How can the Web site of the Library of Congress, a quintessentially American institution, be used for teaching the history and culture of countries other than the United States? With dozens of collections, exhibitions, and browsing options that direct you to primary sources from all around the world, the Library’s Web site provides wonderful materials for the globally-focused teacher. Check out the “Important Links” box on pages 2-3 of this newsletter for excellent places to start. Let me point out the first link as being particularly useful: Browse by Topic: World History & Cultures. From here, you can narrow down your search by continent and then find links to collections and online exhibitions that contain primary sources and historical information for you to use.

Another great place to look is the World Digital Library. To learn more, turn to page 2!

World History & Cultures on www.loc.gov

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“Awesome” Source of the Month:

Canis Major, Lepus, Columba Noachi & Cela Sculptoris / Sidy. Hall, sculpt. [1825]

Where does the phrase "Dog Days of Summer" come from? Find out in this short article from the Library’s Wise Guide. How does this star map help you figure out the answer?

News:

- Check out new lesson plans on the Lesson Ideas & Units page of the TPS-TN Web site. There you will find this month’s “Awesome Lesson Plan of the Month,” our first teacher-submitted lesson plan: “A Matter of Perspective: Columbus in the New World,” for grades 6 & 8 World & U.S. History, from Rebecca Byrd of Sevier County. Stay tuned for more teacher-submitted lesson plans from TPS-TN teachers Connie Lawson (Richard City) and Clifton Kaiser (MTSU) on a new Web site, which the Library of Congress is developing to be a database of class materials made by TPS teachers for TPS teachers nation-wide. More on this in future issues!

- The Library of Congress includes a short Welcome Back to School note for teachers in the latest edition of the Wise Guide. See “Head of the Class” for neat images and links that will get you in gear for the upcoming school year.

Upcoming Events:

- September 9 (Murfreesboro)- Rutherford County Schools In-service, 3:30—5:30 p.m. Sign up through School Station.

- September 22 (Lebanon)- Wilson County Schools In-service, with Tennessee History Day, 3—6 p.m.

- September 25 (Murfreesboro)- Murfreesboro City Schools In-service, all-day, time TBA

- This fall: workshops in East Tennessee...stay tuned!
ZOOM INTO THE WORLD DIGITAL LIBRARY!

The World Digital Library is a new Web site that can bring rare books, images, and objects from around the world to your computer screen. It is a cooperative project of the Library of Congress, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and partner libraries, archives, and educational and cultural institutions from the United States and around the world. (From the Library of Congress’ World Digital Library page, click on “Proceed to World Digital Library site.”)

Although this Web site does not contain resources specifically made for teachers, it is nonetheless a great tool you can use to show students fascinating primary sources that they may never see anywhere else. The best features of this site are the search and zoom functions. You can browse by place (continent), time period, topic, type of item, and institution where the item is held. For example, I wanted to find an illustrated medieval manuscript, so I searched by place (Europe) and type of item (manuscript), and found the 16th-century Book of Hours pictured to the left.

For a closer look, I clicked on the thumbnail image that was on the information page for this book, and arrived at the very cool zoom function. By clicking on the buttons in the bottom right-hand corner, see just how close you can get to the image! →→

Explore for yourself the books, photographs, drawings, letters, maps, and more from around the world!

FEATURED FEATURE- KNOWLEDGE QUEST FROM myLOC

Knowledge Quest features 16 activities based on primary sources and critical thinking. These range in difficulty and contain some activities that are challenging. These games do require computer access and a free registration to myLOC.

This is a great resource for discussing different aspects of World and U.S. History. One game follows Sir Francis Drake on a voyage to the Caribbean and back, while others look at a Mayan ballgame, Waldseemüller’s map, the Aztecs, the Enlightenment, and more. Be sure to “Go Deeper” after each activity to learn more and view more resources.

If a student completes all 16 activities, she can print a certificate with her name on it and watch a special video about the contents of Abraham Lincoln’s pockets the night he was assassinated!
LESSON IDEAS—THE AZTECS

The Aztec civilization rose to prominence in central Mexico around the 14th century, and continues to be influential to many cultures in Mexico and the southwestern United States. Explore primary sources from the Aztecs and their cultural descendents by searching “Aztec ruins” and “kivas” in American Memory. Also search “Aztec” in Prints & Photographs for more images, including ceremonial objects, manuscripts, and an illustration of human sacrifice.

- What insights into Aztec society do these primary source images give you?
- Why were the Native American settlements of the southwestern U.S. thought to be “Aztec”?

These ideas can be adapted to meet standards for grades 4 & 8 Social Studies (4.1.spi.1 & 8.5.01). Also be sure to check out the Library of Congress lesson plan, “The Huexotzinco Codex,” which meets Tennessee standards in grades 6-8 Math, Social Studies, and English.

LESSON IDEAS—AROUND THE WORLD IN THE 1890S

The American Memory collection Around the World in the 1890s: Photographs from the World’s Transportation Commission, 1894-1896 contains hundreds of photographs from twenty-four countries in North Africa, Asia, Australia, and Oceania, which highlight traditional and modern methods of transportation. The photos, produced in an effort to stimulate American business investment, depict everything from railroads and bridges to rickshaws and elephants.*

Railroads in particular have the ability to transform landscapes and ways of life. Compare photographs in the Around the World in the 1890s collection with those in collections that depict American towns during the same time period. Ask students to:
- identify the effects of railroad technology on a country’s physical and human environment, &
- analyze the thesis that transportation technology creates change.


Extension: Primary source photographs for Tennessee are much more plentiful for the 1930s than the 1890s. Add “Tennessee” to the above search terms to find images in America from the Great Depression to World War II: Photographs from the FSA-OWI, 1935-1945. How have advances in technology changed the transportation landscape in this time period?

This lesson can be adapted to meet Tennessee curriculum standards for grades 6-8 Science (Embedded Technology & Engineering) and Social Studies (Culture); and for High School Environmental Science, and World Geography and World History (Culture).

*Please note: The photographs in this collection are very grainy, so that it might be hard to see the photo subjects very clearly. Viewing an image in a TIFF file and then enlarging it may help.
**All Quiet on the Western Front**

Memorandum in Russian from Joseph Stalin about opening a second front in Europe during World War II, with English translation of same, 13 August 1942. (detail of page 2; English translation on pages 3-4 of the letter.)

What does this letter—also discussed in Today in History for August 13—say about American-Soviet relations during World War II? How do they compare to American-Russian relations today?

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**Bringing Maps to Life**

Geographical fun: being humorous outlines of various countries, with an introduction and descriptive lines / by "Aleph". (Scotland) [1868?]

These maps are an unusual combination of caricature and geography. What stereotypes are present in these maps? Why would maps like this be created? How do they help people remember geography?

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**A Qur'an from Northern India**

Bihari Qur’an, [c. 1400-1525 A.D.]

What do the colors, illustrations, and writing styles say about how people used this book? How could people still use this book today? Where can you find the use of decorations and calligraphy on modern books and documents?

Read more about Qur’anic fragments [here](#).

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**The Liberia Colony**

Map of the West Coast of Africa from Sierra Leone to Cape Palmas, including the colony of Liberia / compiled chiefly from the surveys and observations of the late Rev. J. Ashmun; J.H. Young; sc. [1830]

Liberia, on the West coast of Africa, was established in the 1820s as an American colony for the resettlement of former American slaves. What place names on the map hint at an American origin? See more at the collection, Maps of Liberia, 1830-1870.