

Teaching With



Resources for Educators,
Just a Click Away

MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES

M·A·R·C·H

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-CAMDEN

The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia

is a free, digital resource available to enrich your teaching. Each topic page serves as a digital hub, including primary sources, related reading, related topics in the news, and more, often with regional, national, or international dimensions.

U.S. History Survey Courses

Encourage your students to journey beyond the textbook to explore illuminating stories, illustrations, and documents. Launch exploratory research projects with *The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia's* topics, themes, and linked digital resources.

Urban/Metropolitan History Courses

The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia encompasses a region spanning parts of three states: southeastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey, and northern Delaware. With Philadelphia at its center, the region richly demonstrates major topics and trends in metropolitan history in the United States. Topics in *The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia* offer a gateway to understanding the history of cities and suburbs.

Public History Courses

Cultural institutions and historic sites in the Philadelphia region include some of the nation's oldest, like the Library Company of Philadelphia, and most iconic, like Independence Hall. In *The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia*, students aspiring to careers in public history will find issues to debate and models to emulate.

For Teachers in Greater Philadelphia

The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia is especially for you. Here you can find the local connections for the topics you teach and encourage your students to investigate their home and campus communities. *The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia* helps your students find their place in the ongoing history of their city, region, and nation.

In This Guide, You Will Find:

- Strengths of Coverage.
- Strategies for Teaching and Learning.
- Selected Topics by Time Period.
- Digital Scavenger Hunt Activity

Strengths of Coverage

The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia is written by scholars and other subject experts, edited by historians, peer-reviewed, fine-tuned by skilled copy editors, and illustrated with galleries of photographs, works of art, and historical and original maps. Each topic is published as it is completed, so check back often and watch the encyclopedia grow!

Strengths of coverage include:

- ✓ Activism
- ✓ Arts (Music, Literature, Visual and Performing Arts)
- ✓ African American History
- ✓ American Revolution and Origins of Federal Government
- ✓ Business and Industry
- ✓ Cultural Institutions
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Events illuminating dynamics of American history
- ✓ Global History (Philadelphia and the World)
- ✓ Immigration and Migration
- ✓ Native Americans of the Delaware Valley
- ✓ Religion
- ✓ Science and Technology
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Urban and Regional Development
- ✓ Wars on the Homefront

The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia challenges students to understand how a region forms and evolves:

- ✓ Greater Philadelphia
- ✓ Philadelphia and the Nation
- ✓ Philadelphia and the World

Thematic essays and related topics invite critical thinking about the many dimensions of a city's historic identity:

- ✓ Athens of America
- ✓ City of Brotherly Love
- ✓ City of Firsts
- ✓ City of Neighborhoods
- ✓ Corrupt and Contented
- ✓ Cradle of Liberty
- ✓ Green Country Town
- ✓ Holy Experiment
- ✓ Philadelphia, the Place that Loves You Back
- ✓ Quaker City
- ✓ Workshop of the World

Strategies for Teaching and Learning

The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia is used by educators across the country, from middle school through graduate education.

- ✓ **Philadelphia’s history and the nation’s history.** As supplemental or primary reading, essays add local dimensions to events and trends in the development of the United States.
- ✓ **Illuminating events.** Key moments in the Philadelphia region’s history illuminate dynamics of the nation. For example, the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793 offers insights into public health and race relations during the decade when Philadelphia served as the nation’s capital. The Nativist Riots of 1844 carry students into issues of immigration, nativism, and religion. The March of the Mill Children in 1903 demonstrates labor and youth activism.
- ✓ **Comparative cases for discussion.** How does the history of the greater Philadelphia region compare with the regions that your students know best?
- ✓ **New stories and visuals for your lectures.** Topic pages draw upon the latest scholarship and an array of archival sources. Links lead to more.
- ✓ **Starting points for research.** Guide students toward their own journeys of discovery by starting with concise summary essays and their links to related reading, archival collections, and places to visit.
- ✓ **New assignment options.** The editors would love to hear your ideas. Here are a few:

Architecture of historical knowledge in the digital age. Invite students to closely examine the various pathways of the encyclopedia (in the navigation bar). Consider how history is understood in terms of time, location, material culture, and thematic interpretation.

