



Program Offerings 2022-2023

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania is proud to offer a variety of virtual learning opportunities for all grade levels. All programs feature selections of archival material from HSP's vast catalogue and engaging, targeted activities for your students. Please read the descriptions below of sample programs to find which best suits your needs.

If you have a different topic that you want your students to explore through HSP's primary source documents, contact Katie Clark (kclark@hsp.org) to discuss the possibilities! With over 21 million items in its collection, HSP is well-suited to address and explore a wide range of topics!

Sample Programs:

- Colonial Times: This program focuses on different aspects of colonial life in Pennsylvania.
 Primary sources including maps, journals, and indentures are examined to illustrate how life during Colonial Times differed and intertwined between groups such as Native Americans, enslaved people, and European settlers. (Grades: 4 8)
- Abolitionists: This program focuses on the work of Black abolitionists in Philadelphia in the mid-19th century and follows those efforts into civil rights activism post-Civil War. Primary sources for this lesson include the diary and later work of William Still, the account of Emilie Davis, a free Black woman living in Philadelphia during the Civil War, and material from the Pennsylvania Abolition Society. (Grades 6 – 12)
- 3. Civil War and Reconstruction: This program engages students in all aspects of the Civil War and its aftermath with political cartoons, diaries, and maps. Students will analyze multiple perspectives and see how average Philadelphians were affected by war. (Grades: 6 12)
- 4. Yellow Fever: Students will engage with letters written to and by Dr. Benjamin Rush and understand how Yellow Fever was treated. This program will also feature art and poetry, as well as works by Richard Allen, allowing students the opportunity to see how the disease affected not only people, but also the city as a whole. (Grades: 4 8)
- 5. National History Day Archives Introduction: Is your class preparing for the National History Day competition? This program is an introductory exploration into how to find and analyze primary sources. Students will be guided through how to utilize search features of HSP's website and collections, as well as what to expect from an in-person visit and alleviate anxieties about special collections/primary source research. This lesson will highlight a selection of HSP's material that feature this year's theme, and challenge students to reflect on the meaning of a "frontier." (Grades 6 12)