

These resources are part of the [Inspiring Middle School Literacy](#) from [PBS Learning Media](#) and have Support Materials available when the link is activated.

[The Story of Pocahontas](#) In this blended lesson supporting literacy skills, students learn that there are multiple versions of the story of Pocahontas and John Smith. Students develop their literacy skills as they explore a social studies focus on the two different versions of this story that Smith wrote, and what historians believe really happened when Smith met Pocahontas. During this process, they read informational text, learn and practice vocabulary words, and explore content through videos and interactive activities. From [PBS Learning Media](#).

[From Slavery to Freedom in Colonial Times](#) In this blended lesson **supporting** literacy skills, students learn the story of Venture Smith, an African boy who was enslaved and brought to America in 1737. Students develop their literacy skills as they explore a social studies focus on differences between slavery in the North and South as they learn about Smith’s journey from slavery to **freedom**. **During** this process, they read informational text, learn and practice vocabulary words, and explore content through videos and interactive activities. From [PBS Learning Media](#).

[Who Was Alexander Hamilton?](#) In this blended lesson supporting literacy skills, students learn about the early life of Alexander Hamilton and his achievements as an adult during the Revolutionary War and in the Washington administration. Students develop their literacy skills as they explore a social studies focus on how Hamilton’s role as an outsider shaped his beliefs about the powers of the federal government. During this process, they read informational text, learn and practice vocabulary words, and explore content through videos and interactive activities. From [PBS Learning Media](#).

[The Powers of Government](#) In this blended lesson supporting literacy skills, students learn about the three branches of the United States government. Students develop their literacy skills as they explore a social studies focus on the powers that the Constitution assigns to each branch—legislative, executive, and judicial—and how the three branches work together. During this process, they read informational text, learn and practice vocabulary words, and explore content through videos and interactive activities. From [PBS Learning Media](#).

[Slavery and the U.S. Constitution](#) In this blended lesson supporting literacy skills, students learn about the debate over slavery at the Constitutional Convention in 1787. Students develop their literacy skills as they explore a social studies focus on the changing perception of slavery in the new United States and the ways in which the debate over slavery affected the content of the Constitution. During this process, they read informational text, learn and practice vocabulary words, and explore content through videos and interactive activities. From [PBS Learning Media](#).

[Building the Erie Canal](#) In this blended lesson supporting literacy skills, students learn how the Erie Canal changed the U.S. economy and influenced settlement patterns in the west. Students develop their literacy skills as they explore a social studies focus on how the effects of the Erie Canal on New York City, New York State, and the entire United States. During this process, they read informational text, learn and practice vocabulary words, and explore content through videos and interactive activities. From [PBS Learning Media](#).

[Trail of Tears: The Cherokee Fight Against Removal](#) In this blended lesson supporting literacy skills, students are introduced to the Cherokees' struggle to remain on their land in the early 1800s. Students develop their literacy skills as they explore a social studies focus on the assimilation strategy of the Cherokee Nation and its eventual impact on their fate. During this process, they read informational text, learn and practice vocabulary words, and explore content through videos and interactive activities. From [PBS Learning Media](#).

[Conflict Over Western Lands](#) In this blended lesson supporting literacy skills, students learn about the differences between the way white settlers and Native Americans thought about land and land ownership in the mid-1800s. Students develop their literacy skills as they explore a social studies focus on the concept of Manifest Destiny and how it created conflict in the Great Plains. During this process, they read informational text, learn and practice vocabulary words, and explore content through videos and interactive activities. From [PBS Learning Media](#).