

Hi,

April is an opportunity to focus on climate change and the environment. It is also time to plan for Earth Day, your climate education events, and assess what your students understand about local, national, and global events. The NJCSS has posted a middle school lesson activity on the accomplishments NJ is making to reduce greenhouse gases on its website. To Unsubscribe from our List Serve, send an email to hb288@sasmail.rutgers.edu Hank Bitten, Executive Director

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

April 2025

hb288@sasmail.rutgers.edu

2025 NJCSS Conference

"Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness: Reflecting, Debating & Celebrating for 250 Years"
Monday, October 20, 2025, Busch Student Center at Rutgers

[NJCSS Exhibitor Registration Form 2025 PDF](#)

[NJCSS Fall Conference Registration Form 2025 PDF](#)

[NJCSS Fall Conference Call for Proposals PDF](#)

Support NJCSS with Membership Renewal

[RENEW ONLINE](#) (Pay by PayPal or PO)

NJCSS Teacher Recognition Awards (Deadline is April 30, 2025)

Every teacher nominated receives a certificate and congratulatory letter.

One teacher in each category and geographic area receives a plaque and gift card.

[Elementary Teacher Award](#) (Grades K-5)

[Middle School Teacher Award](#) (Grades 6-8)

[High School Teacher Award](#) (Grades 9-12)

Call for NJ History Day Judges

Two Ways to Judge

Online judging begins about two weeks before each contest, and results are due the Thursday before the contest. If you prefer to join us in person on contest day, please choose documentary, exhibit, or performance as your preferred category.

In-person judging is a single-day commitment. Judges begin at 8 AM and are usually done by 2:00 PM.

Contest Date and Registration

We ask judges to register on zFairs, the contest platform. Each contest has a separate zFairs registration page. Please use the links below to register. Our new Registration Guide helps walk you through the process. **Even if you registered in previous years, you must create a new account, as we do not retain your personal data.**
Please save your username and password.

Saturday, May 3, 2025 - New Jersey State Contest at William Paterson University [Register for WPU](#)



QUESTIONS???? njhistoryday@wpunj.edu

Operation Fish – 1940 [Bank of Canada Exhibit](#)



Share with your students the importance of gold to finance the war, the trust countries placed in their allies, and Churchill's plan to conduct the war from Canada in the event the German army captured Britain.

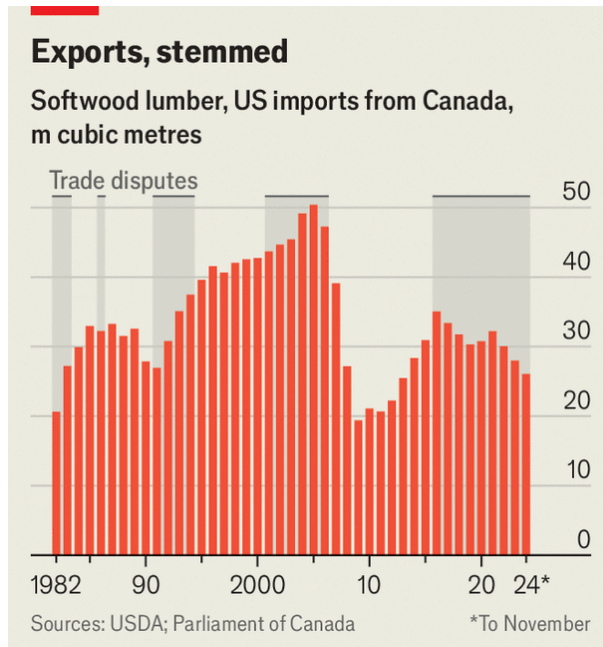
Imagine it's 1940—war has broken out across the world. Germany has already annexed Austria and Czechoslovakia and invaded Poland. Within a few months, it will crush the armies of Denmark, Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. By May, the Germans have reached the French channel coast, surrounding close to 400,000 allied soldiers and sailors at [Dunkirk](#)

In total, approximately \$160 billion—in 2017 dollars—were shipped from the United Kingdom to Canada. More than 600 people were involved. Operation Fish was the largest movement of physical wealth in history. It was also perhaps the single greatest economic gamble of all time, and a tremendous success—a testament to the resourcefulness and co-operation of the allied powers and their central banks during the war.

