

NJ Social Studies Network News

A Publication of the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies

A print copy is available on our website, www.njcss.org

December 2018

hb288@sasmail.rutgers.edu

NJSSSA (NJ Social Studies Supervisors Association)

The next meeting of the NJSSSA is January 18, 2019 at the NJ PSA complex in Monroe Twp.

NJCSS Student Recognition Awards

Applications are due on March 15, 2019

www.njcss.org

Middle School, High School, College awards

Every student nominated receives a certificate with three finalists in each category receiving awards

Professional Development

NCHE National Conference

Exercising Power: Individuals and Institutions in History

Washington, D.C.

Crystal Gateway Marriott

March 14-16, 2019

Keynote Speaker: Bettany Hughes

NCHE welcomes Bettany Hughes, an award-winning historian, author and broadcaster, who has devoted the last 25 years to the vibrant communication of the past. Her specialty is ancient and medieval history and culture. She has taught at Oxford and Cambridge.



Engaging Programs at the NJ Vietnam War Memorial and Museum in Holmdel

Friday, March, 2019 - "Civil Rights and Liberties during the Vietnam War" Our keynote is **MaryBeth Tinker** (*Tinker v. Des Moines*) is the keynote speaker. Registration will be open soon on our website.

MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES
49TH ANNUAL NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE SOCIAL STUDIES (NERC49)
MARCH 18 & 19, 2019
(with snow date of March 20, 2019)
FRAMINGHAM STATE UNIVERSITY
Framingham, Massachusetts
<http://www.masscouncil.org/>

Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge
Applications Open: www.freedomfoundation.org



Valley Forge, PA – Cold War, War on Terror, 19th Amendment, Innovative Entrepreneurs, Abraham Lincoln, WW 2
Pueblo, CO – Vietnam **Traveling Programs** – Virginia Presidents and Their Families; Revolution and Rebellion, 1756-1794

Gilder Lehrman Summer Programs/Seminars for Teachers

Apply Now!!!

Deadline is Monday, February 18, 2019

<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/teacher-seminars>



NEH Summer Seminar Programs for K-12 and College Teachers

Applications Available December 14, 2018

Deadline is February 14, 2019

<https://www.neh.gov/divisions/education/summer-programs> (View Programs)



Resources for Teachers

Getting Your Students Ready for the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment!

Visit the [Links](#) page of the NJCSS website, www.njcss.org, for our new section of digital resources

Coming in 2019 –

PD Workshops for Teachers

Student Contest

Resources for Lessons

NJ ratified the 19th Amendment on February 9, 1920 and women began voting in the primary elections in March!

World of 7 Billion

www.worldof7billion.org

www.populationeducation.org

We're excited to announce that the [World of 7 Billion video contest](#) is back for the 2018-2019 school year with new topics! This year's topics are: preserving biodiversity, sustainable resource use, and protecting human rights.

The [contest](#) is open to all middle and high school students worldwide, and the deadline for submissions is February 28th, 2019. We're hoping that, by giving teachers enough lead time, they'll be able to incorporate the contest into their [syllabi](#). Participating teachers receive free curriculum resources from Population Education, and the student winners receive cash prizes.

TeachingAmericanHistory.org

info@teachingamericanhistory.org

NEW! Reconstruction

Each Core Documents volume contains the following:

- Key documents on the period, theme, or institution, selected by an expert and reviewed by an editorial board
- An introduction highlighting key documents and themes
- A thematic table of contents, showing the connections between various documents
- Study questions for each document, as well as questions that refer to other documents in the collection
- Notes on each document to identify people, events, movements, or ideas to improve understanding of the document's historical context

Volumes are also available in paperback on [Amazon](#) and on [iTunes/Kindle](#).

American Founding

Constitutional Convention

Great Depression and the New Deal

World War II

Cold War

Documents and Debates (2-Volume)

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

25th Anniversary Year

NEW EXHIBIT - Now through 2020!

