Rochester/Local History

RCSD Social Studies Semester Elective

Rochester and the surrounding area have a unique history. Strategically placed along major transportation networks, the city became the original American “Boom Town.” The city became a major center of reform movements in the United States, as the home to Fredrick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony. The region played a significant role in the manufacturing economy, and has earned the nickname “the Flour City.” Over the last three decades, Rochester has transformed itself into a leading center of high tech industries, and has one of the highest standards of living for its educated populations. Yet, Rochester is one the poorest cities in the United States, with an extremely high level of poverty for its youngest residents. This course seeks to show students the intricate past associated with their hometown that has changed its course to emphasize its new role as the “Flower City” for the 21st century.

General History materials: <http://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/Rochester%20Regional%20Library%20Council/field/librar/mode/exact/conn/and/order/nosort>

<http://www3.libraryweb.org/lh.aspx?id=3190>

Rochester/ Local History Studies

Unit One: Early History

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| Essential Questions   * Evaluate the role of Geography in the Development of the City * How was Native American life changed by Euro-American settlement in the area? * How did the construction of the Erie Canal impact the Genesee Valley Region? * What was the significance of the Revival movement in Rochester? | Key Ideas   * Rochester sits at the confluence of the Genesee River and Lake Ontario. The Genesee River, due to its length and change in elevation, has a wide reaching impact on the area. * As European-Americans moved into the area, Native populations lost control of territory through legal and illegal means. * The need to access western land and eastern Markets drove the building of the Erie Canal. Rochester became the first “Boom Town” in the United States. * Explore how the Burnt over District and second great awakening leads to a number of new religions, including Mormonism. |
| Social Studies Practices | Suggested Products and Activities   * You-tube video of early Rochester locations and their historical significance * Map and visitors guide for elementary students for neighborhoods of Rochester |

**Resources - General**

* [A Shopkeeper’s Millennium](http://www.amazon.com/Shopkeepers-Millennium-Revivals-Rochester-1815-1837/dp/0809016354/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1377703518&sr=1-1&keywords=a+shopkeeper%27s+millennium)
* [The Artificial River](http://www.amazon.com/The-Artificial-River-Progress-1817-1862/dp/0809016052/ref=sr_1_10?ie=UTF8&qid=1377704464&sr=8-10&keywords=erie+canal+books)
* [The Burned-over District: The Social and Intellectual History of Enthusiastic Religion in Western New York, 1800-1850](http://www.amazon.com/The-Burned-over-District-Intellectual-Enthusiastic/dp/0801492327)

[The American Revolution in Indian County](http://www.amazon.com/The-American-Revolution-Indian-Country/dp/0521475694/ref=sr_1_4?ie=UTF8&qid=1377798679&sr=8-4&keywords=colin+calloway)

Rochester/Local History Studies

Unit Two: Reform Movements

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| Essential Questions   * What was the extent and impact of slavery in Rochester? * What was the impact of the Abolitionist movement in Rochester? * How did Women’s Rights movement impact the local community? * What was the significance of the Temperance Movement in Rochester? * How did Rochester’s role in the Civil War impact the war effort? * To what extent did Reconstruction politics impact Rochester? | Key Ideas |
| Social Studies Practices | Suggested Products and Activities |

**Resources - Unit Two:**

[Seneca Falls and the Origins of the Women's Rights Movement](http://www.amazon.com/Origins-Movement-Pivotal-Moments-American/dp/0195393333/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1377707899&sr=1-1&keywords=Seneca+Falls)

[The Underground Rail Road](http://www.libraryweb.org/rochimag/roads/underground.htm)

[North Star Country](http://www.amazon.com/North-Star-Country-Upstate-American/dp/081562915X/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&sr=8-1&qid=1377709433)

[140th NY](http://dmna.ny.gov/historic/reghist/civil/infantry/140thInf/140thInfMain.htm)

[Civil War era letters](http://wxxi.org/warletters/civil.html)

Rochester History

Unit Three: The Gilded Age and Rise of Wealth

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| Essential Questions   * What were the reasons behind Rochester’s manufacturing growth? * What was the impact of changing immigration patterns on Rochester? * What major social issues developed as methods of production changed? * What types of manufacturing developed in the region? * How did the varying social classes in Rochester display civic engagement in the community? * Did Rochester conform to the pattern of other Northeastern Cities in the United States? | Key Ideas |
| Social Studies Practices | Suggested Products and Activities |

**Resources - Unit Three:**

<http://www3.libraryweb.org/uploadedFiles/MCLS/Local_History_New/Pathfinders/Rochester%20Immigrants%20%20Research%20Guide.pdf>

<http://www.amazon.com/George-Eastman-Photography-Business-Biographies/dp/1893122999>

<http://rocdocs.democratandchronicle.com/timeline/bausch-lomb-history>

**Unit 4: Rochester from World War I to the Present**

1. How did US entry into World War I affect Rochester?
2. What was the significance of the Great depression to Rochester?
3. How did the earliest professional sports in Rochester lead to the growth of major sporting leagues?
4. How did the Great Migration change Rochester?
5. How did World War II change Rochester?
6. Was the establishment of the College centers in Rochester a positive or negative?
7. What was the impact of suburbanization in Rochester?
8. How has the changing industry of the region affected Rochester?
9. What is the impact of the changing demographics in Rochester?

<http://www.amazon.com/Smugtown-U-S-A-Curt-Gerling/dp/1557870934>

<http://www.rochestersubway.com/topics/2010/10/struggle-in-smugtown-history-of-rochesters-working-class/>

<http://rochesterbaseballhistory.org/>

<http://www.amazon.com/Hockey-Rochester-Americans-Tradition-Images/dp/0738536946>

<http://www.arcadiapublishing.com/9780738510422/Rochester-Labor-and-Leisure>

<http://www.arcadiapublishing.com/9780738504100/Rochester-Neighborhoods>

<http://www.arcadiapublishing.com/9780738509150/Rochesters-Downtown>

<http://www.arcadiapublishing.com/9780738575100/Rochesters-Latino-Community-Bilingual-Edition>

<http://www.arcadiapublishing.com/9780738513300/Rochesters-Transportation-Heritage>

[Kodak Elegy A Cold War Childhood William Merrill Decker BUY DIRECT from Syracuse University Press](http://www.syracuseuniversitypress.syr.edu/spring-2012/kodak-elegy.html)