Evaluate online sources for history. How does a peer-reviewed project like *The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia* compare and contrast with user-generated resources like Wikipedia?

Illustrate the encyclopedia. Invite students to explore digital archives to find additional illustrations and to write short but authoritative texts. Discuss techniques of analyzing visual sources and issues of copyright.

Write biographies. *The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia* emphasizes historical patterns, pointing toward many opportunities for researching and writing about the lives of people mentioned in the essays.

Build your own encyclopedia. Using *The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia* as a model, involve students in creating an encyclopedia for their own communities or for the topic of your course. (Our writing and editing guidelines are in the “About” link in the footer of the website.)

Selected Topics by Time Period

The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia offers these topics and many others.

Before Colonization

Native Peoples to 1680
Trails (Indian)

Colonial Era

Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin
Coffeeshouses
First Purchasers of Pennsylvania
Free Society of Traders
Hinterlands
Holy Experiment
Immigration and Migration (Colonial Era)
Junto
Lower Delaware Colonies
Medicine (Colonial Era)
Native American-Pennsylvania Relations
Native and Colonial Go-Betweens
New Sweden
Pennsylvania (Founding)
Pennsylvania Charter of Privileges
Pirates
Plantations
Pontiac's War and the Paxton Boys
Proclamation Line of 1763
Seven Years' War
Slavery and the Slave Trade
Surveying (Colonial)
Treaty Negotiations with Native Americans
Treaty of Shackamaxon
Walking Purchase
West New Jersey

Colonial Era

By Jean R. Suderlund

When Lenape Indians in July 1694 crossed the Delaware River from New Jersey to meet with Pennsylvania government officials, they represented a people whose homeland became the greater Philadelphia region: southeastern Pennsylvania, central and southern New Jersey, and Delaware. Despite their decline in population from European diseases, the Lenapes remained strong. ...

Read more:

<https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/archive/colonial-philadelphia/>

American Revolution

Articles of Confederation
British Occupation of Philadelphia
Common Sense
Continental Congresses
Crowds (Colonial and Revolution Eras)
Declaration of Independence
Fort Wilson
Independence Hall
Ladies Association of Philadelphia
Loyalists
Meschianza

Militia
 Philadelphia Campaign
 Privateering
 Revolutionary Crisis
 Trenton and Princeton Campaign
 Valley Forge

U.S. Constitution

Constitution Commemorations
 Constitutional Convention of 1787
 Grand Federal Procession

Early Nation

Alien and Sedition Acts
 Bank of the United States (First)
 Capital of the United States
 (Selection of Philadelphia)
 China Trade
 Democratic-Republican Societies
 Free Black Communities
 French Revolution
 Fries Rebellion
Hail, Columbia
 Haitian Revolution
 Peale's Philadelphia Museum
 Political Parties, Origins (1790s)
 Quasi-War
 Spanish-American Revolutions
 U.S. Congress (1790-1800)
 U.S. Presidency (1790-1800)
 U.S. Mint (Philadelphia)
 Whiskey Rebellion Trials
 Yellow Fever

Yellow Fever

By Simon Finger

For more than a century beginning in the late seventeenth century, sudden outbreaks of yellow fever sowed death and panic throughout Philadelphia and its environs. With medical science seemingly powerless against it, yellow fever was a terrifying and mysterious threat that rivaled any disease of the era in its capacity to take lives and disrupt society. ...

Read more:

<https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/archive/yellow-fever/>

Jacksonian Era to Civil War

Abolitionism
Appeal of Forty Thousand Citizens
 Bank War
 Cholera
 Christiana Riot Trial
 Colonization Movement
 Fugitives from Slavery
Godey's Ladies Book
 Gothic Literature
 House of Refuge
 Lafayette's Tour
 Lewis and Clark Expedition
 Mexican-American War

National Negro Convention Movement
 Nativism
 Nativist Riots of 1844
 Pennsylvania Hall
 Pennsylvania Prison Society
 Riots (1830s-40s)
 Trade Unions (1820s-30s)
 Underground Railroad
 Vigilance Committees
 War of 1812
 Whig Party
 Working Men's Party

