

Turning Inquiry into Action: How to Engage Young Learners with KidCitizen

Ilene R. Berson Michael J. Berson University of South Florida





Inquiry-Based Learning with Primary Sources



Curiosity Ignites Discovery



Moving young children from arbitrary "seeing" to deliberate "looking"



Social Studies & Science It Can Always Be Delivered

Social Studies & Science Water You Looking For? (What are you looking for?)

Social Studies & Math Starry Prince-New and There

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Social Studies At The Center Community Helper: Mail Carrier



State Library and Archives of Florida. (1903). Postman M.F. Tillman in front of post office - Plant City, Florida Retrieved October 01, 2017, from https://www.floridamemory.com/items-show/29369

Social Studies & Creative Arts What Can An Envelope Make?

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Social Studies & Creative Arts Create Your Stamp

Social Studies

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Social Studies & Physical Education Where Dues the U.S. Postal Service PERCEL Deliver Mail To?

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Social Studies & Physical Education

Social Studies & Math

Social Studies & Language Arts What Can We Ship?

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Social Studies & Language Arts Explain Your Stamp

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KidCitizen

Congress, Civic Participation, and Primary Sources Project

Supported by a grant from the Library of Congress



Expandable Cross Platform App for Elementary grades on Congress and Civic Participation

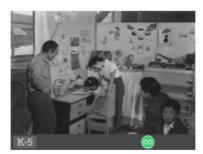
KidCitizen provides authentic, age appropriate interaction with primary source materials for **K-5 children** based on strong research and pedagogy.

Episodes engage children in exploring civics and government concepts through historical sources and connecting what they find with their daily lives.

The app is delivered via **Muzzy Lane's Author** service, with tools to enable development of new episode content by educators.

KIDCITIZEN EPISODES

We have added three new episodes where K-5 children explore important primary source skills.



A Close Look at the Miyatake Family: Carefully observe a photograph of a Japanese American family interned at Manzanar.



Rosa Parks: A Proud Daughter: Analyze a greeting card to learn about a family, who they are, and what feelings they were expressing.



A Bird's Eye View: Wondering with Maps: Explore a map from long ago and begin wondering about the places where people live.

These episodes join six existing episodes where K-5 students work with primary source photographs to explore Civic Engagement and Congress:



Primary Sources: In this brief introductory episode, we find out what a primary source is and explore a few examples.



Community Helpers: Investigate who community helpers are, and how they have changed over time.



Congress and Child Labor: Why did Congress pass child labor laws to protect children long ago?



Snap a Photo: Agent of Change: How did photographers help convince Congress to pass child labor laws?



Capture the Flag: How is the American flag used as a symbol of our nation?



Welcome to Congress: Who represents us in Congress and where do they work?

KIDCITIZEN PEDAGOGY

KidCitizen draws on **primary source analysis strategies** from the Library of Congress **Teaching with Primary Sources** program. The app's episodes capitalize on the active and social nature of young children's learning, using primary sources for rich demonstrations, interactions, and models of literacy.



SEE: With a mentor character, children investigate images in detail using age appropriate techniques and scaffolding. They zoom in, find, collect, and match image elements.



THINK: While investigating, students collect evidence from images in their journal, then use that to think about what they are seeing – what is happening, and why?



WONDER: Students use their journal to construct posters, timelines, or other outputs to wonder about connections between what they have found and their own lives.



The centerpiece of each episode is a photograph from the Library of Congress that is complemented with other primary sources representative of the app's topic of focus. Images are selected based on research into the qualities of artifacts that are developmentally appropriate for early childhood and elementary grades.

Families

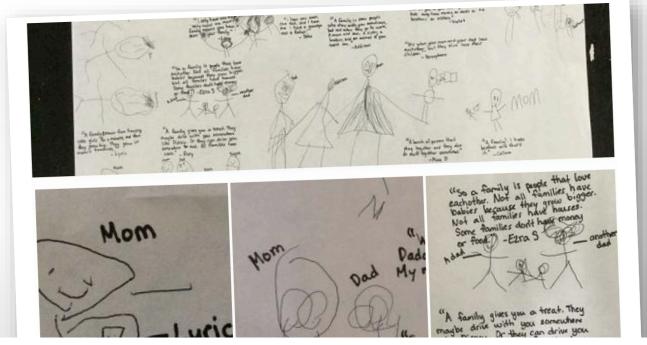












"Some families are adults and kids, but some have only two people. Some have a girl and a boy, some have two girls, and some have two boys. It doesn't matter if two boys or two girls get married. Everybody's different. If you're all the same it's boring." – Harrison



