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Why Won t You Just Tell Us the Answer? : Teaching Historical Thinking in Grades 7-12

By Bruce A Lesh

Stenhouse Publishers, United States, 2011. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 234 x 188 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Every major measure of students historical understanding since 1917 has demonstrated that students do not retain, understand, or enjoy their school experiences with history. Bruce Lesh believes that this is due to the way we teach history -- lecture and memorization. Over the last fifteen years, Bruce has refined a method of teaching history that mirrors the process used by historians, where students are taught to ask questions of evidence and develop historical explanations. And now in his new book Why Won t You Just Tell Us the Answer? he shows teachers how to successfully implement his methods in the classroom. Students may think they want to be given the answer. Yet, when they are actively engaged in investigating the past - the way professional historians do - they find that history class is not about the boring memorization of names, dates, and facts. Instead, it s challenging fun. Historical study that centers on a question, where students gather a variety of historical sources and then develop and defend their answers to that question, allows students to become actual historians immersed...



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Teaching Historical Thinking in Grades 7-12 as Want to Read: Want to Read savingâ€¦; Want to Read.â€” Students may think they want to be given the answer. Yet, when they are actively engaged in investigating the pastâ€”the way professional historians doâ€”they find that history class is not about the boring memorization of names, dates, and facts. Instead, itâ€™s challenging fun. Historical study that centers on a question, where students gather a variety of historical sources and then develop and defend their answers to that question, allows students to become actual historians immersed in an interpretive study of the past. Each chapter focuses on a key concept in understanding history and then off Bruce A. Lesh. Teaching Historical Thinking In Grades 7â€”12, Stenhouse Publishers, Portland, Maine, USA (2011). 230 pp., Hardcover, US \$17.17, ISBN-10: 1571108122, ISBN-13: 978-1571108128. Article in Journal of Social Studies Research 37(1):63â€”65 Â· January 2013 with 224 Reads.â€” The social studies classroom can and should be a place where students learn critical thinking skills, but too often, especially in the middle grades, students are asked to focus on discrete facts on which they can be tested. The purpose of this article is to suggest that sixth graders can learn the critical thinking skills of â€œhistorical thinkingâ€” by discussing big ideas and essential questions and to provide a framework for a middle school unit of study on Ancient Egypt. View. Show abstract.