

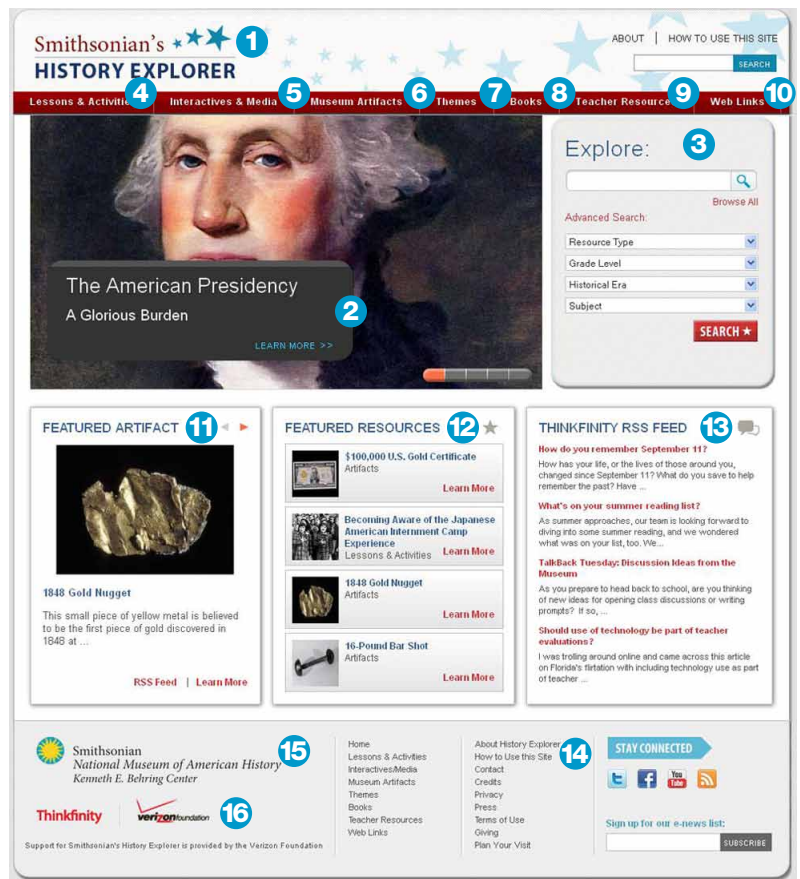
Smithsonian's HISTORY EXPLORER

Using Smithsonian's History Explorer

The numbered list below corresponds to the screenshot on the right showing the features of the homepage.

- 1 Visit **Smithsonian's History Explorer**, a showcase of American history standards-based resources for K-12 educators and students.
- 2 View five featured topics in the **Billboard**.
- 3 **Search** Smithsonian's History Explorer and all of the Thinkfinity Partner sites.
- 4 Browse standards-based **Lessons & Activities** to support student learning.
- 5 Explore standards-based **Media** including audio, video, and interactive resources.
- 6 Select from a collection of **Museum Artifacts** that can be used to teach American history using object-based learning techniques.
- 7 Explore **Theme** pages that highlight resources related to topics in American history.
- 8 Search for **Books** that address American history through literature.
- 9 Use **Teacher Resources** to learn how to apply object-based learning techniques in the classroom.
- 10 Find the best-reviewed **Web Links** for your American history teaching needs.
- 11 Examine **Featured Artifacts** that align with historical events, and may be subscribed to using the RSS Feed option.
- 12 Investigate **Featured Resources** selected for popularity and relevance.
- 13 Listen in to the discussions happening in our professional learning network on the **Thinkfinity Community**.
- 14 Review **How to Use this Site** for tips on searching, subscribing to RSS feeds, and reporting problems with Smithsonian's History Explorer.
- 15 Access the **National Museum of American History** website.
- 16 Access the **Thinkfinity.org** and **Verizon Foundation** websites.

historyexplorer.si.edu



The screenshot shows the homepage of Smithsonian's History Explorer. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a search box and a 'HOW TO USE THIS SITE' link. Below the navigation bar is a horizontal menu with 10 categories: Lessons & Activities, Interactives & Media, Museum Artifacts, Themes, Books, Teacher Resources, and Web Links. The main content area features a large 'Billboard' section with a portrait of George Washington and the title 'The American Presidency: A Glorious Burden'. To the right of the billboard is a search box labeled 'Explore:' with a search button and a 'Browse All' link. Below the billboard are three featured sections: 'FEATURED ARTIFACT' (11) showing a gold nugget, 'FEATURED RESOURCES' (12) with three resource cards, and 'THINKFINITY RSS FEED' (13) with a list of recent posts. At the bottom, there is a footer with logos for the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Thinkfinity, and Verizon Foundation, along with a 'STAY CONNECTED' section with social media icons and a 'Sign up for our e-news list' form.

About Smithsonian's History Explorer

Smithsonian's History Explorer was developed by the National Museum of American History in partnership with the Verizon Foundation to offer hundreds of free, innovative online resources for teaching and learning American history.

The site is designed for use by K-12 teachers and students, afterschool program providers, families, and individuals interested in lifelong learning.

Smithsonian's History Explorer's resources emphasize learning history by "reading" objects for the stories they hold about the nation and its many peoples. Learning activities feature artifacts selected from over 3 million items in the Museum's collections, and draw on the expertise of the Museum's renowned curatorial staff.

To share an idea or be considered for inclusion in focus or evaluation groups, send an email to: thinkfinity@si.edu.

Smithsonian's History Explorer and Your Classroom

www.historyexplorer.si.edu

What is Smithsonian's History Explorer?

Smithsonian's History Explorer is a gateway to standards-based resources for teaching and learning American history. It is produced by the National Museum of American History, with generous support from the Verizon Foundation. Learn more about it online or with the site view on the back of this sheet.

What is Verizon Thinkfinity?

Verizon Thinkfinity (www.thinkfinity.org) is a free educational website that provides resources including K-12 lesson plan, podcasts, videos, and other materials, along with teacher training and an online community. Thinkfinity draws upon the strength of trusted partners, who produce a wealth of discipline-specific standards-based resources. As one of those partners, the National Museum of American History's online resources are searchable on Thinkfinity.org and Smithsonian's History Explorer.

How can I get involved with Smithsonian's History Explorer?

- Use History Explorer to **find American history resources** for your classroom.
- **Send us feedback** on the resources you've used.
 - How did you use them?
 - What should we change about them?
- Sign up for RSS Feeds to **find out about new resources** on History Explorer.
- **Share the link** with colleagues at your school, parent organizations, or with your neighborhood afterschool programs.
- **Volunteer to preview resources** that are in development. It doesn't take a big time commitment and your input helps us improve and expand our materials.

Who do I contact?

- Contact our team at the National Museum of American History! thinkfinity@si.edu
- Chat with us on the free Thinkfinity Community! community.thinkfinity.org/groups/americanhistory



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Thinkfinity

