It is, in fact, nothing short of a miracle that the modern methods of instruction have not yet strangled the holy curiosity of inquiry; for this delicate little plant, aside from stimulation, stands mainly in need of freedom; without this it goes to wreck and ruin without fail. It is a very grave mistake to think that the enjoyment of seeing and searching can be promoted by means of coercion and a sense of duty. To the contrary, I believe that it would be possible to rob even a healthy beast of prey of its voraciousness, if it were possible, with the aid of a whip, to force the beast to devour continuously.

Albert Einstein

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I Hate History, but I Like Mystery Agenda:

- Why I Hate History…
- What is **Constructivism** About?
- What is **Inquiry** About?
- What is the **Context** for Constructivist, Inquiry-based Learning?
- The **Constructivist Teacher**…Jeffrey Green’s experience.
- Family and local history, personal experience and technology.
- Developing your own ideas about making history interesting and fun.
- Resources
I Hate History!!!

- But I like Mystery…
- Family history projects can make history and social studies come alive for a student
- Technology can add new dimensions to a family history project

What is Constructivism About?

- It’s about constructing knowledge, not receiving it.
- It’s about analyzing information, not memorizing it.
- It’s about applying, not repeating back.
- It’s about being active, not passive.
- It’s about teaching, not telling.

What is Inquiry About?

- It’s about discovery learning.
- It’s about speculating about things.
- It’s about children solving problems on their own.
- It’s about children solving problems the same way as real-life social scientists.
- It’s about facilitating children’s learning.
What is the Context For Constructivist, Inquiry-based Learning?

- It’s about a multicultural context.
- It’s about a context that rejects racism, discrimination, and affirms pluralism.
- It’s about a context that promotes democratic ideals of social justice.
- It’s a context that is connected to children’s personal histories and experiences.

Family History in the Classroom

- Not all families are traditional
  - Single parent, adopted, foster child, same-sex household
- Assignments should not be narrowly defined
- Alternative projects should be allowed
- Family History projects can provide a wealth of learning opportunities

Genealogy Teaches…

- Similarities and differences
- Cultural diversity
- Reference skills
- Computer skills
- Organization
Assignments should be…

- **Flexible**
  - Be sensitive to individual student needs
  - Use alternative ways to record family history
    (example: oral history project)
- **Age Appropriate**
  - The research and technology skills should be geared to the student level

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**I Am Unique (A Unit by Jeffrey Green)**

- **Introduction**
  - Discussion on individuality
  - Some terms – ancestry, ancestors, heritage
- **My Family Tree is Unique**
  - Student research
  - Why we call it a family tree
  - Class discussion
  - Family Tree graphic

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**I Am Unique**

- **My Own Family Timeline**
  - Excel timeline
- **What’s in a Name?**
  - Ancestry.com website
  - Classroom map
- **The Coat of Many Colors**
  - Symbols on Family Crests
  - Students will design their own Coat of Arms
I Am Unique

- Does my family have a crest already?
  - Eduplace.com website
  - Compare to the crest they designed
  - Class discussion on uniqueness
- Whose chocolate fingerprint is on the refrigerator?
  - Detectives from Tiverton police will fingerprint children
- Conclusion

Relive the Journey (Jennifer Rolfe and Tim Wein)

- Ellislandrecords.com website – choose 6 children
- Students research these children using the website
- Students write 3 journal entries – Goodbye; Coming to America; New York, New York

Resources

- Ellis Island - [Ellis Island](#) website
  - Free registration gives you access to:
    - Ship photos
    - Ship manifests
  - Immigrations dates from 1892 to 1924
  - Search by name, date, gender, origin
Sample Immigration Record

Name: Segerberg, Rolf August
Society: Scandinavian
Place of Residence: Arvika, Sweden
Date of Arrival: March 06, 1923
Age on Arrival: 26y
Gender: M
Marital Status: S
Ship of Travel: S.S. Bergeford
Port of Departure: Kristiania, Akerhus, Norway

Ship Manifest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Place of Residence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Segerberg, Rolf August</td>
<td>26y</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Scandinavian</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ship Photo and Description

Built by Harland & Wolff Limited, Belfast, Northern Ireland, 1904, 21,004 gross tons. 726 feet long, 71 feet wide, 40 feet in draught, triple expansion engines, twin screws. Service speed 18 knots. 2,975 passengers (1,027 first class, 493 second class, 2,000 third class). Built for White Star and Dominion Lines, in 1904 and named Baltic. Liverpool-New York service. Largest ship afloat, 1904-06. Torpedoeship during World War I. Scrapped in 1933.
Other Project Ideas

- Oral History
  - Interviews (own family or elderly residents)
- Home Sources
  - Photos, documents, artifacts
- Calendars and Timelines
  - Calendar changes, relate ancestors to historical events
- Names
  - Explore origins of names (first and last)
- Local History
  - Research a local historical figure
- Immigration
  - As it relates to their own family
  - Ethnic groups

Resources – Primary Sources

- The Our Documents Project

Resources - Historical Maps

- Maps - [David Rumsey Collection](http://www.davidrumsey.com/)
  - More than 2300 historical maps
  - Compare historical maps by date
  - Free, downloadable viewing software
Resources - Ancestry.Com

- Census Records
- Social Security Records online
- Some services are free, others are fee-based

Resources - Genforum

- Forums are arranged by surname
- Users can start a new forum if their surname does not have one already
Resources - The GenWeb Project

- Volunteers provide access to genealogy resources
- Organized by county and state
- Special projects (census, tombstones, the Kidz Project)

Additional Resources

- Today in History
- Notable Women Ancestors
- Cyndi’s Lists