the origin of Juneteenth, a holiday marking the day Texan slaves realized they were free.

Call Number: J Wes

Audiovisual: Available in Media Services

George Washington: The man who wouldn't be king. (1999). Alexandria, VA: PBS Video. (Grade 6-8).

Call Number: VC4600 v.34

God bless America. (2001). New York: Columbia. (Grade K-8).

Call Number: CD2496

Just a few words Mr. Lincoln: The story of the Gettysburg address. (1999).

Westport, CT: Weston Woods. (Grade 2-7).

Call Number: VC5137

Martin's Big Words. (2002). Norwalk, CT: Weston Woods. (Grade 6-8).

Call Number: VC5157

Computer Software: Available in the Electronic Resource Center

Where do you think you're going, Christopher Columbus. (1999). New York: Scholastic. (Grade 3-7).

Call Number: [IBM/MAC] E111 .W54 1999

Pat Moore
February 2007