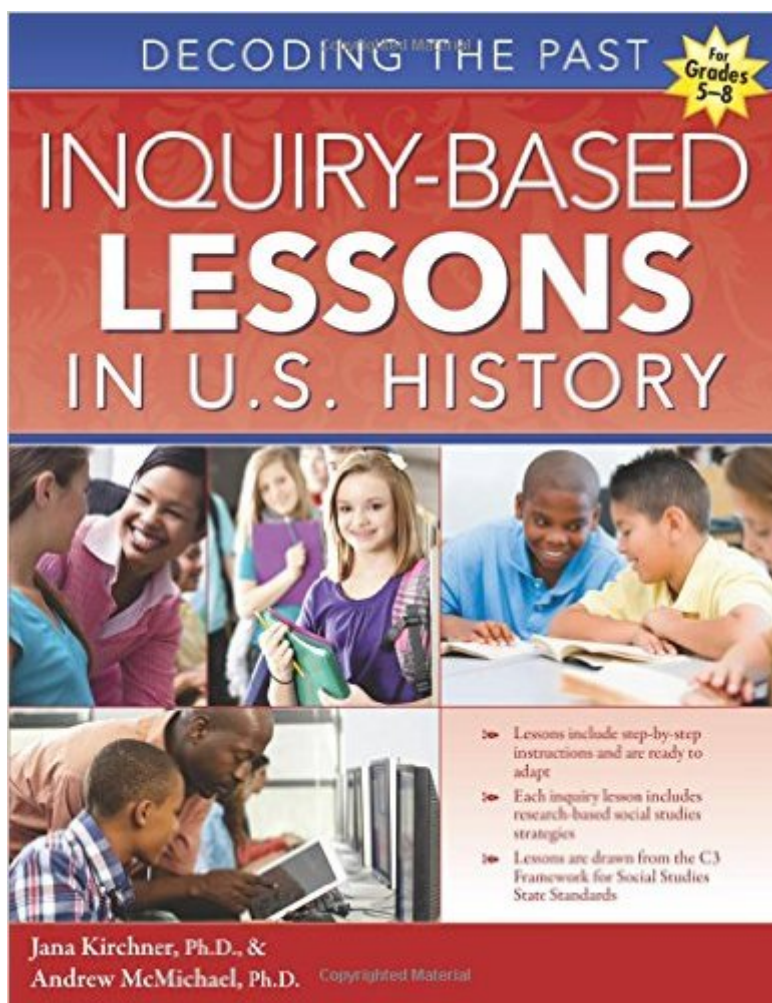


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# Inquiry-Based Lessons In U.S. History: Decoding The Past



## Synopsis

Inquiry-Based Lessons in U.S. History: Decoding the Past provides primary source lessons that focus on teaching U.S. history through inquiry to middle school students. Students will be faced with a question to answer or problem to solve and will examine primary sources for evidence to create hypothetical solutions. The chapters focus on key chronological periods (e.g., the Age of Exploration to the Civil Rights era) and follow the scope and sequence of major social studies textbooks, with activities linked to the U.S. History Content Standards and the Common Core State Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies. The three lesson plans in each chapter begin with an essential question that sets the focus for the primary sources and teaching strategies that follow. The lesson plans include differing types of primary sources such as photographs, speeches, political cartoons, historic maps, paintings, letters, and diary entries.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I just completed the three lessons on Civil Rights from this wonderful book. My fifth graders were so engaged in the lessons, that I called my principal down to observe. The hooks at the beginning of each lesson captivated each of my students. The walking picture gallery got them up and moving. My students were appalled of the inequalities that were taking place. The pictures made it real to them. The students had no trouble completing the lesson that involved Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech. After showing the clip, and putting the students in groups, I found that students were imitating parts of the speech with Dr. King's passion!! I must admit I was a bit dubious about using the Civil Rights Act of 1964. I thought it may be too much for them to tear apart and glean the intent

of the lesson. My fears were put to rest. The students loved working with this historical, and very important piece of legislation. The graphic organizer was a great tool to accompany this lesson. The teacher and students found it very user friendly. This lesson could be used with fourth graders as well. Great Book!! Cannot wait to get started on Chapter 5-Path to Independence.

As a history teacher, I'm thrilled to have found this resource that actively engages my students in "finding the answer" to their history instead of being a passive participant. In addition to being aligned to the C3 Framework and the Common Core State Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, these lessons were easy to implement as the authors designed them around an organizing question, strategies, materials, as well as 'step-by-step' instructions. But the best part of these lessons was the opportunity for my students to develop their own conclusions on what truly happened in THEIR history by using primary sources and inquiry. While the book is designed for middle school, I would highly recommend it to upper elementary and high school as well. It was a great asset to engaging my students in developing a love for understanding history.

This is a very useful book for teachers who want to use primary sources to teach history. All of the resources are right in the lesson plan to download so that you don't have to go searching for them all over the place. This is a real time-saver! I think it is aimed more at middle-school, but I can adapt some of these activities for my 5th-grade accelerated class. I just purchased this book, but I am looking forward to using several of the activities.

I have yet to use this teacher resource for US History as I am currently serving in another capacity. However, based upon my observations, it appears to be one that I would use and adapt when the opportunity arises in the future. It is geared to address higher order thinking skills which should be the goal of all teachers regardless of the subject area. Although it is designed to meet the needs of middle school students, I believe it can be adapted for students on the secondary level, as well.

It is early to write a review cause I haven't taught any of the lessons quite yet. But I'm very excited about this book because it's full of fully formed actual lesson plans with Inquiry focus!! Not theory, not just suggestions, materials and specific teaching recommendations. I will come back and up it to five stars if the lessons go as well as I think they will.

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