

Summer Institute Projects: A Brief Introduction

For the Summer Institute you will be completing a project that

- Uses primary sources
- Is connected to the state standards
- Relates at least loosely to one of the four core themes
- Has classroom application

Time will be given at the Institute to complete the project. We wanted to get you in groups in advance so you can get to know each other (if you don't already). This is to encourage the group *project* to be a *group* project. Throughout the year, we will do things in these groups (but we will also mix you up in other ways, too!)

Each group will produce something such as the following:

- **Ken Burns in the Heartland.** Group members develop a multimedia presentation on a specific history topic that could be shown in their and other teacher's classrooms using video, photostory, PowerPoint, or other such technology.
- **Sharing Student Projects.** A presentation about a primary source related project that the groups teachers did with their students, reporting what happened and how the assignment worked—with handouts describing the assignment and the lessons learned.
- **The Applied Book Club.** Group members read a book, such as Janet Allen's *Reading History*, and then implement some of her ideas, such as a particular language arts strategies related to teaching history. They make a presentation at the Summer Institute discussing the book (especially if it is one that others have not seen) and the results of what they tried in the classroom. Handouts would give other Explore History teachers something tangible to take back with them to the classroom.
- **Technology in the Classroom.** Group members could experiment with different technologies in their classrooms: websites, blogsites, podcasts, photostories, etc., and share ways that they have integrated technology in the classroom. Would share results and best practices with the larger group, including handouts to help others apply technology in their classrooms

Before the Summer Institute, planning, early production, and (depending on what your group is doing) implementation will occur. During the Summer Institute, time will be allotted for final production, including the preparation of a ten to 15 minute presentation to the larger group.