Help Your Middle and High School Students to Understand Tariffs

Lumber is a critical ingredient in the US homebuilding industry, and the United States sources about 30% of the softwood lumber it uses annually comes from Canada.

[Integrated Charts of Imports and Exports](#) (World Integrated Trade Solutions)



[President Bill Clinton](#) (Tariffs and Free Trade Agreements)

Teacher Resources

New Jersey Historical Commission

Presenting the RevolutionNJ Video



If you are still getting caught up with what we're doing at RevolutionNJ, here's an easy primer. Recently shot at the Old Barracks in Trenton, with some help from Governor Phil Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy, the RevolutionNJ Video proudly explains New Jersey's critical importance to the American Revolution, and how New Jersey will lead the country in commemorating the 250th Anniversary in 2026. Take a look, and get excited for what's coming next!

[Watch the Video](#) (3 minutes)

The New Jersey Society, Sons of the American Revolution

Youth Award Scholarship Programs

JSSAR Elementary School Poster Contest – Deadline April 30

SGT. MOSES ADAMS MEMORIAL Middle School Brochure Contest – Deadline April 30, 2025

For more information visit njssar.org/edu

Speakers and Resources for Your Classroom. More battles and skirmishes were fought in New Jersey than in any other state. The New Jersey Society, Sons of the American Revolution (NJSSAR) can help you find qualified speakers for your classroom, homeschool, or organization on various Revolutionary War topics. Topics include colonial life, soldier life, founding documents, spies during the revolution, letter writing, colonial toys, medicine, and cooking. We can also talk about local events and New Jersey's role during the revolutionary era. NJSSAR is a 501©3 non-profit lineage organization. Our speakers, or speaker recommendations, maybe academics, educators, authors, historic site staff, or public historians. Some of our speakers can come dressed in period clothing. NJSSAR can advise educators about field trips to New Jersey or other Tri-State Revolutionary War sites.

For more information or to answer questions, go to njssar.org/edu-speaker

Reading the Revolution NJSSAR.org has a list of recommended books on the American Revolution for young readers at this link <https://tinyurl.com/2kca3bdk>

New Jersey American Revolution Second Annual Spring Symposium

REVOLUTIONARY WAR EVENTS IN NEW JERSEY

Saturday, May 3, 2025

Ehinger Center of Drew University

36 Madison Avenue, Madison, New Jersey

8:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

SCHEDULE:

8:15-8:50 Registration and coffee

8:50-9:00 Welcome and Introductions

9:00-9:40 The New Jersey Volunteers, 1776-1783 by Todd Braisted

10:00-10:40 Battle of Springfield and Revolutionary Spirit of 1780 by Kevin Vancio

11:00-11:40 William Franklin: Divided Loyalty by Richard Bell

12:00-1:00 Lunch (included)

1:00-1:40: William Livingston's American Revolution by Jim Gigantino

1:40-2:00 Q & A and break

2:00-2:40 Historic New Bridge Landing- a Bergen Battleground by Todd Braisted

2:40-3:00 Q & A and adjournment

Cost: \$50 per person (\$25 for students with valid ID). Registration required by April 15, 2025.

Call Robert Wong at 908-630-9614 or send an e-mail to arrt.nj@gmail.com to register

THE AMISTAD COMMISSION

Exciting News for New Jersey Educators!

