

A Student Exploration for the Point of View Demo Disk 8/7/90

Hi, my name is [your name] and for today, I'm a high school student. I've just seen *Porgy and Bess*. The program said that the play takes place in Charleston in "the 1930's: after slavery, before freedom." This phrase intrigued me so I decided to use Point of View to explore just what it means.

- 1 CLICK ON THE TITLE BAR First let's look at some events from the period.
 READING "TIME LINE." CLICK ON
 "SELECT MILESTONES LISTS." To begin, I have to decide what *types* of events
 I want to look at.
- 2 RETURN TO MILESTONES DISPLAY I've chosen to look at events relating to [point]
 BY CLOSING WINDOWS the Presidency, Diplomacy, War, and Peace, and
 Key Events in American History. The full
 program will give me a choice of 24 different
 milestone lists.
 Each of these categories is arranged in its own
 strand. Each category is easily identified with a
 logical icon, like [point] the White House for
 The Presidency, or the Capitol building for
 information related to Congress.
- 3 CLICK ON ANY MILESTONE TO Each event indicated by a milestone contains at

SHOW A BRIEF DESCRIPTION

least a brief description which appears as pop up text when you click on the icon

The first part of the phrase, "after slavery" should be pretty easy to nail down. I'm pretty sure that the Emancipation Proclamation was issued during the Civil War.

- 4 DOUBLE CLICK ON THE ICON MARKED "CIVIL WAR" ON THE US EVENTS LINE (US MAP ICON)

So I click on the Civil War. Ah, I was right.

- 5 THEN CLICK ON "EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION"

Now I click on the Emancipation Proclamation.

Here I get the exact date [point], as well as the full text of the Proclamation.

- 6 CLOSE ALL SCREENS. DO NOT SAVE

But was that the end of slavery? A proclamation alone wouldn't really emancipate anyone. And I know that that so-called "Jim Crow laws" after the Civil War continued to deny Blacks many of their rights like voting.

- 7 SCROLL SLOWLY, AS IF SEARCHING, TO 1881. DOUBLE CLICK ON "JIM CROW"

To find out more about Jim Crow laws I move the time line from the civil War until I reach 1881 when I see that the Jim Crow laws are passed.

This essay tells me why the end of slavery didn't

necessarily mean freedom for Blacks. I also see a political cartoon from the period which tells me a little more about what people were thinking at the time.

- 8 DOUBLE CLICK ON PLESSY VS. FERGUSON TO OPEN TEXT

I notice Plessy vs. Ferguson is highlighted. I double-click on this and get the full text of this famous Supreme Court case that established the legality of "separate but equal."

- 9 CLOSE JIM CROW AND CARTOON SCREENS. DO NOT SAVE

But, I remember hearing that many Blacks moved North to escape Jim Crow laws. Did that really happen?

- 10 DOUBLE CLICK ON DATE BOX. RESET DATE TO 1/1/1861. PRESS RETURN

To find out, lets go back to 1861 and take a look at Black population patterns since the Civil War.

I'll open a map and indicate that I want to see Black population. I'll name the map "Black Population."