Civil War and Reconstruction

Civil War Sanitary Fairs
 Murder of Octavius Catto
 Union League of Philadelphia
 United States Colored Troops

Gilded Age and Progressive Era

Arts and Crafts Movement
 Centennial Exhibition of 1876
 City Beautiful Movement
 Contractor Bosses
 "Corrupt and Contented"
 Department Stores
 Indian Rights Associations
 Industrial Neighborhoods
 Industrial Workers of the World
 Knights of Labor
 Lynching
 March of the Mill Children
 Octavia Hill Association
The Philadelphia Negro
 Railroad Strike of 1877
 Scientific Management
 Settlement Houses
 Single Tax Movement
 Spanish-American War
 Streetcars and Streetcar Suburbs
 Typhoid Fever and Filtered Water
 Woman Suffrage
 Women's Clubs

Nativist Riots of 1844

By Zachary M. Schrag

In May and July 1844, Philadelphia suffered some of the bloodiest rioting of the antebellum period, as anti-immigrant mobs attacked Irish-American homes and Roman Catholic churches before being suppressed by the militia. The violence was part of a wave of riots that convulsed American cities starting in the 1830s. ...

Read more:

<https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/archive/nativist-riots-of-1844/>

Corrupt and Contented

By Howard Gillette

In July 1903, at the height of the period of reform we have come to call the Progressive Era, crusading journalist Lincoln Steffens published the fifth in a series of articles exposing municipal corruption in the United States. His subject was Philadelphia, and to his mind it was worse than any other place he had investigated. "All our municipal governments are more or less bad," Steffens declared. "Philadelphia is simply the most corrupt and the most contented." ...

Read more:

<https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/archive/corrupt-and-contented/>

World War I through World War II

African American Migration
 Art Deco

Automats
 Automobiles
 ENIAC
 Great Depression
 Influenza (Pandemic, 1918-19)
 Prohibition
 Redlining
 Sesquicentennial International Exposition
 Slinky
 World War I
 World War II

Post-World War II and Cold War Era

American Bandstand
 Black Power
 Children's Television
 Civil Rights (African American)
 Cold War
 Community Development
 Doo Wop
 Environmental Movement
 Fair Housing
 Freedom Train
 Korean War
 Levittowns (Pennsylvania and New Jersey)
 Model Cities
 Puerto Rican Migration
 Rock and Roll
 Urban Renewal
 Vietnam War

Late Twentieth-Early Twenty-First Centuries

AIDS and AIDS Activism
 Abscam
 Bicentennial (1976)
 Charter Schools
 Civil Rights (LGBT)
 Deindustrialization
 Edge Cities
 Enterprise Zones and Empowerment Zones
 Gentrification
 Historic Districts
 Legionnaires' Disease
 MOVE
 Nuclear Power
Rocky
 Sullivan Principles
 Superfund Sites

American Bandstand

By Jordan McClain and Amanda McClain

American Bandstand (1952-89) was a massively popular music television program with strong Philadelphia roots, storied national success, and the power to shape the music industry and society. The show epitomized many important aspects of ever-evolving American popular culture: mass communication, popular music, youth culture, dance and fashion trends, as well as race and gender relationships. Particularly during the show's prime Philadelphia years (1952-63), Philadelphia youth culture became American culture through *American Bandstand*. ...

Read more:

<https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/archive/american-bandstand/>



Digital Scavenger Hunt: Explore the Encyclopedia **Find Yourself in Time and Space**

1. What form of transportation do you use the most? See if you can find an article about it.
2. Go to the timeline. Find the event closest to the year you were born.
3. Do you live in the greater Philadelphia region? Use the map to find the topic closest to your hometown or neighborhood.
4. Using the A-Z browsing option, find a topic that begins with the same letter as your last name.
5. Find an article that discusses your heritage, then find a heritage other than your own.
6. Find a food or drink article.
7. Find an artifact. Where would you go to see it in person?
8. If you were planning a trip to Philadelphia or had a visitor from out of town, where would you like to go? Find an article to help.
9. Think of a topic in the news. Use the search box to find some related history.
10. On any topic page, find a favorite picture. Where would you go to see the original?