AMERICANS AND THE HOLOCAUST EXPLORES AMERICANS' RESPONSES TO NAZISM

<https://www.ushmm.org/information/press/press-releases/museum-opens-new-exhibition-americans-and-the-holocaust>



The exhibition:

- Presents public opinion polling from the era to examine how World War I, the Great Depression, isolationism, and anti-Semitism shaped American attitudes and both reflected and affected leaders' decisions.
- Includes new research and artifacts illustrating the many obstacles European Jews faced on both sides of the Atlantic while they tried to flee Europe and enter the United States.
- Chronicles what the US government—from President Roosevelt to Congress and government agencies—did and did not do to respond to Nazism and the persecution and mass murder of Europe's Jews.
- Sheds light on how much information was available to Americans in their local communities both early on and during the war years about the threat of Nazism and the Holocaust.

FORD'S THEATRE

2018-2019 SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT

A Christmas Carol - November 15 to December 30, 2018

Join the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future as they lead the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge on a journey of transformation and redemption.

Twelve Angry Men - January 18 to February 17, 2019

Behind closed doors, tensions run high as a lone juror argues the innocence of a teenager accused of murder. In this provocatively resonant American drama, 12 jurors from all strata of society revisit the evidence, debate the issue of reasonable doubt and confront each other's personal biases.

Into the Woods - March 8 to May 18, 2019

In Stephen Sondheim's imaginative, darkly comical remix of the beloved Grimm fairy tales, a baker and his wife set out to reverse a witch's curse in hopes of having a child of their own. The couple's quest takes them into the woods, where they encounter Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and his beanstalk, a cautious Cinderella, a sequestered Rapunzel and a couple of lovelorn princes.

The New York Historical Society

170 Central Park West at 77th Street

<http://www.nyhistory.org/>



[Black Citizenship in the Age of Jim Crow](#) - September 7, 2018 - March 3, 2019

[Harry Potter: A History of Magic](#) - October 5, 2018 - January 27, 2019

Also - Visit their online Exhibitions!

911 Memorial and Museum

Upcoming Free Programs

<https://www.911memorial.org/public-programs>

Tue. Dec. 18 – *VICE News on HBO: After the Fall* - Speaker: Isobel Yeung

2019 White House History Teacher Institute

Applications for next summer will open on December 1, 2018 and remain open through February 1, 2019



We will be hosting 2 sessions of 30 educators each - first session: July 8-12, 2019 and second session: July 22-26, 2019. During this five-day experience, educators examine the more than 200-year history of the White House and its impact as a home, office, and museum. Learn from experts and devise classroom applications with a group of peers from across the country. Learn more and watch a video about the program.

The Institute is open to all educators, including librarians, media specialists, curriculum coordinators, and classroom teachers. Priority will be given to middle and high school educators who work directly with students.

National Park Trust's Annual Kids to Parks Day National School Contest

This contest is open to all **Title I students** in grades pre-K through 12. The contest provides grants up to \$1,000 to cover transportation, park-related fees, stewardship supplies, or anything else students believe would enhance their experience. **The deadline to apply is February 14, 2019.** Details can be found at http://bit.ly/KTPsc_SC

Princeton Battlefield Society Programs

500 Mercer St., Princeton, NJ 08540
609-921-0074

Sunday, Dec. 2, 2018: 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Soldiers & Civilians in Princeton During the Ten Crucial Days During the Winter of 1776 to 1777: The Civilians, The British, The Americans \$15 pp, Onsite Registration \$30 pp.

Register: <https://www.theprincetonbattlefieldsociety.org/soldiers-and-civilians.html>

Saturday, December 8, 2018: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Young Patriot's Day: A Revolutionary Celebration of Books for Young Readers

Register: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07efss685478ce33ee&oseq=&c=&ch=>

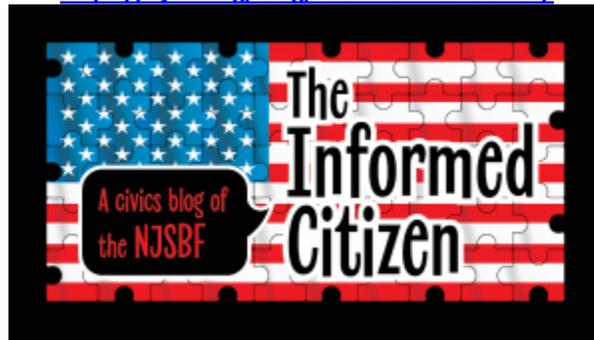
Sunday, December 30, 2018: 7:00 – 10:00 a.m. *George Washington on Horseback*

\$10 for adults, Age 12 and under free.