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new Curriculum Support Website designed specifically to enhance your work in the classroom. This innovative platform is packed with resources, tools, and support to help you deliver engaging and effective lessons.

www.njamistad.com

Key Features:

- Comprehensive Lesson Plans: Access a wide range of lesson plans tailored to New Jersey's curriculum standards and the Amistad Law.
 - Interactive Tools: Utilize interactive tools and digital resources to make learning more dynamic and fun for your students.
- Professional Development: Find opportunities for professional growth with our curated selection of workshops, webinars, and training materials.
 - Collaborative Community: Connect with fellow educators, share best practices, and collaborate on new ideas through our community forums.
- Engage Students Directly: Take advantage of the new opportunities for students to have direct access to the new website.
- Engaging Parents and Districts: We are excited to offer additional resources for New Jersey parents and school districts on how to strategically support implementation of the Amistad curriculum mandate.

Visit the Curriculum Support Website today and take your classroom experience to the next level!

Amistad Commission's 2025 Summer Curriculum Institute

*. This year's event will take place from **August 4th to August 7th** at **Stockton University-Ocean Campus in Atlantic City**.*

[Register Now](#)

(Last summer this popular event filled quickly!)

AAPI

Teach Asian American Stories

We are also excited to announce a [full-day, in-person workshop](#) in partnership with Dr. Khyati Joshi and Fairleigh Dickinson University on May 15. Join us for a day of learning about AAPI history and contributions and workshoping how to infuse these histories into your curriculum. This workshop has sold out the past two years--be sure to register soon. Generous scholarships available

Teaching Asian America in the K-12 Classroom

Saturday, May 31, 2025 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Rowan University, James Hall, 08028

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

Join us for a dynamic and interactive workshop designed for K-12 educators and pre-service teachers committed to integrating Asian American history and experiences into their classrooms. We will explore the rich history of Asian Americans, with a special focus Seabrook Farms, a significant yet often overlooked chapter of New Jersey history. Experts and educators will provide insights into the broader Asian American experience, the evolving landscape of Asian American Studies, and practical strategies for classroom implementation. Participants will engage in discussions, hands-on activities, and collaborative lesson planning to bring these essential stories to life for their students.

Sessions include:

Seabrook Farms with Dr. Trish Morita-Mullaney

Overview of Seabrook Farms Education and Cultural Center with Larry Ericksen & Sharon Yochida

Introduction to Asian America and Asian Americans in NJ with Christy Lee

The Third Wave of the Asian American Studies Movement with Dr. Sohyun An and Dr. Noreen Naseem Rodriguez

Light breakfast will be provided

Professional development credits, resources, and stipends will be provided to those who complete pre/post surveys

For any questions, please reach out to Isabella Kasegrande: isabella.kasegrande@aapinewjersey.org .

NJ HS Voter Registration Week (April 6-12, 2025)

or through May 20th, the voter registration deadline for our NJ gubernatorial primary.

Check out our student managed Instagram and TikTok accounts [@energizingyoungvoters](#)

Contact us for more information at energizingyoungvoters@gmail.com

NJ Center for Civic Education Workshops

Registration: [NJ Center For Civic Education - Events-](#)

Are you looking for resources and strategies that will engage your middle school students in civics? We have lots of materials and ideas for you that will be demonstrated and shared at this whole day (8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.) workshop at Rutgers Busch Campus Center in Piscataway.

April 2, 2025: We the People workshop for middle and high school teachers



We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution provides an understanding of the political philosophy underlying our Constitution and Bill of Rights and their impact in history and relevance to current-day issues. The materials include critical thinking exercises and activities and cooperative learning techniques to develop participatory skills, while

increasing student knowledge of the institutions of American constitutional democracy. The culminating activity is a simulated legislative hearing with the opportunity for high school classes to compete in an annual state (and national) competition. Any U.S. History or U.S. Government class, and especially AP classes, can benefit from We the People. Sample classroom books will be distributed at the workshop.

All events are held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Rutgers University, include lunch, and are offered without charge.

Registration: [NJ Center For Civic Education - Events-](#)

Contact Bob O'Dell at ro205@scarletmail.rutgers.edu or Arlene Gardner at arlenega@sas.rutgers.edu with any questions.

