

UbD-Related Websites for Social Studies

Compiled by Jay McTighe

I have compiled the following collection of websites in support of curriculum and assessment design using the Understanding by Design (UbD)® framework. Please e-mail me (jaymctighe@verizon.net) if you discover outdated links as well as other useful sites that you find so that I can add to this list.

Key: ** Highly Recommended * Recommended

STATES and DISTRICTS

**** Massachusetts**

Through the Race to the Top Initiative, teams of educators from across the state used the UbD Framework to develop UbD units from pre-k to grade 12 in Social Studies and other subject areas.

A free registration is required to access these materials at the following website:

http://www.doe.mass.edu/candi/model/download_form.aspx

A series of classroom videos showing some of these units in use.

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/candi/model/videos.html>

* **Ohio DOE** provides model curriculum units in Social Studies. The Social Studies units contain Essential Questions.

<http://www.education.ohio.gov/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=1696&ContentID=83819&Content=121448>

Pennsylvania – The Pennsylvania Department of Education has established the Standards Aligned System (SAS) containing curriculum resources. Select Social Studies and a grade range (e.g., 6 – 8) or Course (e.g., Pre-Algebra) to view Big Ideas (understandings) and Essential Questions.

<http://www.pdesas.org/module/sas/curriculumframework/>

New York State Social Studies Toolkit – will offer a set of inquiry units. The project is scheduled for release on Engage NY in Summer 2015. In the meantime, you can explore drft materials at these websites.

<https://www.engageny.org/resource/new-york-state-k-12-social-studies-field-guide>

<http://www.binghamton.edu/nys-ss/index.html>

* **The New York City BOE Common Core Library** includes a searchable database of assessment tasks aligned to the Common Core Standards for pre-K – 12 in Social Studies and other subjects.

<http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/CommonCoreLibrary/default.htm>

STAGE 1 – Understandings and Essential Questions

**** The Stanford History Education Group** offers a set of curriculum units and related projects to engage students in historical inquiry. Lessons revolve around a central historical question and features sets of primary documents to involve students in “reading like a historian.” <http://sheg.stanford.edu/?q=node/45>

**** The Document Based Questions Project** is committed to helping teachers implement rigorous writing and thinking activities with students of all skill levels. The Project has materials in American and World History. All of the DBQs are written at two ability levels, thus making the sophisticated Document-Based Question exercise available to a wide range of classrooms and grade levels. <http://www.dbqproject.com/>

*** AP World History Curriculum Framework**

Provides the basis of the revised course. The framework is organized around key concepts and core themes, along with four Historical Thinking Skills. These are summarized in the Appendix, pp 7-15.

<http://media.collegeboard.com/digitalServices/pdf/ap/ap-world-history-course-and-exam-description.pdf>

Course resources include “big concepts” (understandings) and essential questions.

<https://resourcesforhistoryteachers.wikispaces.com/AP+World+History>

* A collection of overarching (program level) big ideas, understandings and essential questions organized by conceptual strands developed by the **New Jersey DOE**. Click this link to download a pdf file and scroll down to page 17.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/aps/njscp/Phase1allAreas.pdf#page=17>

* A collection of overarching understandings and essential questions organized by conceptual strands – Government, Economics, Geography, Culture and Sociology, History, Technology and Research Skills from **Wallingford, CT**

http://www.wallingford.k12.ct.us/uploaded/Curriculum/SOCIAL_STUDIES_K-12/SS_EUs_Sept_09.pdf

* Ten Overarching Essential Questions for American History, posted by **Dr. Elliott Seif**.

<http://edge.ascd.org/blogpost/some-thoughtful-american-history-essential-questions>

**** Essential Questions to link History and Literature at the secondary level, developed in Greece Schools, NY.** Click on Themes and Essential Questions to view them.

<http://www.greece.k12.ny.us/academics.cfm?subpage=923>

**** Common Lit** offers a free, downloadable collection of texts literary and informational framed by essential questions.

<http://commonlit.org>

* **The Literacy Design Collaborative** offers sample social studies curricula built around performance task templates linked to the Common Core ELA Standards.

<http://ldc.org/sample-curricula#Social Studies>

<http://www ldc.org/sample-curricula/history-social-studies>

* A collection of overarching (program level) Enduring Understandings and Essential Questions developed by the **Delaware DOE**. Click on Clarification Documents by Strad and Grade Levels to view.

http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/staff/ci/content_areas/socialstudies.shtml

Overarching Understandings and Essential Questions for studies developed in **New Canaan Schools, CT**.