The Informed Citizen

NJ State Bar Association blog

<https://njsbf.org/blog/the-informed-citizen/>



100th Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment

Visit the Links Page at www.njcss.org for our new section on digital resources

New Jersey ratified the 19th Amendment on February 9, 1920

Assembly Vote: 34-24 Senate Vote: 18-2

Classroom Resources

Living Voices

<http://livingvoices.org/>



Living Voices presents dynamic solo performances combined with archival film that turns history into a personal journey

Bringing Life to History



Through the Eyes of a Friend: Anne Frank story
The New American: Journey from Ireland to Ellis Island
The Right to Dream: The Struggle for Civil Rights
Within the Silence: The internment of Japanese Americans
Our Revolution: The Revolution from one soldier's unique point of view
Hear My Voice: Women's Suffrage Movement
Journey from the Dust: The Dust Bowl and the Great Depression
Island of Hope: Fleeing injustice to find freedom in America

Japanese American Incarceration in World War II

Japanese American Incarceration in World War II draws students into the history of Japanese American incarceration in the United States. To better understand this history, students examine U.S.-Japanese relations before World War II, the varied experiences of incarcerated Japanese Americans, and the ways that members of the Japanese American community and others in the United States have remembered and continue to remember incarceration.

Download Free Unit: http://www.choices.edu/curriculum-unit/japanese-american-incarceration-world-war-ii/?utm_source=Choices+Newsletter+List&utm_campaign=f3aca64c3b-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_01_17&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_af2c96b5f0-f3aca64c3b-81156281&mc_cid=f3aca64c3b&mc_eid=ab39401034

Free Display to Commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment From the National Archives

<https://education.blogs.archives.gov/2018/09/19/rightfully-hers-pop-up/>

We're offering a limited number of free pop-up displays called *Rightfully Hers* to schools and cultural institutions nationwide. The display contains simple messages exploring the history of the 19th amendment's ratification, women's voting rights before and after the 19th amendment, and its impact today.



Display details:

- Free pop-up display from the National Archives
- Lightweight, easy to set up, and versatile
- Pop-up display requires no tools or walls, and can be set up in any public area
- Total assembled size is 66.5" high by 32" wide
- Total footprint is approximately 45" square
- Participating venues will receive digital educational and press materials
- Delivered to each host venue's doorstep in early March
- For initial display from March 8-June 8, 2019 to commemorate Women's History Month
- It's yours to keep! Re-use the display any time after the initial display period
- Venues will be asked to complete a brief report at the end of the initial display period

The Franklin Institute of Philadelphia



Vikings: Beyond the Legend - October 13, 2018 to March 3, 2019

This exhibit brings people from the Viking period to life with a wealth of unique objects, multimedia productions and interactive elements revealing the captivating story of the explorers who set sail from Scandinavia centuries ago.

Changing Earth - Our restless Earth is always changing. Tectonic plates drift, the crust quakes, and volcanoes erupt. Air pressure falls, storms form, and precipitation results. Learn how these powerful forces shape our air, land, water, and weather—and constantly transform our planet. Explore how our response to Earth's changes will impact our future on Earth and discover how your choices impact our future Earth.

PRESIDENTS AND PLACES 2019

Sign up for this free, interactive program for grades 6-12

[REGISTER NOW](#): January - March 2019



Enrich your social studies curriculum and sign up for the Presidential Primary Sources Project (PPSP) today! Learn about presidents like Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, and Ulysses S. Grant directly from National Park Service rangers and presidential historians in this live, interactive web series, which runs from January-March of 2019.

Share the presidents' stories with your social studies students through live interactive video and primary source documents.

Project Citizen – A FREE Teacher Workshop

March 27, 2019 (8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.)

5 PDC Hours

Busch Campus Center – Room 174

Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ 08854



Project Citizen is a process-based program that actively engages students in identifying, researching, and trying to implement solutions to public policy problems in their local community or in New Jersey. **Information and examples of past projects are at: <http://civiced.rutgers.edu/projectcitizen.html> Contact: robert.odell@rutgers.edu or call 848-445-3413.**

Educating Students to Become Informed & Engaged Citizens!

A FREE Teacher Workshop (5 PDC Hours)
April 11, 2019 (8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.)
Busch Campus Center - Room 174
Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ 08854

Vote responsibly!

Step #1

Become an informed citizen.

Step #2

Cast an informed ballot!



