



smartmedia

for parents &  
educators

February 2011 edition

smartmedia focus:  
social studies

## Greetings from WQED Multimedia in Pittsburgh!

WQED is pleased to bring you a monthly e-newsletter that highlights some of our many high-quality, standards-aligned PBS educational assets. For Black History Month, we're highlighting some of our favorite shows that explore social studies, civics, and history.



## Spotlight on... Freedom Riders

**FREEDOM RIDERS** is the powerful, harrowing, and ultimately inspirational story of six months in 1961 that changed America forever. From May until November 1961, more than 400 black and white Americans risked their lives—and many endured savage beatings and imprisonment—for simply traveling together on buses and trains as they journeyed through the Deep South. Deliberately violating Jim Crow laws, the Freedom Riders met with bitter racism and mob violence along the way, sorely testing their belief in nonviolent activism. Their struggles ultimately resulted in a triumph for the civil rights movement when the federal government ordered an end to the segregation in bus and rail stations that had been in place for generations.

rides

people

issues

timeline

Follow their journey with WQED and American Experience this spring! In May 2011, college students from across the country will "Get on the Bus," joining the original Freedom Riders and retracing the 1961 Rides from Washington, DC to Jackson, MS.

featured opportunity



Few publications have been as influential in the African American community – and across the nation – as **The Pittsburgh Courier**. No mere journal of African American life, the Courier was a muckraking crusader in the vanguard of the civil rights movement. Its 14 national editions had a peak circulation of over 350,000.

In commemoration of *The Pittsburgh Courier's* 100th anniversary, the **Senator John Heinz History Center** will explore the newspaper's reach and impact throughout the nation over the past century.

Through a number of photographs, artifacts, and audio-visual displays, **America's Best Weekly: A Century of The Pittsburgh Courier** will profile the major contributors who propelled the Courier from a 1907 start-up publication to the most influential African American newspapers in the country.

**America's Best Weekly** will be on display at the History Center from February 11 through October 2, 2011.



Source: Senator John Heinz History Center

wqed.org/edu

watch!

Don't miss these engaging shows for every age!

Find out when these shows air on WQED-TV!



**Clifford** uses classic storytelling to present universal social, emotional, and moral messages to children. The series' educational messages, Clifford's Big Ideas, focus on simple, tangible life lessons that are designed to help young children navigate their world as they become part of an ever-expanding community. Introduce children to key civil rights leaders and explore the essential themes of respect and tolerance with the **"Being Different is A-Okay!"** activity.

ages 3-5



**Arthur** chronicles the adventures of an eight-year-old aardvark through engaging, emotional stories that explore issues faced by real kids. Have your students define their visions of democracy with the **"If I were president"** activity this Presidents Day!

ages 6-8



**Slavery and the Making of America** documents the history of American slavery from its beginnings in the British colonies to its end in the Southern states and the years of post-Civil War Reconstruction. Drawing on a wealth of recent scholarship, it looks at slavery as an integral part of a developing nation, offers new perspectives on the slave experience, and testifies to the active role that Africans and African Americans took in surviving their bondage and shaping their own lives. Explore the robust interactive content online.

ages 8-12



American Experience's **Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Movement** uses contemporary interviews and historical footage to cover all of the major events of the civil rights movement from 1954-1985. Explore resources for elementary, middle, and high-school students online.

ages 12-18

Check out these great online resources for each grade!

K - Grade 2: **Africa and Wilson & Ditch**

Grades 3 - 5: **American Experience** and **Jazz**

Grades 6 - 8: **Unearthing Secret America** and **The Mississippi: River of Song**

Grades 9-12: **Banished** and **African American Lives 2**

click!



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