

# Appendix B Using Copyrighted Information In Your Own Materials

The purpose of **American History Explorer for Windows** is to provide an easy way for you to create maps for use in your own personal study, lessons, and presentations. The maps included with the program are copyrighted by Parsons Technology, and portions of the text are copyrighted by various publishers, but certain uses are allowed.

Federal copyright laws allow for "fair use" of copyrighted materials without permission under certain circumstances. The law allows the reproduction, distribution, and adaptation of copyrighted material if the use is "for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research."

To judge if your use falls under these guidelines, you should take into consideration ALL of the following:

1. **Is the use commercial or non-profit educational?** In general, commercial use is not covered under "fair use."
2. **Is the material relevant to the context in which it is used?** That is, you can't justify copying the maps or other materials in the program by handing them out to a classroom full of people when they aren't even studying U.S. history or geography.
3. **How much of the material are you reproducing?** In general, reproducing a small number of maps or small portions of material is allowed under "fair use," but reproducing all (or most) of the maps may not be.
4. **What is the effect on the potential value of American History Atlas or other copyrighted source material by your usage?** If your usage may cut into sales of the program, it's likely your usage is not "fair." For example, if you are going to reproduce our maps or large portions of text from copyrighted source materials to create your own textbook, you're probably going to have to ask permission first.

One general rule to apply is to put yourself in our place. How would you react if someone used material you created in the way that you are contemplating using ours?

If you think your usage may not fall under "fair use," contact Parsons Technology at **1-319-395-9626**. We'll probably be able to handle your request by phone. But, if your situation is complicated, we may ask you to write or send us a copy of your proposed usage of our material. We want you to use the maps included with the program; we have very few situations where we've absolutely refused. However, we may ask you to give us credit in your work.

This information is not intended to be legal advice, nor to grant rights beyond those allowed under U.S. and international copyright laws. You should contact Parsons Technology and/or competent legal counsel if you have questions about the issues covered herein.

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