The NJ Social Studies Supervisors Association (NJSSA), the NJ Center for Civic Education, and the NJ Council for the Social Studies (NJCSS) are sponsoring a workshop, “**Educating Today’s Students to Sustain Tomorrow’s Democracy.**” Join Us! Register by email to: robert.odell@rutgers.edu

For Students

Euro Challenge

Register your team today! <https://www.euro-challenge.org/registration-forms>

Final Round - May 2, 2019 – NYC

For students in Grades 9-10



In 2018, the top five winning teams received monetary awards generously provided by The Moody's Foundation. The awards were \$1,250 for each member of the first-place team, \$1,000 each for second place, \$750 each for third place, \$500 each for fourth place, and \$250 each for fifth place. The Moody's Foundation also sponsored a trip to Washington, D.C. for the two top teams of 2018. We anticipate similar prize levels for 2019.

911 Memorial and Museum

Field Trip/Lesson Plans

<https://www.911memorial.org/plan-your-school-visit>



Contact the 911 Museum directly for information about tickets, which are supported by a generous grant for school groups. There are planned programs for children as young as age 8. The current exhibit, "Comeback Season: Sports After 911," the story of the rebuilding of Ground Zero, and the information in the historical artifacts are all relevant for your students. The 911 Memorial and Museum is local history as every community was impacted. Plan now for a school trip or arrange an educational trip for teachers in your school/district!

World AIDS Day

Takes Place on December 1, 2018

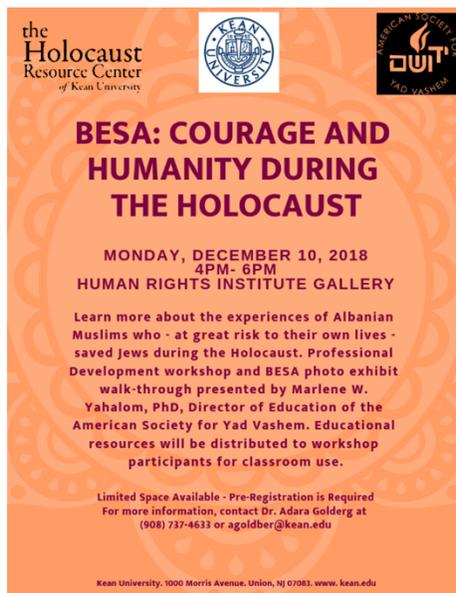
Teenagers Fastest Growing Population

Did you know Teenagers are the fastest growing population in the USA and around the Globe to contract the HIV Infection which leads to the AIDS Virus? World AIDS Day is this December 1, 2018 and it is an excellent time for all of us to undertake a public education and awareness project and/or campaign to help reduce to the rapid spread of HIV and AIDS. Learn more at World AIDS Day Website: <https://www.worldaidsday.org/>

Kean University Council on Global Citizenship and Education Courses for High School Seniors

The ID1800 course on Holocaust, Genocide and Modern Humanity allows high school seniors to earn college credits for a reduced fee. Contact: **DR. ADARA GOLDBERG**, Holocaust Resource Center, 908.737.4633 agoldber@kean.edu

There are also public programs, for teachers and the Post-Bac Certificate in Teaching the Holocaust and Prejudice Reduction (tuition-waived graduate courses)

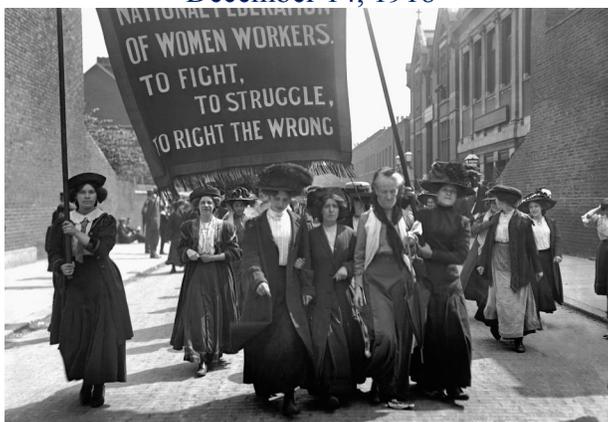


<https://www.kean.edu/offices/holocaust-resource-center/post-baccalaureate-certificate>

Focus on Civics

British women voted for the first time

December 14, 1918



Between 1918 and 2015, a total of 450 women have been elected as Members of the House of Commons, which is fewer than the number of men (459) in the 2015 Parliament. Margaret Thatcher (1979-90) and Theresa May (2016-Present) are the two women who have been elected as prime ministers. As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment (The Congress passed the amendment on June 4, 1919 and it was ratified on August 18, 1920), it is a time to teach students to importance of the vote and the meaning of **suffrage** and **franchise**. (New Jersey ratified the 19th Amendment on February 9, 1920.)