- 11 UNDER MENU EXPLORE, SELECT "MAP." CLICK ON "SELECT DATA." SELECT "PEOPLE," "BLACK" AND "U.S. MAP." PRESS RETURN

TO NAME MAP, CLICK ON TITLE BAR, KEY IN NAME, AND RETURN

- 12 FAST FORWARD SCROLL THE TIMELINE BY CLICKING ON DOUBLE ARROWS TO THE RIGHT OF THE SINGLE ARROW SCROLL ON THE TIMELINE. STOP FAST FORWARD BY CLICKING ON SPACE BELOW THE TIMELINE WHEN YOU REACH 1940
- As I scroll the timeline, I can see where and when Blacks were living during the years following the Civil War. [pause] As you can see, there is not any immediate movement toward North when Jim Crow was passed in 1881. Blacks do eventually start moving North, but not until the 1930's.
- For a different view of the Black movement to the North, let's compare the populations of one state in the North with one in the South over this same period. Say Georgia and New York.
- 13 RETURN TIMELINE TO 1861. RESIZE MAP TO ABOUT 1/4 OF THE SCREEN SIZE MAKING SURE THAT YOU RETAIN THE SAME SHAPE. MOVE TO UPPER LEFT CORNER. UNDER MENU EXPLORE, SELECT "CHART" THEN OK. RESIZE TO ABOUT 1/4 SCREEN SIZE AND MOVE TO UPPER RIGHT CORNER.
- We'll return to 1861. To compare populations, I'll first resize my population map and move it into the upper left corner. Then I'll open a chart. I resize this chart and move it into the upper right corner. I then click on the maps of each state and drag them into the empty chart I created. [do slowly] The program automatically creates a fully labelled bar graph of the population of each state.
- 14 DOUBLE CLICK ON THE STATES OF GEORGIA AND NEW YORK AND SLOWLY DRAG THEM INTO THE CHART.

This chart reflects the populations of the two states in 1861. I wonder when there were as many Blacks in New York as there were in Georgia before the Civil War. This should tell me a lot about when Blacks started moving North.

- 15 CLICK ON THE CHART. THEN I activate the chart and then click the New York
CLICK ON NEW YORK BAR GRAPH. bar. A smaller bar appears on top of the graphed
A SMALLER BLOCK APPEARS ON bar. I align this smaller bar with the level of
TOP OF THE BAR. ALIGN THE TOP Georgia population in 1861. POV immediately
OF THIS SMALLER BLOCK WITH moves the timeline to the year when there were
THE TOP OF THE GEORGIA BAR. as many Blacks in New York as there were in
Georgia before the Civil War. I see that it is
1930 [point].
- 16 CLOSE THE CHART. DO NOT SAVE Obviously, Blacks tended to stay in the South. I
wonder how effective Jim Crow laws were in
denying them their rights. Let's take a look at
voter participation in federal elections and
compare it to black population. This will
demonstrate just how effective this legislation
was.
- 17 RETURN TIMELINE TO 1861. I'll return to 1861 again. I'll open a new map
UNDER EXPLORE MENU, CLICK displaying voter participation. I name it
MAP AND "SELECT DATA." SELECT

VOTING, % OF VOTERS AND US
MAP. NAME MAP "VOTERS."
RESIZE TO 1/4 SCREEN SIZE AND
PLACE IN UPPER RIGHT CORNER.

"Voters." I'll resize this map and set it beside
the population map. As I scroll the timeline I
can compare the two maps.

- 18 FAST FORWARD SCROLL TIMELINE Until the end of Reconstruction there is really
BY CLICKING DOUBLE ARROW no correlation between these maps. But starting
SCROLL. STOP FAST FORWARD IN 1880 BRIEFLY, THEN 1960 AND
1880 BRIEFLY, THEN 1960 AND with the 1880 figures a definite pattern emerges.
FINALLY AT 1970 BY CLICKING ON
ANY SPACE BELOW THE
TIMELINE.

The greater the Black population, the lower the
voter participation. This pattern doesn't begin to
change until 1970. Clearly, Jim Crow was
effective.

- 19 CLOSE MAPS. DO NOT SAVE

- 20 RETURN TIMELINE TO 1950 AND
SCROLL SLOWLY THROUGH
MILESTONES

As I browse through the milestones of the 50s
and 60s on the timeline, I see that these changes
didn't come easily. There were court battles like
Brown vs. Board of Education, physical battles
like the Montgomery Bus Boycott and Selma,
victories like the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and
great sacrifices.

- 20 [OPTIONAL VIDEODISK] DOUBLE
CLICK ON "KING ASSASSINATED"
1968 TO ACTIVATE VIDEO LINK
USE SIDE B OF VISUAL ALMANAC

What you have just seen is a brief example of

how a student can use Point of View to explore history. I haven't come close to showing all the features of the program. The full program includes 2000 milestones, 140 data tables from the U.S. Census, original essays by historians, over 2,000 pages of primary source documents, and digitized images. Most importantly, I haven't shown any of the powerful authoring tools for students and teachers provided with the program. What I have tried to show is how the program can be used to do original, exciting multi-media research in history. You can preview the program itself free from Scholastic for 30 days to discover the rest.