National Constitution Center

Story Themes for Elementary and Middle School Students

Participating teachers can choose a story theme from select constitutional topics that best align with what they are teaching in their curriculum. The specific artifact tied to each story theme will remain a mystery until the day of the program, adding an element of surprise for students. Through this exploration, students will connect with the past, the Constitution, and the ways these historical themes shape our world today.

First Amendment

Civil Rights

American Revolution

Voting Rights

Slavery

Civil War

[Schedule a Story](#)

Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers

Our Media & Our Civic Life

April 14 | 7:00PM - 8:00PM

Zoom

Join us on April 14 as we kick off our three-part webinar series, Our Media and Our Civic Life, designed to provide Rutgers and Eagleton Institute of Politics alums with an understanding of disinformation and misinformation. The series will blend academic research, real-world examples, and possible solutions to equip attendees with the knowledge and tools to counter misinformation effectively.

[Register](#)

Teaching the Holocaust

Illinois Museum of the Holocaust

[Visit their Exhibits and Resources](#)

Summer Institute will be held on-site at 360 N. State Street in Downtown Chicago.

July 14 – July 18 | 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

July 15 | 6:30 – 8:00 PM

[APPLY HERE](#)

During this intensive, five-day seminar, participants will learn about teaching techniques, methods and resources to teach Holocaust history to their students. The course will include multi-media presentations, guest speakers, and will draw interdisciplinary connections that align with state and national standards. Educators will be equipped to return to their classrooms with deeper knowledge of the Holocaust and rich pedagogical resources. The program will enable them to investigate with their students the ramifications of prejudice, racism and indifference, and the role of the individual in nurturing and protecting democratic values and human rights.

Learn why, how, what, when and where the Holocaust took place, including key political, social, and economic factors that impacted the times that led up to and culminated in the “final solution.”

Explore concepts such as prejudice, discrimination, stereotyping, racism, antisemitism, decision-making, and justice.

Examine the diversity of experiences of individuals targeted by Naziism, including Jewish people, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Roma and Sinti, and Black people.

Use resources including film, interactive text and graphics, diaries, and first-person accounts to actively engage students with the ideas of those involved in the Holocaust and provide a personal dimension to the historical narrative.

TUITION COST: \$150

Applications must be received no later than Monday, June 23, 2025

A limited number of full and partial scholarships and travel stipends are available for those who qualify.

NJ Department of Education Learning Lounge

[Future Learning Lounge Social Studies Sessions](#)

The "More Than Just A Month" series empowers educators to create a more inclusive and accurate representation of history, moving beyond designated heritage months to weave diverse narratives and perspectives throughout the K-12 social studies curriculum. Participants will learn to identify instructional gaps, incorporate underrepresented voices and utilize primary sources from a wide range of perspectives in order to foster critical thinking about historical events and their modern implications.

More Than Just a Month Series

The "More Than Just A Month" series empowers educators to create a more inclusive and accurate representation of history, moving beyond designated heritage months to weave diverse narratives and perspectives throughout the K-12 social studies curriculum. These professional development sessions explore the underrepresented histories that have shaped America. Participants will gain practical strategies for incorporating these diverse perspectives into the K-12 curricula, fostering a more inclusive and representative understanding of American history.

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

April 2nd 3-4PM Jewish American History

April 8th 3-4PM Religious Diversity

April 9th 3-4 PM Sikh American History

May 6th 3-4PM AAPI History

June 3rd 3-4PM LGBT Histories in America

Plan now for Earth Day 2025!!!

As the scenario of an average world temperature increasing by 1.5 degrees is becoming a reality, teachers and students are the most influential resource for addressing this critical issue. The science is unambiguous!

Thank You for all you are doing in your school and community!