KidCitizen

Rosa Parks: A Proud Daughter

Congress, Civic Participation, and Primary Sources Project

Supported by a grant from the Library of Congress

www.kidcitizen.net



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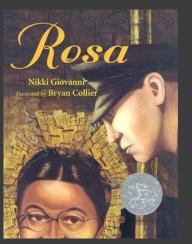
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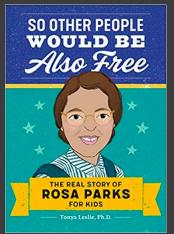
Culturally Responsive Teaching

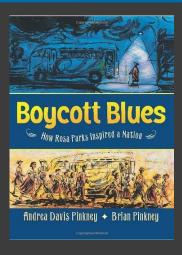


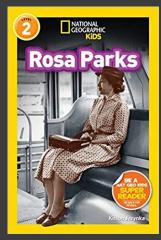
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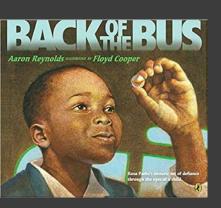


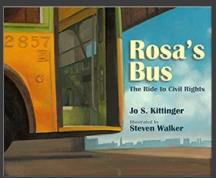


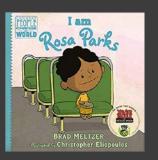














Literature Connections

Teacher's Guide: Rosa Parks: A Proud Daughter

KidCitizen Teacher's Guide Rosa Parks: A Proud Daughter

Every greeting card has a purpose and a message that carries information and expresses feelings for a special occasion from one person to another. This episode includes a photograph of a greeting card that was sent from Rosa Parks to her mother for Mother's Day. Through the episode, children learn about Rosa Parks and her mother as they investigate the greeting card.



Rosa Parks with mother Leona McCauley https://www.loc.gov/item/2015648739/

Essential Question

What do greeting cards tell us about families, who they are, and the feelings they express to one another?

TPS Connections

In this episode, children analyze a greeting card to learn about Rosa Parks and her family. The greeting card offers a familiar resource for exploring family traditions. The front of the card has an image and some simple writing. The inside of the card has a poem, and the back of the card features Rosa Parks' handwritten note to her mother.

Children observe the details of the card and analyze clues to figure out what family tradition was being celebrated. Working with in-game mentor Ella, children use parts of the card as evidence to support their ideas as they generate hypotheses about the card's recipient, sender, and the feelings the sender wanted to express. Children explore the handwritten note on the card and practice deciphering the message by looking for familiar letters or words.



2020 Library of Congress Summer Webinars

Rosa Parks: In Her Own Words

https://loc.gov/teachers/professionaldevelopment/webinar/

July 29, 2020

2:00-3:00 pm ET









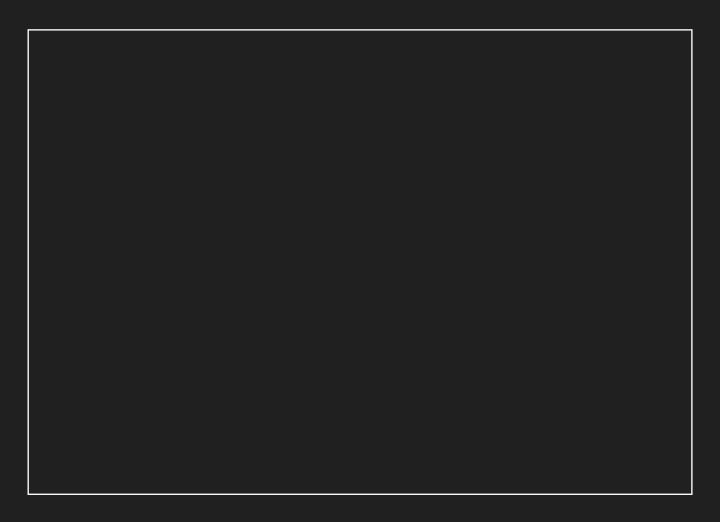




Early Childhood Experiences

"The child shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child's choice" according to Article 13 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.









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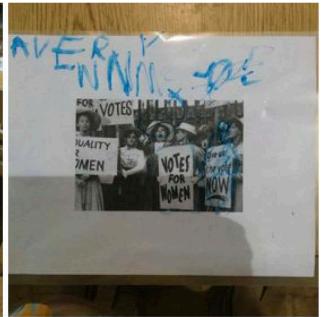


"That lady's mouth is open...that means she's yelling. I see rain drops so maybe they are protesting about water. Their hands are up so maybe they're shouting with their hands up about water. Hey! I see lots of water!"

