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Northeast Cultural Coop Publishes Portsmouth Peace Treaty Curriculum

Amherst- Northeast Cultural Coop, in cooperation with the Japan-America Society of NH and the Portsmouth School System has developed a curriculum guide for teachers in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Portsmouth Peace Treaty that ended the Russo-Japanese War. This project is funded through a grant from the Japan Foundation's Center for Global Partnership and the Anne Slade Frey Charitable Trust.

The curriculum guide is organized thematically under headings such as

- “The Great Global Game,” which puts this period of history and the involvement of the U.S. into the story of what was happening in the world as of 1905. Other sections of the guide include:
- “Setting the Stage,” which puts the war and peace treaty into perspective for teachers who will want to teach about it;
- “The Russo-Japanese War,” includes details on the war itself, how and why it occurred, with suggested lessons on how to approach teaching about it in the classroom;
- “The Peace Process,” which helps put the local history in perspective with ways to engage students in research to discover how NH played a role in this international event, with biographies of the key players;
- “The Aftermath,” which deals with the negative reactions in both Russia and Japan to the treaty;
- “Literary Connections,” which gives teachers materials from the time period that helps in the interpretation of the events, including works by Mark Twain, Leo Tolstoy, and others.
- And “Other Connections” which includes several lessons on understanding other cultures, women in 1905, geography lessons on Japan and Russia, and information on facts from the time period, such as that the tallest building in the world in 1905 was the Eiffel Tower and that in 1905 Albert Einstein developed his theory of relativity.

Lessons on modern inventions, writing a parody of living in historic time periods, hands-on activities, etc. make this guide useful to teachers of history, language arts, art, and other subjects. A chart of connections to state frameworks is also included.

The guide includes maps, photographs, propaganda cartoons, and a CD-Rom of 300 images from 1905 that will help teachers develop their own power-point lessons on the war, the peace, and the world 100 years ago. Most readings and lessons in the guide are aimed for grades 9-12, but a few lessons and activities are appropriate for middle school and younger. In addition, an activity book for younger students on the only woman who was present at the signing of the treaty, Sarah Farmer, is also being distributed with the guide, along with a map of the Portsmouth Peace Treaty Trail.

The guide is available through the Northeast Cultural Coop for \$20. and can be mailed directly to teachers and others for an additional \$5.00. Information on the guide and where they will be available at conferences, etc. can be found at www.NortheastCulturalCoop.org. For additional information, please contact project director, Blanche Milligan, 603-673-8470.

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