

Teacher Lab

American Art Resources at Selected Web Sites

CORE SITES

Art Institute of Chicago

<http://www.artic.edu/aic/collections/amer>

Highlights from the museum's American collection are presented with interpretive texts.

Terra Foundation for American Art

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

Seven hundred works of American art from the colonial era to World War II are illustrated with "zoomable" images. The site includes published references and interpretive essays for many artworks along with some artist biographies.

Picturing America

<http://picturingamerica.neh.gov/>

Get a listing of the 40 prints your school will receive, and download the resource book with information on each artwork.

EDSITEment Picturing American Resource Index

<http://edsitement.neh.gov/>

View and download dozens of lesson plans and access several EDSITEment-reviewed resource websites. Both can be browsed by subject area. This site also has a great reference section, including information on evaluating and analyzing online and primary sources, as well as a literary glossary.

Chicago Public Schools Art Collection

<http://www.cpsart.org>

http://www.artic.edu/aic/education/mural_project/pages/M_booksNlinks.html

Among the site's features is a downloadable curriculum created by CPS teachers and based on works of art in the CPS collection, which includes Work Projects Administration (WPA) murals, easel paintings, and sculptures. Curriculum unit titles include "History of Books," "History of Chicago," and "Discovery of America."

Additional American Art Online Resources

Art 21

<http://www.pbs.org/art21/index.html>

Excellent PBS project—an ongoing investigation of contemporary art. Very detailed curriculum guides available online. Artists' biographies and interviews complement those presented in accompanying texts and DVDs with program.

Art Access

<http://www.artic.edu/artaccess>

This subsection of the Art Institute site is intended for students, teachers, and families and includes special features on African American art, ancient art of the Americas, and American art to 1900.

Arts Connected

<http://www.artsconnected.org/classroom/>

A partnership between the Walker Art Center and Minneapolis Institute of the Arts, ArtsConnectEd programming offers downloadable thematic curriculum planning.

Metropolitan Museum of Art

http://www.metmuseum.org/Works_of_Art/department.asp?dep=2

Highlights from the American art and decorative arts collections are presented along with special features related to past exhibitions. The site includes an art history timeline as well.

National Gallery of Art

<http://www.nga.gov/collection/gallery/amer.shtm>

The site includes resources called “In-Depth Studies” about American art and artists; examples include “Exploring Themes in American Art” and “American Masters from Bingham to Eakins.” Lesson plans and other teaching resources are available in the “Education” section of the site.

Phillips Collection—Jacob Lawrence & the Great Migration

http://www.phillipscollection.org/migration_series/index.cfm

Jacob Lawrence was the preeminent artist of the Great Migration. The exhibition website does a wonderful job of putting his artwork in historical context and includes teacher resources.

Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM)

<http://americanart.si.edu/collections/search/>

The SAAM collection can be searched by artist, artwork, and subject, including “history,” “literary themes,” “native American life and culture,” and “people at work.”

Smithsonian American Art Museum Photograph Archives: Portraits of American Artists

<http://sirismm.si.edu/siris/julquickstart.htm>

Created by the fine art photography firm Peter A. Juley & Son (active 1896–1975), this unique group of 4,700 photographs records a broad range of artists working in the United States during the first three quarters of the twentieth century. Many images show artists in their studios or at home with their families and offer interesting glimpses into the artistic and social climate in which they worked.

Smithsonian Archives of American Art

<http://www.aaa.si.edu/index.cfm>

The Archives of American Art is the world's largest primary source collection of the visual arts in America, with 14 million items. Since 1954, the Archives has collected roughly 16 million letters, photographs, diaries, sketches, scrapbooks, business records, and other documentation that supports the study of the history of the visual arts in America. Many items in the archives have been digitized and are available online.

Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery

<http://www.npg.si.edu>

This site includes special features on George Washington, colonial America, the American Revolution, and the hall of presidents.

Whitney Museum of American Art

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

Useful curriculum programming offered by “Learning at the Whitney” and in “American Voices” survey. Also excellent source for contemporary art with its usually controversial Biennale exhibitions.

Worcester Art Museum—Early American Paintings

http://www.worcesterart.org/Collection/Early_American/

This in-depth resource examines paintings made before 1830 in the museum's collection and includes timelines, artist biographies, and essays (“Discussion”) about works of art.

Additional Social Studies Online Resources

African American History through the Arts

<http://cghs.dade.k12.fl.us/african-american/index.htm>

This student-created site includes student essays with images on topics such as African art, Africans in European art, pre-Civil War art, images since Reconstruction, and the twentieth century.

American Memory from The Library of Congress

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

A wealth of primary sources, such as historic maps, photos, documents, audio and video are available on this site. The library's collection can be browsed by topics, such as literature; advertising; landscape, architecture; and immigration, westward expansion. American memory includes a special section for teachers, which contains lesson plans and more.

Chicago History Museum (formerly Chicago Historical Society)

<http://www.chicagohistory.org>

The site features a number of online projects, described as online exhibitions, searchable collections, and documentation projects.

Encyclopedia of Chicago

<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/>

The alpha and omega of Chicago history-related information. The on-line version goes well beyond the (wonderful) printed version of the encyclopedia, including links to all kinds of primary sources, charts, and graphs.

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

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

<http://www.gilderlehrman.org/teachers/index.html>

The institute promotes the study of American history and provides information for history teachers and students as well as historians. "The Gilder Lehrman Institute offers a growing variety of resources to assist teachers and students. The Institute has pioneered new models of history schools and programs, with proven success in improving academic achievement. It offers professional development opportunities for educators, provides documents and exercises for classroom use, and encourages excellence in student writing with essay prizes" (quoted from the web page).

Library of Congress

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/PrimDocsHome.html>

The Library of Congress is home to many of the most important documents in American history. This Web site provides links to materials digitized from the collections of the Library of Congress that supplement and enhance the study of these crucial documents.

Newberry Library

<http://www.newberry.org>

The site includes a visual sampling of the library's holdings.

Picturing United States History —“Who Built America?” Documentary Web Sites

<http://www.ashp.cuny.edu/video.html>

Intended for use in college and high-school classrooms, each program in the series focuses on ordinary Americans who helped shape the nation and includes primary documents, essays, and image collections. The resources were created by the American Social History Project/Center for Media and Learning at City University of New York.