

# ***Philadelphia: The Great Experiment:*** **Using Video & Primary Sources to Reinforce the** **HISTORY HUNTERS Experience**

Dear Educator,

The document that follows was written to help you make the most of the HISTORY HUNTERS program. *Philadelphia: The Great Experiment* is a film series developed by History Making Productions to tell our city's story from 1600 through the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Each half hour episode is fast paced, engaging, and includes a rich mix of reenactments, "talking head" experts, state-of-the-art graphics, and primary sources. We tend to emphasize the often unheard voices in history: women, workers, and people of color.

Additionally, each episode is accompanied by a downloadable packet of educational materials for use BEFORE, DURING, and AFTER (see details on next page) showing the films. The lesson plans are presented in a concise 2-3 page format that will allow you to quickly decide which activities will work in your classroom.

For each of the films relevant to HISTORY HUNTERS, what follows is a list of

**EPISODE TOPICS:** Subtopics covered in the film; those directly connected to HISTORY HUNTERS are in italics

**ACTIVITIES & SOURCES:** Descriptions of educational materials that are relevant to HISTORY HUNTERS

**WEBISODES:** Our term for short films on distinct topics; I've listed the ones with HISTORY HUNTERS subjects

## **ALL FILMS & MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE AT** ***HISTORYOFPHILLY.COM***

- To access the films, go to the "WATCH" tab
- To access the activities & sources, go to *Philadelphia: The Great Experiment* under the "EDUCATION" tab
- To access the webisodes, go to either the "WATCH" tab or to Webisodes under "EDUCATION"

The films, materials, and my professional development time are all available at no cost to schools. Let me know if you'd like me to visit your school. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,  
*Amy Cohen*  
Amy Cohen  
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**H**ISTORY MAKING  
P R O D U C T I O N S

## INTRODUCTION TO OUR MATERIALS

We at History Making Productions hope that the *Philadelphia: The Great Experiment* series can enrich your classroom teaching in a way that is exciting for your students and not too time-consuming for you. Here's how it works.

For each 30-minute episode you will find:

### **BEFORE**

Attention grabbing “hooks” to stimulate student interest

Images and/or documents from the film along with suggested discussion questions to stimulate interest (usually in downloadable PowerPoint form)

Vocabulary lists to teach unfamiliar terms

Essential questions to help you frame the lesson

### **DURING**

Note-taking sheets to keep your students focused and to record key content as they view the episode

Suggested pause points to maximize student interest and understanding

### **AFTER**

Graphic organizers to review the content of note-taking sheets

Primary source based lessons

Discussion questions

Activities based on webisodes, shorter films that focus on distinct topics

Suggestions for topics that can be explored more fully using our Shortcuts, brief interviews with experts that are available on the [historyofphilly.com](http://historyofphilly.com) website.

Five quiz questions based on note-taking sheets

Relevant Pennsylvania Common Core Standards

*NOTE: All activities have Answer Keys*

# HISTORY HUNTERS GUIDE TO *PHILADELPHIA:* *THE GREAT EXPERIMENT*

## Films, Activities and Sources to Enrich Your HISTORY HUNTERS experience

### A Lost World: 1600-1680

#### EPISODE TOPICS

- *The culture of the Lenne Lenape*
- *Initial peaceful trade relations between the Lenape and the Dutch and the misunderstandings that led the Lenape to massacre inhabitants of the Dutch settlement of Swanendale*
- *The founding of New Sweden and revolt against Governor Johan Printz*
- *Impact of European diseases on the native population*
- *The arrival of persecuted British Quakers and their "radical" beliefs in religious freedom, equality, and democracy*

#### ACTIVITIES & SOURCES

- Comparing depictions of the Lenne Lenape using images from different eras
- Watercolors of daily life by Lenape scholar John T. Kraft

### In Penn's Shadow: 1680-1720

#### EPISODE TOPICS

- *William Penn's background and Quaker beliefs*
- *Penn and Thomas Holme's plans for Philadelphia*
- *Penn's relations with the Lenape*
- *Slavery and anti-slavery in early Philadelphia*
- *Testing the limits of religious tolerance (Johannes Kelpius and George Keith)*