[The Global Threat of Drying Lands](#)

[UN COP 29 Climate Action Reports](#)

Surging Seas

Extreme Heat

Energy Transition

Methane

Greenhouse Gases

[Register for the New Jersey Student Climate Challenge](#)

Deadline is April 9, 2025

The New Jersey Student Climate Challenge is open to New Jersey public school students in grades 6 to 12. Under their teacher's mentorship, teams of 2 to 12 students complete a school or community project that addresses a cause or impact of climate change. Each team creates a digital story about the project and completes a Climate Challenge submission form by April 9, 2025. First, second, and third place middle and high school winners are recognized at an Awards Ceremony hosted by First Lady Tammy Murphy. School winners receive grants to advance their climate education initiatives ranging from \$500 to \$2,500.

Every year, over 1 billion people across the planet observe Earth Day on and around April 22. For 2025, our 55th anniversary year, the theme [Our Power, Our Planet](#), is on solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal, and tidal generated energy. Through the engagement of students and teachers, the goal is to triple our use of renewable energy by 2030!

Climate Education Resources

The NJCSS is collecting Best Practices lessons you did with your students last year. Send them to Hank Bitten hb288@sasmailrutgers.edu

New York Historical Society

Curriculum Library Highlight

Anna May Wong

Anna May Wong, Hollywood's first Chinese-American leading lady, broke through racial barriers to change the face of cinema forever. Explore more groundbreaking stories in our Women & the American Story video series.

[Video](#)

[Curriculum Library](#)

New Jersey State Bar Foundation
The Informed Citizen Blog



Engaging & Amazing Resources

The **New Jersey State Bar Foundation** has released free civics curriculum guides to help teachers participate in our Law Fair and Law Adventure mock trial competitions. Law Fair and Law Adventure help to fulfill the new State mandated civics education requirements. (NJ Learning Standard 6.3.8 Civics PR.5) In these competitions (entry deadline is January 31, 2025), students and their teachers write original mock trial cases according to rules provided.

Just for Students!

America's Field Trip!
250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence
"What does America Mean to You?"
Grades 3-12
Deadline: April 16, 2025



In 2026, the United States will mark our Semiquincentennial: the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Today's young people are the leaders, innovators, and thinkers who will shape the next 250 years — and it's important their voices are heard as we commemorate this historic milestone.

America250 and RevolutionNJ invite students in **grades 3–12** to be part of America's 250th anniversary by sharing their perspectives on what America means to them — with the opportunity to earn an unforgettable field trip experience at some of the nation's most iconic historic and cultural landmarks.

Students are asked to submit writing or original artwork in response to the contest's prompt: **“What does America mean to you?”** First-place awardees will receive a spectacular field trip to one of America's iconic sites. Learn more and get involved at <https://america250.org/fieldtrip>.

Kid Witness News (KWN) 2025

KWN is a global student-team video production competition. This year, student teams will tackle social issues aligned with one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals identified by the United Nations. You can learn [more about the goals here](#). Participants will create a video of 3 minutes or less on their chosen topic. Winning teams from the US will advance to compete with students from other countries at the KWN Global Summit, and exciting prizes will be awarded to the top teams!

Video Submission Deadline: June 6, 2025

Age Eligibility: 10-18 years old

Open to New Jersey students only

Visit the [KWN website](#) for more details and to [register](#) your team today.

Professional Conferences

2025 NCHE Conference

“All History is Local”

St. Louis, Missouri

March 20-22, 2025

NCSS Future Conferences – PLAN AHEAD!

2025 – December 5- 7 Washington, D.C.

2026 – December 4 – 6 Chicago

NJ Council for the Social Studies (NJCSS)

President: Joseph Dwyer

Vice President: Kaitlin Mahaffey

Secretary: Katherine DeVillasanta

Treasurer: Michael Kenduck

Executive Director and Editor: Hank Bitten

NJ Social Studies Supervisors Association (NJSSSA)

President, Aldo Deodino

Vice-President, Cindy Assini

Secretary, Jean Marie Seal

Treasurer, Gabrielle Rendek

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 1, 2025