- Leandru

"Yes! I see that too Leandru! There are lots of signs with water droplets on them!" - Ms. Jordan





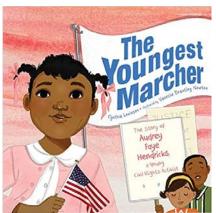
"In this picture, I only see women - I don't even see one boy!" - Avery
"Really great observation Avery! I don't see any boys in this protest either.
What do you think those women could be protesting?" - Ms. Jordan
"I don't really know but I see that they are holding signs. What do the signs say?" - Avery

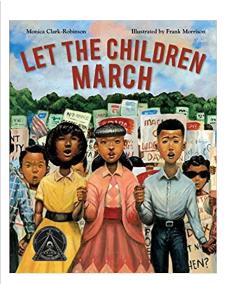
"Votes for women" - Ms. Jordan

"I want to write women on the picture but I don't know how to spell it." -

Avery



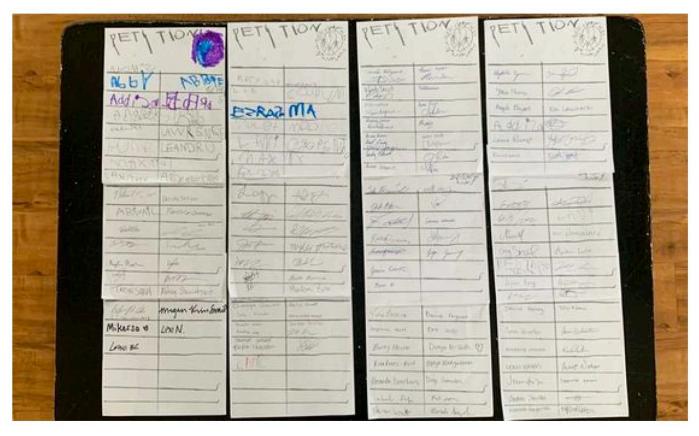


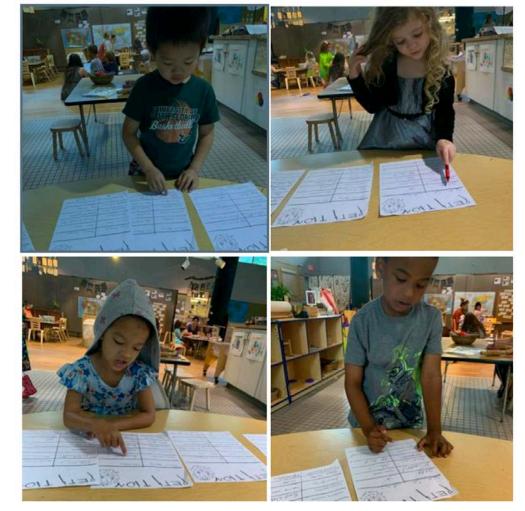






Following the protest, children were given an opportunity to count the signatures from our petitions. Children were excited to see how many people supported their idea for Target!





We had a grand total of 140 signatures!

Recommendations

- Young children have the capacity to use the skills of reasoning and inquiry to investigate social studies concepts as they explore how people interact in the world.
- Early childhood and primary grades is a time when the foundations of social studies are established, and curricular standards should explicitly attend to engaging and developing young children's capacity for citizenship, democratic or civic activity, participation in decision-making, as well as critical disciplinary literacies.
- As teachers set the tone for children's social studies learning, it is critical that curricular and instructional decisions embrace diversity and social justice while intentionally contesting bias and inequity.
- Young children need multiple and varied opportunities to engage in social studies inquiry.
- Early childhood and primary grade educators should receive social studies-specific professional development that includes how to teach social studies to young learners to cultivate bias-free and discrimination-free communities.

Teachers Network

https://tpsteachersnetwork.org

Join the KidCitizen group!



KidCitizen Editor

The KidCitizen Editor gives you the tools to easily create new episodes using primary sources you choose.



Access to the KidCitizen editor is FREE thanks to support from the Library of Congress. The episodes you create are also hosted for free on the Author platform.



Visit kidcitizen.net to:

- Share episodes with your students
- Get teacher's guides
- Learn more about pedagogy
- Get access to the KidCitizen Editor

www.kidcitizen.net



Resources

Berson, I. R., & Berson, M. J. (2014). Developing multiple literacies of young learners with digital primary sources. In W. Russell (Ed.), *Digital Social Studies* (pp. 45-60). Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.

Berson, I. R., Berson, M. J., Dennis, D.V., & Powell, R. (2017). Leveraging literacy: Research on critical reading in the social studies. In M. M. Manfra & C. M. Bolick (Eds.), *Handbook of social studies research* (pp. 414-439). Boston, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

Berson, I. R., Berson, M. J., & Snow, B. (2017). KidCitizen: Designing an app for inquiry with primary sources. *Social Education*, *81*(2), 105-108.

Berson, I. R., & Villotti, K. (2019). *A position statement of early childhood in the social studies context*. Washington, DC: National Council for the Social Studies. Available from https://www.socialstudies.org/early-childhood-social-studies-context