<http://www2.newcanaan.k12.ct.us/education/components/scrapbook/default.php?sectiondetailid=30172&>

* **Delaware DOE** – Click on the various subject areas to see Essential Questions and model units based on UbD – Grades 4-5.

http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/staff/ci/content_areas/social_studies/model_unit_4-5.shtml

* **Ohio DOE** provides model curriculum units in Social Studies. The Social Studies units contain Essential Questions.

<http://www.education.ohio.gov/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=1696&ContentID=83819&Content=121448>

Rhode Island DOE has developed Grade Span Specific Documents that include essential questions for suggested topics and resources for lessons.

Also, a sample UbD unit on settlers is available by clicking on “DOC” at the bottom of the page.

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/InstructionAssessment/CivicsSocialStudies.aspx>

**** A US History** course syllabus including essential questions and ideas for each unit in the course, developed through the **Social Studies Help Center**.

http://www.socialstudieshelp.com/Amer_History_Syallbus.htm

* **World History for Us All** offers overarching Essential Questions based around seven key themes for World History

<http://worldhistoryforall.sdsu.edu/shared/themes.php>

Curriculum maps (known as “pacing guides”) contain Understandings and Essential Questions developed in **Alief ISD, TX**. Click on grade levels/course titles to view.

http://www.aliefisd.net/site_res_view_template.aspx?id=22e94fd0-8d0f-

[4764-8982-2934e6f3e33a&userGroupId=86619032-3924-434f-ae27-2da1d5c603a1&userGroupType=G](http://www.journalofamericanhistory.org/textbooks/2006/calder/index.html)

✓ A website site describing a U.S. History Course for “uncovering” (rather than simply covering) the content.

<http://www.journalofamericanhistory.org/textbooks/2006/calder/index.html>

STAGE 2 – Assessment Tasks and Rubrics

** Performance assessment tasks with accompanying rubrics in History, Geography, Civics and Economics for elementary, middle and high school levels developed by the **Washington DOE**. Click on The Assessments then the Level.

<http://www.k12.wa.us/SocialStudies/Assessments/default.aspx>

** The **NCSS Social Studies Performance-Based Assessment Clearinghouse** has been created to provide examples of social studies performance-based assessment measures conducted at local and state levels. Search on available tasks by grade and subject area.

<http://www.socialstudies.org/resources/assessment>

** **Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC)** – Funded by the Gates Foundation, the LDC has developed a set of task templates and instructional modules linked to the Common Core E/LA Standards. The templates support the integration of the E/LA Standards with content from Social Studies. Click on these links to learn more and view sample templates and associated curriculum modules.

<https://ldc.org/>

<https://ldc.org/sample-curricula>

High School level LDC templates with examples.

<http://jaymctighe.com/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/LDC-Templates-and-Task-Samples-high-school.pdf>

* **Oakland Unified School District (CA)** offers a set of Writing Tasks in History for middle and high school levels.

<https://sites.google.com/a/ousd.k12.ca.us/history/home/dbqs/past-hwts>

* A collection of assessment task ideas for Social Studies developed by the **Illinois BOE**. Click on grade level sets to view and download the assessments. Click on SOCIAL SCIENCE RUBRIC to view and download.

http://www.isbe.state.il.us/ils/social_science/capd.htm

** **The Document Based Questions Project** is committed to helping teachers implement rigorous writing and thinking activities with students of all skill levels. The Project has materials in American and World History. All of the DBQs are written at two ability levels, thus making the sophisticated Document-Based Question exercise available to a wide range of classrooms and grade levels.

<http://www.dbqproject.com/>

**** Defined STEM** has developed 100+ performance tasks/projects and associated rubrics based on various career areas. The tasks use the GRASPS format from UbD to establish an authentic scenario. A unique feature is the inclusion of a motivating video that shows “real world” applications of knowledge to set up the task.

In addition to the basic tasks, Defined STEM offers a set of electronic design tools allow teachers to customize the tasks and rubrics. While the title suggests that the tasks fall into the STEM arena, there are tasks in English/Language Arts and History/Social Studies as well.

To view, go to: <http://www.definedstem.com>

Use Access Code # **STEMACCESS**

You will be prompted to create your own user name and password.

* **Geography** – A collection of assessment task and scoring criteria developed by the **Illinois BOE**. Click on k-5 Elementary, 6-8 Middle and 9-12 High School to view the assessments.

