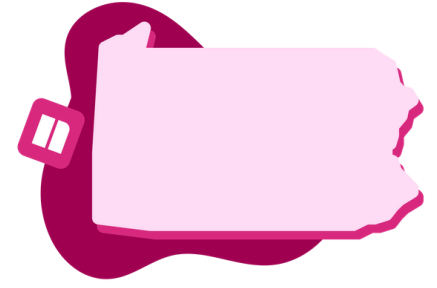


History, Headlines, and Lessons to Shape Tomorrow's Citizens



Inspire students with diverse content that connects history with current events, and promotes scaffolded, inquiry-based learning — all in one place.

Students who used Newsela Social Studies weekly showed the equivalent of an additional year of instruction on their state social studies exam.

- Engage students with **relevant, diverse, and authentic materials** like primary sources, biographies, speeches, and videos.
- Help all students **access grade-level social studies concepts** with embedded scaffolds and **AI-powered** tools such as a Text Translator, Check Your Understanding questions, differentiated texts, and more.
- Create an inquiry-driven experience** that places your students at the forefront using curated text sets for digital citizenship, media literacy skills, and C3 inquiry skills.
- Build literacy skills** by helping students make sense of the world through texts, discussions, and critical thinking.

The screenshot displays the Newsela Social Studies interface. The main content area shows a biography titled "Entrepreneurs: Milton Hershey" with a portrait of Milton Hershey. Below the portrait, there is a text block with a word count of 1019 and a text level of 12. A dropdown menu is open over the text level, showing options: MAX, 1240L, 1060L (selected), 870L, and 600L. At the bottom of the text block, there is a "Translate to" button with a dropdown menu showing language options: Dutch, Estonian, French, German, Greek, and Haitian. On the right side, the "Assignment builder" sidebar is visible, containing fields for "Assignment title" (Entrepreneurs: Milton Hershey), "Instructions" (Add instructions), and "Activities" (Annotations, Student Poll, Checks for Understanding, Guided highlighting, Quiz: 2 reading skills, Write prompt, Power words, Write prompt). The sidebar also includes a "Review Student Work" button and a "Generate graphic organizers" button.



Tailor instruction to the **needs of your unique classroom and community.**

By integrating local narratives and resources, Pennsylvania educators can create learning experiences that resonate with students' lives while covering essential standards and initiatives.

State History Collection

The Pennsylvania State History Collection curates content and instructional resources focused on history and development of the state of Pennsylvania, aligned to PA's middle school social studies standards.



INFORMATION

Philadelphia in the American Revolution



ARTICLE

Time Machine (1902): Children working in the Pennsylvania coal mines



ARTICLE

Settlement: The Origins and Legacy of the Pennsylvania Quakers




INFORMATION


Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Philadelphia


Each collection includes a unique and robust set of resources that enable teachers to deliver the content in a meaningful way.





Lesson Sparks

Lesson Objective 

Lesson Sequence 

MLL Supports 

Character Development 

Standards 

Overview of Pennsylvania State History Collection

Unit	Key Questions and Sample Lessons
<p>Pennsylvania Geography and Government</p>	<p><i>What are the physical features and regions of Pennsylvania? What does it mean to be a citizen of Pennsylvania?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify Pennsylvania’s physical characteristics and regions on a map • Natural resources, and their impact on the community • Responsibilities of Pennsylvanians • Symbols, places, and artifacts important to Pennsylvania
<p>Indigenous and Colonial History of Pennsylvania</p>	<p><i>Who were the early indigenous peoples of Pennsylvania? How does diversity contribute to the economy, government, and society of Pennsylvania?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lenape, Susquehannock, Shawnee, and other indigenous groups • Founding the Pennsylvania Colony • Freedom of Religion in the Colony • Colonial Economy
<p>Pennsylvania, Revolution, and a New Nation</p>	<p><i>What was Pennsylvania’s role in the American Revolution? How did the war and American independence impact Pennsylvania? What are the key ideas in the founding documents of Pennsylvania and the United States?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Second Continental Congress • Valley Forge • Creating the Commonwealth: Pennsylvania drafts a constitution • Famous Firsts in Philadelphia
<p>Pennsylvania in the Civil War</p>	<p><i>What was Pennsylvania’s role in the Civil War? How did the war change life in Pennsylvania?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underground Railroad • The Election of 1856 • Key Figures • Battle of Gettysburg, and the Gettysburg Address • Role in Reconstruction

Overview of PA State History for Middle School

Unit	Key Questions and Sample Lessons
<p>The Settlement of Pennsylvania</p>	<p><i>What people, places, and events were part of colonization in Pennsylvania?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William Penn and the founding of PA's Governemnt • Pennsylvania's Religious Communities • Agriculture in Colonial PA • Fort Pitt and the French and Indian War
<p>Independence and a New Nation</p>	<p><i>What were the causes and effects of the American Revolution? What rights are promised to citizens of the United States and Pennsylvania?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patriots and Loyalists • Continental Congress • Constitutional Convention • Economic Role in the new nation
<p>Expanding Westward</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appalachia, an American Frontier • Lewis and Clark Expedition • Iron Ore and Steel Industry • Transportation Revolution
<p>Industrialization and the Gilded Age</p>	<p><i>How did the industrial revolution affect the economy of Pennsylvania?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor Unions and Workers Rights • Urbanization and life in Pennsylvania's Cities • Indigenous Assimilation and the Carlisle School • PA's Prominent Entrepreneurs: Tycoons or Robber Barons?
<p>Modern Pennsylvania</p>	<p><i>What is the role of state and local governments? How do modern industries shape the state? What role do Pennsylvanians have in shaping its future?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights and Responsibilities of PA Citizens • PA's Political Leaders • Commerce and Technology • Art and Culture • Land Use and Environmental Preservation