#### ACTIVITIES & SOURCES

- Text and questions about 1688 Germantown Protest Against Slavery (3 different levels of complexity)
- Map activities comparing Penn and Holmes' plan for the city and region to modern day Philadelphia and southeast Pennsylvania

#### WEBISODES

- Philadelphia: Planning a City (5:05)
- The Plan for Pennsylvania: William Penn's Planning Ideas (6:37)

# HISTORY HUNTERS GUIDE TO *PHILADELPHIA:* *THE GREAT EXPERIMENT*

As you watch Franklin's Spark and the The Storm, notice that reenactments were filmed at both Wyck and Stenton. The Germantown battle scenes in The Storm were filmed at Cliveden.

## Franklin's Spark: 1720-1765

### EPISODE TOPICS

- Benjamin Franklin's innovations to improve the rapidly growing city
- *The enslavement and escape of "Samson", owned by Governor James Logan*
- *Struggles over land between European settlers and Indians (The Walking Purchase, the Paxton Boys crisis, etc.)*
- The work of eccentric early Quaker abolitionist, Benjamin Lay
- The importance of Philadelphia as a center for colonial communication

### ACTIVITIES & SOURCES

- Canastego's 1742 speech to the Lenne Lenape (displaced by the Walking Purchase) with questions

### WEBISODES

- *The Paxton Boys: A Call to Action (6:53) (Note: The Paxton Boys crisis is not covered in the History Hunters curriculum, however, the climax of the crisis occurred in Germantown)*

## The Storm: 1765-1820

### EPISODE TOPICS

- Class tensions on the eve of the American Revolution
- Impact and reaction to British taxation
- Revolutionary roles of Thomas Paine, Betsy Ross, and Charles Wilson Peale
- *British occupation of Philadelphia*
- *Patriots and Loyalists in Philadelphia*
- Benjamin Franklin's transformation into an abolitionist

### ACTIVITIES & SOURCES

- Image of the Pennsylvania Chronicle, July 4-11, 1768 with lyrics to "The Liberty Song" popular among patriots
- Transcription of and questions about "The Liberty Song"

### WEBISODES

- *Behind the Scenes of The Storm (2:30) (Note: This short film by our young senior editor, in which she reveals the secrets of "Cinemagic," is a sure winner among students)*

# HISTORY HUNTERS GUIDE TO *PHILADELPHIA:* *THE GREAT EXPERIMENT*

## Fever: 1793

### EPISODE TOPICS

- Causes, symptoms and impact of yellow fever
- Conflict about the causes and treatment of yellow fever
- *Evacuation of the city by state and federal officials, including Pres. Washington*
- *Black community serving as nurses; accusations of theft and price gouging*

### ACTIVITIES & SOURCES

- Excerpt from *A Short Account of Malignant Fever*, a pamphlet by Matthew Carey that accused African American nurses of theft and price gouging and questions
- Jigsaw activity based on the above and several excerpts from *A Narrative of the Black People during the Late Awful Calamity in Philadelphia*, written by Richard Allen and Absalom Jones as a refutation to Carey

### WEBISODES

- Too many to list; most of them are accompanied by educational materials

## Disorder: 1820-1854

### EPISODE TOPICS

- *Abolition and anti-abolition in the border city (burning of Pennsylvania Hall)*
- Nicholas Biddle's "Bank War"
- Early labor movements
- Consolidation of Philadelphia into one city

### ACTIVITIES & SOURCES

- Critical thinking activity based on the paintings of John Lewis Krimmel; students analyze depictions of daily life for African Americans in the early 1800s

### WEBISODES

- Lucretia Mott: Philadelphia's Revolutionary (6:31)

## An Equal Chance: 1855-1871

### EPISODE TOPICS

- Founding of the Pennsylvania Railroad
- *William Still, the Underground Railroad, and the Vigilant Committee*
- Streetcar desegregation
- Life and death of civil rights activist, scholar, community organizer O.V. Catto

### ACTIVITIES & PRIMARY SOURCES

- Interactive Underground Railroad "reunion" activity using excerpts from William Still's *Underground Railroad*