<http://my.ilstu.edu/~jabraun/socialstudies/assess/geo/assess/assintro.html>

**** The Buck Institute** offers a searchable database of projects for Project-based Learning.

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

**** TuVa** offers authentic data sets and tools for engaging students to think critically about real data, ask meaningful questions, make evidence-based conclusions, and communicate their findings. Good resources for inquiry-based activities and lessons in Math, Science, and Social Studies aligned with the CCSS.

<https://tuvalabs.com/>

* A middle school “exit” performance task developed in West Windsor-Plainsboro, NJ

<http://markwise8.wix.com/exit-assesment>

**** Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC)** – Funded by the Gates Foundation, the LDC has developed a set of task templates and instructional modules linked to the Common Core E/LA Standards. The templates support the integration of the E/LA Standards with content from Science, Social Studies and Technical subjects.

Click on these links to learn more and view sample templates.

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

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

<http://www.literacydesigncollaborative.org/resources/>

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/college-ready-education/Documents/supporting-instruction-cards-literacy.pdf>

* Check out the helpful Teacher Worksheets for these tasks on the right side of the screen.

<http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/SocialStudiesArtsHealthFitness.aspx>

* **Pennsylvania's Student Aligned System (SAS)** offers sample tasks for connecting the E/LA Standards (informational and explanatory writing; argumentative/persuasive writing) to Social Studies and Science using the Literacy Design Collaborative task frames.

<http://www.pdesas.org/module/content/search/advanced.aspx#search>

* A collection of well-developed rubrics for Document-Based Questions (DBQs), Writing, Speaking, and Debate from **Greece Central Schools**, NY.

<http://www.greece.k12.ny.us/academics.cfm?subpage=1369>

A holistic rubric for Document-Based Questions

<http://www.historyteacher.net/rubric.htm>

An analytic rubric for Document-Based Questions

<http://teacherweb.com/PA/DallasHighSchool/gilroy/DocumentBasedQuestionRubric.doc>

A FEW OF MY FAVORITE GENERAL RESOURCE WEBSITES

** **The Public Broadcasting System (PBS)** offers an excellent collection of resources for teachers, including many video clips from PBS programs. Search by subject, topic, and grade level. A free registration is required to access the resources.

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

** **The U.S. Library of Congress** offers many a cornucopia of resources, especially primary sources.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/>

<http://blogs.loc.gov/teachers/2012/12/common-core-state-standards-and-library-of-congress-primary-sources/>

One resource, **Lyrical Legacy**, a collection of 400 years of American song and poetry. Lyrical Legacy provides [tools for analyzing primary documents](#), including [a graphic organizer](#) for Thinking about Songs as Historical Artifacts. It also includes [a listing of dozens of ideas for class activities centering on period songs](#) and poetry. Free sign up.

** **Newsela** provides a resource for helping students comprehend informational text. The free service offers daily news articles written at five levels of difficulty, suitable for students from upper elementary to high school. Newsela adapts to

each student's reading ability to offer the right content while allowing re-leveling of articles with a single click. Articles are paired with quizzes aligned to the CCSS so teachers can track their students' progress on a daily basis.

<http://newsela.com/>

Newsela has assembled a set of articles around various issues. These can be used in conjunction with the LDC Task Templates to engage students in authentic reading, writing, listening and speaking.

<http://www.pinterest.com/newsela>

* **Edutopia** presents many CCSS resources on its website.

<http://www.edutopia.org/common-core-state-standards-resources>

Share My Lesson presents aligned curricula, lesson plans, and weblinks aligned to the CCSS.

<http://www.sharemylesson.com/article.aspx?storyCode=50000148>

** **The Teaching Channel** offers a wide range of free videos providing lesson ideas and demonstrations of teaching practices for a variety of subjects and grades. Videos vary in length from five to thirty minutes.

<https://www.teachingchannel.org/>

* UK-based website with a large collection of resources for primary/elementary grades.

<http://www.primaryresources.co.uk/>

* **National Endowment for the Humanities** offers lesson plan libraries for Art, History & Social Studies, Language & Literature, and World Languages.

<http://edsitement.neh.gov>

* **American Rhetoric** offers a comprehensive database of great speeches from national leaders, politicians, movies, etc. A great resource for developing Listening and Speaking skills.

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/>

Galileo offers resources for Inquiry and Project-Based Learning, including a Rubric for judging inquiry-based projects

<http://galileo.org/>

<http://galileo.org/rubric.pdf>

NBC Learn contains a collection of over 14,000 standards-aligned resources designed for use in the classroom. Requires registration – individual or institutional – for a 30-day trial.

<http://www.nbclearn.com>

Project Gutenberg offers over 46,000 free e-books to teachers and students.

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