HISTORYCONNECTS
An Interactive Education Experience
from the Virginia Historical Society
HistoryConnects is an outreach education initiative by the Virginia Historical Society utilizing cutting-edge technology, including Interactive Videoconferencing, web conferencing, Skype, podcasts, and online courses to reach learners of all ages across the state of Virginia and around the nation!

HistoryConnects programs are interactive, primary-source based historical explorations that highlight treasures of the Virginia Historical Society’s collections while encouraging inquiry based learning. Each of these programs are expressly developed to match both Virginia and national standards, and can be customized for any audience.
WHAT OTHERS HAVE SAID:

“I have always wanted to bring my students to the VHS, and this was a great way for them to see and learn more about what we are learning about in VA history.”

“The children enjoyed learning about the primary sources available at the Virginia Historical Society. The presenter was able to keep the children engaged throughout the entire presentation. I liked that the presenter made time for Q&A.”

“It was great. I have done video conferencing for three years, and this is by far the best. Loved it.”
### Frequently Asked Questions

**What is HistoryConnects?**
HistoryConnects is an outreach education initiative by the Virginia Historical Society utilizing Interactive Video Conferencing (IVC) equipment or web-based conferencing software (eg. WebEx, Elluminate, Skype) to reach students across the state of Virginia and around the nation! HistoryConnects programs are interactive, primary source based historical explorations that reinforce both national and state standards of learning.

**How does this compare to the VHS traditional outreach programming?**
The HistoryConnects program is based on the traditional museum outreach education model, so the two have a great deal in common. A HistoryConnects program begins with an educator from the VHS introducing the topic and institution and then leading an interactive historical discussion with your students. Like the Hands-on-History boxes, the HistoryConnects programs are centered on in-depth investigation of primary sources and replica artifacts. The new technology allows us to share high definition details of letters, maps, and images that were not previously possible.

**How much do HistoryConnects programs cost?**
The HistoryConnects programs are $100 (unless otherwise noted). Virginia schools are offered programs at a 50% discount. You will be invoiced for your program once it is completed. We understand that there are several external factors that can impact a program centered on technology. If a program connection is unable to be made due to factors that are beyond human control (i.e. snow days, power or network failures, etc.) we will work with you to reschedule your program at no additional charge.

**How long are the HistoryConnects programs?**
HistoryConnects programs are structured to run between 45 and 60 minutes (unless otherwise noted), with time for questions and answers. Any program can be structured to meet your classroom schedule.

**How do I schedule a HistoryConnects program?**
Programs are available Monday through Thursday, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Eastern time. Lessons are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Register for your program through the CILC site, providing all requested information. An email and verification will be sent to you within 5–7 business days. Once your program is confirmed, a Teacher Information Packet will be sent to help your class prepare for the videoconference.

**What if I need to cancel my program?**
Groups canceling 48 hours in advance or due to school closings may reschedule programs at no additional cost. All rescheduling is subject to availability. For cancellations, please call 804-342-9689. A make-up session must be rescheduled by the end of the school year. Following up on this matter is the responsibility of the school or group, and not the VHS.

**How do we make sure that we have a good connection?**
Groups are responsible for dialing into the Virginia Historical Society and providing all connection information. Information on dialing in to the museum will be provided with verification of program booking. The day of your conference, you may connect with us up to 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. Connecting later than 15 minutes after your start time will result in billing for a missed conference. There is no charge for test connections; however they must be scheduled in advance. Once a program is booked, a test connection appointment will be scheduled. Unscheduled test connections interrupt live videoconferences. Please call 804-342-9689.

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For programming information, to book programs, or if you have questions, concerns, or comments, please contact Evan Liddiard at eliddiard@vahistorical.org
POCAHONTAS AND THE POWHATAN INDIANS
Using primary sources as well as replica artifacts created by Mattaponi Indians, students will learn about what life was like in Virginia before the first English settlers made it their home. Students will identify the various natural resources used by Native American men, women, and children to make their tools and clothing. Students will also be engaged in a discussion about Pocahontas and the myths associated with her.

THE PURSUIT OF LIBERTY: VIRGINIA AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
This program examines the economic and government structure of colonial Virginia, explores the impacts of British taxes and tariffs on the colonials, and investigates the roles of Virginians in declaring independence and waging the Revolutionary War. Famous Virginians such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Mason will be discussed as well as lesser known individuals like Anna Maria Lane and James Lafayette.

VIRGINIA AND THE WESTWARD MOVEMENT
This program examines the nineteenth-century movement of Virginians to the West and their contributions to settling the American frontier. Using primary sources from Virginians who traveled west, along with reproductions of objects that might have been found on a settler's Conestoga wagon, students interpret the great migration from Virginia in the decades before the Civil War.

AN AMERICAN TURNING POINT: THE CIVIL WAR IN VIRGINIA
The educator and audience will discuss various aspects of the Civil War, including life on the battlefield, life on the home front, the roles of medicine and technology in the Civil War. An American Turning point is a signature program of the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission.

