A Perfect Marriage: Historical Investigations and the Common Core through The Homestead Steel Strike

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Reading Standards for History/Social Studies

- Knowledge of domain-specific vocabulary
- Analyze, evaluate, and differentiate primary and secondary sources
- Synthesize quantitative and technical information, including facts presented in maps, timelines, flowcharts, or diagrams
- Intentional and explicit instruction for students as they interact with discipline-specific text
Source Work/Historical Literacy

**Text:** What is visible/readable--what information is provided by the source?

**Context:** What was going on during the time period? What background information do you have that helps explain the information found in the source?

**Subtext:** What is between the lines? Must ask questions about:
- **Author:** Who created the source and what do we know about that person?
- **Audience:** For whom was the source created?
- **Reason:** Why was this source produced at the time it was produced?
Sourcing: When a reader thinks about a document’s author and why the document was created.

Contextualizing: When a reader situates a document and its content in place and time.

Corroborating: When a reader asks questions about important details across multiple source to determine points of agreement and disagreement.

http://historicalthinkingmatters.org/why.php
Writing Standards for History/Social Studies

- Write arguments on discipline-specific content and informative/explanatory texts
- Make arguments or claims and support those with the use of data, evidence, and reason
- Apply domain-specific vocabulary through writing exercises unique to each discipline
- Expect students to compose arguments and opinions, informative/explanatory pieces, and narrative texts
- Focus on the use of reason and evidence to substantiate an argument or claim
- Emphasize ability to conduct research – short projects and sustained inquiry
Elements of a History Lab

- **A central question** that does not have one answer.

- **Source work**—Historical sources are evaluated and the information gained is applied to the development of an answer to the lab’s central question.

- The employment of **literacy skills** to evaluate historical sources.

- The development, refinement, and defense of an **evidence-based answer** to the guiding historical question.
“Tell him I will see him in Hell!”
Company Town
Carnegie Mansion: Millionaire’s Row, New York
Henry Frick tried to cut workers wages at Carnegie Steel in the summer of 1892 while Andrew Carnegie was in Europe.
Fort Frick during the 1892 Homestead Strike
Frick had a plan for defeating the Union. July 1\textsuperscript{st} He called in the Pinkertons, which is a private police force, known for their ability to break strikes.
On July 5th → 300 Pinkerton’s moved up the Monongahela River on barges. In a shootout with strikers, several people died and many were wounded.
“The Bloody Battle at Homestead, PA. Wednesday’s Deadly Conflict Between Pinkerton Men and the Locked-Out Employees. The Saturday Globe (Utica New York) July 9, 1892
State militia entering Homestead, Pa., to put down the strike of July 1892.
On July 23rd, anarchist Alexander Berkman tried and failed to assassinate Frick.
THE CARNEGIE STEEL COMPANY, LIMITED.

I, __________________________, employed in the works of THE CARNEGIE STEEL COMPANY, LIMITED, at Munhall, Pa., prior to July 1st, 1892, as __________________________ in the __________________________ mill, do hereby apply for re-instatement in the position held by me.

My age is __________________________ years, __________________________ married, have __________________________ children.

I was not present on the grounds of The Carnegie Steel Company, Limited, in Mifflin Township on July 6th, 1892, at any time, nor did I take any part in any of the rioting or disturbances occurring in the Borough of Homestead or in Mifflin Township from July 1st, 1892, to the present time, nor do I know of my own personal knowledge of any one who did take part therein.

On July 6th, 1892, I spent the day as follows:
Andrew Carnegie, after the conclusion of the Homestead Steel Strike

"Nothing. . . in all my life, before or since, wounded me so deeply…No pangs remain of any wound received in my business career save that of Homestead.

I hope after this statement the public will understand that the officials of the Carnegie Steel Company, Limited, with Mr. Frick at their head, are not dependent upon me…and that I have neither power nor disposition to interfere with them in the management of the business.