The freedom of an individual to express a desire for a change in government by choosing between competing people or ideas without fear is basic to self-government. **Suffrage** is the right or exercise of the right to vote in public affairs. The freedom of an individual to express a desire for a change in government by choosing between competing people or ideas without fear or reprisal is basic to self-government. Any exclusion from the right of suffrage, or as it is also called, the franchise, excludes that person from a basic means for participating in the political decision-making process.

Suffrage has been viewed as a right, as a privilege, or as a duty. As a right, it has led to the extension of the franchise to include more and more people. As a privilege, suffrage is granted by law and is subject to limitations imposed by governing authorities. It therefore can be restricted to some special parts of the population. The Greeks understood the exercise of the suffrage as the citizen's duty to participate actively in the welfare of the community.

The **franchise** to vote is one established by local, state, or federal laws and cannot be denied to people based on race, color, previous condition of servitude, sex, or age for those above 18 who are protected by laws. In 1789 it has been estimated that only 6% of the population was enfranchised with the right to vote. It is a franchise because people are denied the right to vote for various reasons, such as not registering to vote or serving time in prison.

About 4 million U.S. citizens are denied the right to vote in a presidential election because they live in a U.S. Territory (Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands) and these geographic locations are not represented in the Electoral College. Voting is an important subject for students to understand, especially the expansion of voting rights in the 15th, 17th, 19th, 24th, and 26th amendments.

Engaging Your Students in a 'Real life' bill that will Impact Public Schools in NJ

Assembly 4376: https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2018/Bills/A4500/4376_I1.PDF

Senate 2762: https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2018/Bills/S3000/2762_I1.PDF

Focus on Geography

Zip Codes



The story of zip codes and their purpose should be interesting for younger students. The purpose of zip codes is an invention to move the mail quickly. Students might be interested in how their town or neighborhood received its zip code on July 1, 1963.

Other interesting questions are who has the lowest zip code (IRS 00501) and the highest zip code (Ketchikan, AL 99550) Who has zip code 12345? (General Electric, Schenectady, NY) There are also 43 buildings in Manhattan with their own Zip Code but the Freedom Tower is not one of them!

What is the zip code for the White House? (20500)

What is the relationship of the song, **Zip-a-dee-doo-dah** by Ethel Merman to zip codes? (advertisement in 1963)

Where in NJ is the wealthiest zip code? (Alpine, NJ)

Who is Robert Moon and where is he from? (Inventor of the zip code)

How are zip codes used as a marketing tool?

Which other countries use zip codes and which do not?

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2001/apr/21/guardianobituaries.haroldjackson>

Focus on World History **200th Anniversary of Silent Night**

Silent night! holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
'Round yon virgin mother and Child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

This is the 200th anniversary year of the hymn *Silent Night*, which UNESCO declared as a global cultural icon in 2011. It is the world's most popular Christmas song, which was written three years after the defeat of Napoleon in 1815. The hymn was first sung in St. Nicholas' Roman Catholic Church in Oberndorf, a village near Salzburg, Austria in 1818. A group of actors presented a play about the Christmas story in a small home because the organ in the church was not functional.

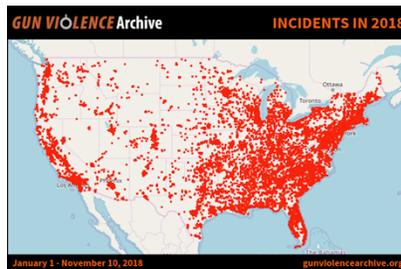
Silent night, holy night!
All are asleep; alone awake
only the faithful and most holy pair,
Gentle boy with curly hair,
sleep in heavenly peace.

(The original poem)

The young priest, Josef Mohr asked Franz Gruber, the organist at St. Nicholas to write a melody and to include the song as part of the Christmas Eve worship. Since the church organ was broken, the song was sung with a guitar.