THE CIVIL WAR SOLDIER
Investigate the trials and hardships of a Civil War soldier, and examine similarities and differences of equipment used by the Union and Confederate soldiers. Students examine primary and secondary sources of objects and letters, discuss the effect the war had on Virginians and their country, and explore the contributions made by women, slaves and children, whether they worked side by side with the soldiers or maintained the home front while the men were away.

SNAPSHOTS IN TIME: VIRGINIA IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
An in-depth examination of digitized images from the Virginia Historical Society's collection that can be used to address themes in post–1865 Virginia and American history. These images address historical changes in areas of industry and agriculture, including the effects that these changes had on education, industrialization, urbanization, transportation, and the changing roles of women.

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN VIRGINIA: SLAVERY AND EMANCIPATION
This program examines the African American experience in Virginia from 1619 to emancipation. In addition to the history of the institution of slavery, this program will bring a focus on African cultural traditions like music, family celebrations, and food ways; students will also examine the response to slavery.

VIRTUAL TOUR: THE STORY OF VIRGINIA
Virtual tours of the Virginia Historical Society's award-winning exhibition, The Story of Virginia, are tailored to meet the requirements of grade-specific standards of learning (SOLs). The virtual tour format is a blend of presentation and question and answer, which allows for comprehensive SOL reviews for the students.

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN VIRGINIA: FROM CIVIL WAR TO CIVIL RIGHTS
Emancipation brought promises of equality for African Americans in Virginia and the South. It took the better part of a century for those promises to be realized. This program will identify and examine the effects of segregation and “Jim Crow” on life in Virginia. Students will also discuss the social and political events in VA linked to desegregation and Massive Resistance and their relationship to national history.
EXPLORING PRIMARY SOURCES:
JOHN SMITH’S MAP OF VIRGINIA
John Smith’s map was one of the most influential because of the importance of Virginia and the accuracy with which Smith conducted his work. This program will examine Smith’s map to reveal information both about the nature of mapmaking, and also what this map told people in the early 17th century about the Virginia settlement.

FAMOUS VIRGINIANS, FOUNDING DOCUMENTS
During this program students will learn about the lives of Virginia’s founding fathers, including Washington, Henry, Jefferson, Madison, and Mason, while examining some of the most important documents in American history: the Declaration of Independence, the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, the Virginia Declaration of Rights, and the US Constitution.

EXPLORING PRIMARY SOURCES:
DUCK AND COVER
Air raid drills. Conelrad. Bomb shelters. Duck and cover. All of these were familiar terms to Americans in the Cold War culture of the 1950s. The future looked uncertain in the new Atomic Age, and there was growing tension between America and the Soviet Union. People lived with the threat of nuclear war as part of their daily lives.

EXPLORING PRIMARY SOURCES:
THE “REAL” POCAHONTAS
This program will examine some of the many depictions created of Pocahontas over time, including the one made in person. Students will learn how to interpret a picture as a primary source, and through historical inquiry, determine which of the depictions is the “real” Pocahontas.

EXPLORING PRIMARY SOURCES:
DIFFERENT PATHS TO FREEDOM
Discover the implications that the American Revolution had on ideas of freedom and liberty. Students will examine the relationship between enslaved African Americans and the American Revolution through an investigation of Lord Dunmore’s Proclamation, James Lafayette’s petition, and Peter Sublett’s manumission.

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EXPLORING PRIMARY SOURCES:
THE SEARCH FOR CALIFORNIA GOLD
In 1849, John Robertson Maben traveled to California in search of gold. In a series of thirteen letters, Maben describes his travels to his wife, Sarah. In this program, students will join Maben on his journey, interpreting his letters, tracing his travels on a nineteenth-century map, and examining the landscape.

PRIMARY SOURCE WORKSHOP:
SAVING PRIVATE SCOTT
In this program, students will explore a mother’s agonizing search for her missing son as revealed in the letters of Confederate General Robert E. Lee, Union General Joseph Hooker, and a number of the other Union and Confederate officers as they tried to determine Private Scott’s fate.

ASK US...
The education staff of the Virginia Historical Society is at your disposal in this program. Spend time talking with and interviewing a historian about any part of Virginia history. This highly interactive discussion serves as a perfect refresher for end of the year testing, or choose a topic and request an expert to interact with your class on a tailor-made presentation.
COMING 2014: *PRIMARILY VIRGINIA ONLINE TEACHERS’ INSTITUTE!*

This online teachers’ institute is designed to highlight the collections of the Virginia Historical Society while emphasizing both primary source learning and historical inquiry. The asynchronous, module-based institute will allow teachers from around the state access to the resources of the VHS from the comfort of their homes or schools. *Primarily Virginia* will build a virtual community of educators, allowing participants to get feedback from both museum professionals and their colleagues. The course will be endorsed by the Virginia Department of Education, meaning that completion will result in 45 professional development points (used towards teaching license recertification).

**Contact Us:**
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