I went to Homestead and shook hands with the old men, tears in their eyes and mine. Oh, that Homestead Blunder…"
The Homestead Lineup

- Andrew Carnegie—Founder and co-owner of Carnegie Steel

- Henry Frick—Co-Owner/Manager of Carnegie Steel and the mill at Homestead

- Pinkerton Men—Private police force hired to break up the strike and defend the Homestead mill

- Emma Goldman—Active member of the Anarchist movement

- Alexander Berkman (Sasha)—Active member of the Anarchist movement
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Supports Carnegie’s Statement</th>
<th>Challenges Carnegie’s Statement</th>
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“On July 9th, 1892, during the middle of the Homestead Strike, a reporter for the Post-Dispatch of London arrived at Andrew Carnegie’s Scotland estate. While waiting to meet with Carnegie, the reporter noted a copy of the London Times on Carnegie’s table with a story detailing the Homestead Riot circled in pencil. Twelve strikers and nine Pinkertons reported dead by the times, and the reporter was still holding the paper when Carnegie entered the room.

“Did Mr. Carnegie have anything to say regarding these troubles at his mills,” the correspondent inquired?

Carnegie gave the reporter a scathing look. “I have nothing whatever to say,” he responded. “I have given up all active control of the business, and I do not care to interfere in any way with the present management’s conduct of this affair.”

“But do you still exercise supervision of the affairs of the company?” the reporter persisted.

“I have nothing whatever to say on that point. The business management is in the hands of those who are fully competent to deal with any question that may arise.”

“Have you heard from Homestead since the riot occurred?” asked the reporter.

“I have received several cables and among them several asking my interference with the parties in control.”

“But you must have an opinion…..” The reporter tried.

“No sir. I am not willing to express any opinion. The men have chosen their course and I am powerless to change it. The handling of the case on the part of the company has my full approbation and sanction.”

With that, Carnegie turned and left the room…”

From: Meet You in Hell: Andrew Carnegie, Henry Clay Frick and the Bitter Relationship that Transformed America.
“One would naturally suppose that if he [Andrew Carnegie] had a grain of consistency, not to say decency, in his composition, he would favor rather than oppose the organization of trade-unions among his own working people at Homestead. On would naturally suppose that if he had a grain of manhood, not to say courage, in his composition, he would at least have been willing to face the consequences of his inconsistency. But what does Carnegie do? Runs off to Scotland out of Harms way to await the issue of the battle he was too pusillanimous to share. A single word from him might have saved the battle—but the word was never spoken. Nor has he, from that bloody day until this, said anything except that he had “implicit confidence in the managers of the mills.” The correspondent who finally obtained this valuable information expresses the opinion that “Mr. Carnegie has no intention of returning to America at present.” He might have added that America can well spare Mr. Carnegie. Ten thousand Carnegie Public Libraries would not compensate the country for the direct and indirect evils resulting from the Homestead lockout. Say what you will of Frick, he is a brave man. Say what you will of Carnegie, he is a coward. And gods and men hate cowards.”

From: Editorial pages, St. Louis Dispatch, 1892
TYRANT FRICK

In days gone by before the war
All freemen did agree
The best of plans to handle slaves
Was to let them all go free;
But the slave-drivers then, like now,
Continued to make a kick
And keep the slaves in bondage tight,
Just like our Tyrant Frick.

CHORUS:
Of all slave-drivers, for spite and kick,
No one so cruel as Tyrant Frick.
The brave Hungarians, sons of toil,
When seeking which was right,
Were killed like dogs by tyrants’ hands
In the coke districts’ fight.
Let labor heroes all be true—
Avenge the bloody trick!
Be firm like steel, true to the cause,
And conquer Tyrant Frick.

CHORUS:
Of all slave-drivers, for spite and kick,
No one so cruel as Tyrant Frick.
The traitorous Pinkerton low tribe,
In murdering attack,
Tried hard to take our lives and homes,
But heroes drove them back.
O! sons of toil, o’er all the land,
Now hasten, and be quick
To aid us, in our efforts grand,
To down this Tyrant Frick.

CHORUS:
Of all slave-drivers, for spite and kick,
No one so cruel as Tyrant Frick.
The battle of “Fort Frick” is stamped
On page of history,
And marked with blood of freemen true,
Against this tyranny!
The sons of toil, for ages to come,
His curse will always bring;
The name of Frick will be well known—
The Nigger driver King!

CHORUS:
Of all slave-drivers, for spite and kick,
No one so cruel
"Father Was Killed by the Pinkerton Men"

'Twas in a Pennsylvania town not very long ago
Men struck against reduction of their pay
Their millionaire employer with philanthropic show
Had closed the works till starved they would obey
They fought for home and right to live where they had toiled so long
But ere the sun had set some were laid low
There're hearts now sadly grieving by that sad and bitter wrong
God help them for it was a cruel blow.