It was sometime in January when the organ was repaired by Karl Mauracher that Franz Gruber played the simple melody to test the repairs on the organ. Karl Mauracher took a copy of the music and shared it with a family singing group, the Strasser sisters. The hymn did not go viral until 1840 when it was performed for King William IV of Prussia in Berlin. In 1839, the hymn was sung (in German) outside Trinity Church in New York City at the gravesite of Alexander Hamilton. In 1863, the same year that President Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday following the battle of Gettysburg, *Silent Night* was translated to English. Today it has been translated into over 300 languages!

Focus on Sociology **Deviant Behaviors – Mass Shootings**



The number of mass shootings in 2018 in the United States were over 300 according to data reported in the Gun Violence Archive by the end of November. In 2017 there were 346 mass shootings in the United States, which is almost one per day! The definition of a "mass shooting" is four or more people who were shot and/or killed in a single event at the same time and location.

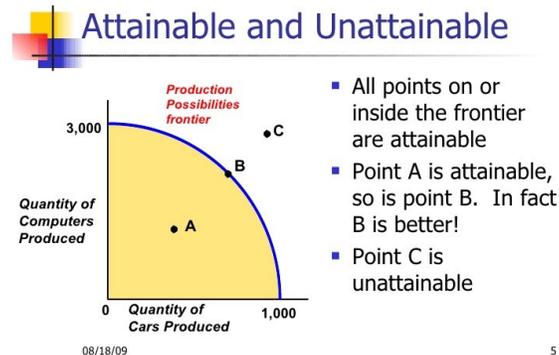
In 2018 (through Nov. 15) 574 children (ages birth -11), 2,439 teenagers (ages 12-17), and 253 officers were killed or injured by guns. There were 12,542 victims killed or injured as a result of gun shots in the United States. Have your students put these statistics into the perspective of time or place by comparing them to the population of your school, town, days in a year, hours in a day.

<https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/> and <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/reports/mass-shooting>

Focus on Economics

The Unemployment Rate and Employing Robots

The U.S. Unemployment rate is at 3.7%, the lowest rate in 49 years when it was 3.5% (12/69). Students learn about the Production Possibility Frontier in the first weeks of Economics. The Production Possibility curve represents the maximum level of what an economy can produce. When the economy is at full employment, inflation is a predicted outcome as businesses need to pay higher salaries to get workers to leave their current position for hire in a new position.



The current workforce is experiencing 10,000 retirees a day or 300,000 a month or 3.6 million a year! In October, 250,000 new jobs were filled for a reported 7,136,000 job openings. An economy can produce outside the curve with additional workers. New workers might be added when day care is provided or immigrants enter the work force. The current low unemployment rate may also be supported by the number of robots in the work force. There are currently 233,000 robots at work in the automobile, construction, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Tennessee have about one-third of the robots in the United States. By 2025, estimates are that the United States will have over 1 million robots using artificial intelligence in the workforce!

A good discussion for students is if the current rate of unemployment is sustainable without wage inflation based on the number of retirees and industrial robots or if inflation and recession will follow as it did in 1970.

Another interesting discussion will be the effect of full employment at 3.7% on the deficit, which is expected to be \$1 trillion this year. If we have an annual deficit of this size with a strong economy, what will be the impact if unemployment increases to 4% or 5% in the future.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/08/this-state-is-the-robot-capital-of-the-us/>

<https://www.cnbc.com/2017/10/03/health-care-dilemma-10000-boomers-retiring-each-day.html>

Focus on U.S. History Top 10 News Events of 2018?

December provides an opportunity to reflect on local, state, national, and global issues regarding their impact on decisions and events. It is an opportunity for students to reflect on the top news events in the year or decade they are currently discussing in class. The list below is not in any specific order and not offered as a complete list. Students may want to research these events in groups, poll others about their awareness of the current events, and interview parents, teachers, or other adults.

