

## Topical Teaching Units

The National Archives has produced the following teaching units focusing on select historical periods and events. They are designed to help students of U.S. history, government, and economics to develop critical thinking skills and to understand the process by which history is written. Each unit contains about 50 reproductions of documents—charts, photographs, letters, drawings, and posters—and a detailed teacher's guide. The materials deal with certain key issues of the period, governmental and political responses to these issues, and public attitudes. With the exception of *The United States at War: 1944*, which is priced at \$90 and includes videotaped materials, individual units are \$40 each. To order, send a purchase order to: SIRS, Inc., P.O. Box 2348, Boca Raton, FL 33427; or call toll free, 1-800-232-7477 (in AK and FL, call collect, 407-994-0079).

### The United States Expands West: 1785-1842

Maps, patents, letters, treaties, and other documentary evidence explore the federal government's role in promoting westward expansion. Interpreting such concepts as "rugged individualism," "noble savage," and "manifest destiny," students are challenged to distinguish myth from reality in the creation of history. In a case study of the Cherokee Nation, students trace evolving U.S. Indian policy and investigate the international character of western settlement.



### Westward Expansion: 1842-1912

Students examine the myths and realities of expansion—from the California gold rush to the Battle of Wounded Knee. In a case study of the Apache tribe, students are invited to role-play a congressional hearing to determine federal policy toward Native Americans. This unit traces a century of developments in cartography, photography, and technology. It reminds students of the forgotten pioneers: women homesteaders, African-American soldiers, Chinese railway workers, and Mormons and other missionaries.

### The Progressive Years: 1898-1917

This unit includes examples of muckraking, "yellow" journalism, African-American citizens' complaints of violations of their voting rights, attitudes toward immigrants, and political cartoons for and against women's suffrage. Stark photographs by Lewis Hine document children's working conditions. Students can compare America's first income tax form to the forms used today.

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