CHORUS:
God help them tonight in their hour of affliction
Praying for him whom they'll ne'er see again
Hear the orphans tell their sad story
“Father was killed by the Pinkerton men.”
Ye prating politicians, who boast protection creed,
Go to Homestead and stop the orphans' cry.
Protection for the rich man ye pander to his greed,
His workmen they are cattle and may die.
The freedom of the city in Scotland far away
'Tis presented to the millionaire suave,
But here in Free America with protection in full sway,
His workmen get the freedom of the grave.

(CHORUS)
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The Telegrams

June 10--Telegram to Frick from Carnegie in Scotland
As I understand matters at Homestead, it is not only the wages paid, but the number of men required by Amalgamated rules which makes our labor rates so much higher than those in the East. Of course, you will be asked to confer, and I know you will decline all conferences, as you have taken your stand and have nothing more to say.

It is fortunate that only a part of the Works are [sic] concerned. Provided you have plenty of plates rolled, I suppose you can keep on with armor. Potter will, no doubt, intimate to the men that refusal of scale running only as Non-Union. This may cause acceptance, but I do not think so. The chances are, you will have to prepare for a struggle, in which case the notice [i.e. that the works are henceforth to be non-union] should go up promptly on the morning of the 25th. Of course you will win, and win easier than you suppose, owing the present condition of the markets.

July 7--Telegram to Frick from Carnegie in Scotland
"Cable received. All anxiety gone since you stand firm. Never employ one of these rioters. Let grass grow over works. Must not fail now. You will win easily next trial. Have not spoken, written, or cabled one word to anybody. Shall continue silent. Am with you to the end whether works runs this year, next, or ever. No longer a question of wages or dollars."

July 9--Telegram FROM Frick TO Carnegie in Scotland
Much pleased with your cable, never had a doubt but what you would thoroughly approve of every action taken in this matter when you would once be made acquaintance with all the facts."

July 17—Letter from Carnegie to his Cousin
"Matters at home bad -- such a fiasco trying to send guards by Boat and then leaving space between River & fences for the men to get opposite landing and fire. Still we must keep quiet & do all we can to support Frick & those at Seat of War. I have been besieged by interviewing Cables from N York but have not said a word. Silence is best. We shall win, of course, but may have to shut down for months."
The Telegrams (Continued)

August 23--Telegram FROM Frick to Carnegie
We have been having a rather exciting time for the last forty days, but I feel confident that we will be amply repaid for all out trouble in this world, and in the near future. We shall get closer to our men, and when they once become acquainted with us, they will find that we are probably the best friends they have in the world.”

November 18--Telegram FROM Frick TO Carnegie at end of lockout
"Victory!“

November 21--Telegram from Henry Frick to Andrew Carnegie
"Strike officially declared off yesterday. Our victory is now complete and most gratifying. Do not think we will ever have any serious labor trouble again.... Let the Amalgamated still exist and hold full sway at other people's mills. That is no concern of ours."

Late November--Telegram From Andrew Carnegie to Henry Frick (sent from Italy)
"Life is worth living again -- Cables received -- first happy morning since July -- surprising how pretty Italia -- congratulate all around -- improve works -- go ahead -- clear track -- tariff not in it -- shake."
Why would Carnegie hide these telegrams?
Caption –

“Building A Very Solid Temple of Fame”

March 30, 1901
FORTY-MILLIONAIRE CARNEGIE IN HIS GREAT DOUBLE ROLE.
AS THE TI GHT-FISTED EMPLOYER HE REDUCES WAGES THAT HE MAY PLAY PHILANTHROPIST AND GIVE AWAY LIBRARIES, ETC.
WORCESTER DAILY TELEGRAM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1913.

CARNEGIE WILL LAY THE CORNERSTONES TODAY

SOUTH WORCESTER BRANCH LIBRARY

TO DIE RICH IS TO DIE DISGRACED

CARNegie

GREENDALE BRANCH LIBRARY

THE PLEASURE IS ALL OURS, AMY!

QUINCYAMOND BRANCH LIBRARY

TO SIDE STEP DISGRACE — DON'T DIE

THE CORNER STONES

1913 1913 1913

THE PLEASURE IS ALL OURS, AMY!
• The two most important pieces of evidence was...because...

• The two pieces of evidence that contradicted the most were...because...

• The two pieces of evidence that most complimented one another were...because...

• The two pieces of evidence that presented the most difficulty were...because...