Separation of immigrant children
Marjory Stoneman Douglas HS Shooting
North Korea Summit Meeting
Decision to withdraw from Iran Nuclear Agreement
Trade Issues
Discovery of a subglacial lake on Mars
Natural Disasters (volcano in Guatemala, Tsunami in Indonesia, Hurricanes, wildfires)
Murder of Jamal Khashoggi, journalist
IPCC Report on Global Warming
U.S. Midterm Elections
#MeToo Movement

Focus on Psychology

Anxiety and the Holidays



People who suffer from social anxiety and shyness may find the December holidays to be stressful. In a month when our culture emphasizes happiness, parties, gifts, and worship people who are uncomfortable in social gatherings, experience unemployment, a changed family situation, or death of a loved one. Your students may be interested in researching and discussing the impact of limited daylight hours as we approach the shortest day of the year, financial stress of holiday expenses, overeating, and the effects of alcohol. High school students have the additional pressure of acceptance to colleges and relatives asking questions about plans after high school.

According to the Center for Disease Control (see below) suicide rates are lower in the winter months than in late spring or summer. Although suicide is a major problem with almost 45,000 deaths each year, it is the 10th leading cause of death. Unfortunately, it is one of the three leading causes of death that is increasing. Fortunately, New Jersey has the lowest suicide rate in the United States, but in the past three years it increased 13 percent this year.

Counseling is one of the most effective solutions to anxiety relating to the holidays. But discussions with friends can also be a valued support system.

<https://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/12/12/stress-less-how-your-mind-and-body-respond-to-anxiety/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2018/p0607-suicide-prevention.html>

Focus on Anthropology Happy New Year!



The ancient Greeks began their new year with the new moon after June 21. Before the time of Julius Caesar the Roman new year started on March 1. The December festival, Saturnalia, was a week-long public festival to honor the god Saturn. Saturn represented several things including time, and wealth. In most European countries during the Middle Ages the new year began on March 25, the day of the Feast of the Annunciation. Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation is associated with Christmas trees, candles, and religious songs.

About New Year's Eve

In both the Gregorian calendar used in the U.S. and the Julian calendar, which was used in the British colonies until 1752, the last day of the year is December 31. In Europe, the mid-winter period was traditionally associated with feasting and parties. In the early years of the American colonies the celebration was not observed by religious communities. Around the start of the

1900s, New Year's Eve celebrations in America started to appear. The first public celebration with the lowering of the New Year 'Ball' in Times Square was in 1907.

Japan's New Year (Shogatsu and Gantan)

Perhaps the most important holiday celebration in Japan is New Years and the holiday celebrations may last several days! **Otoshidama** is the custom of giving money to children during New Year's celebrations. It is also a time when many people visit shrines or a temple to pray for safety, health, and good fortune.

Chinese Lunar New Year

Many Chinese children dress in new clothes to celebrate the Lunar New Year. People carry lanterns and join in a huge parade led by a silk dragon, the Chinese symbol of strength. According to legend, the dragon hibernates most of the year, so people throw firecrackers to keep the dragon awake. In the Chinese lunar calendar each of the 12 years is named after an animal.

Rosh Hashanah – 5,780 September 29-30, 2019

In September or October, Jews believe that God opens the Book of Life for 10 days, starting with Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year) and ending with Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement). It is a time of worship, prayer and personal reflection based on a passage in Leviticus 23:24, "Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a Sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation." A ram's horn trumpet, known as the shofar, is blown before and during Rosh Hashanah and at the conclusion of Yom Kippur.

Songkran

In Thailand, a special three-day water festival on April 13–15 marks Songkran, the Buddhists' celebration of the new year. Parades feature huge statues of Buddha that spray water. In small villages, young people throw water at each other for fun. People also release fish into rivers as an act of kindness. At Songkran, people tie strings around each other's wrists to show their respect.

More New Year Traditions

Indonesia also has two New Year celebrations — the official one on January 1 and another on the Islamic New Year, whose date varies from year to year.

The **Russian Orthodox Church** observes the New Year according to the Julian calendar, which places the day on January 14.

In **Vietnam**, the new year celebrations, called Tet Nguyen Dan, usually begin in February.

Iran celebrates New Year's Day on March 21.

Each of the religious groups in **India** has its own date for the beginning of the year. One **Hindu New Year, Baisakhi**, comes sometime in April or May.

The people in **Morocco** observe the beginning of the year on the tenth day of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic year.

Koreans celebrate Seollal, a five-day holiday marking the beginning of the lunar New Year.

<https://www.abc15.com/news/data/mass-shootings-in-the-us-when-where-they-have-occurred-in-2018>

NJ Council for the Social Studies (NJCSS)

President: Joseph Orlak

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