

**National Geographic
American Stories
Grades 6-8**

National Geographic Learning's *American Stories* middle school U.S. History program provides in-depth coverage of all content specified in the California Standards and Framework, and explores such topics as gender roles, mental healthcare and social reform, traditional and non-traditional family structures, human relationships, and cultural, racial, and social movements. The program contains diverse, accurate, and equitable coverage of all Americans, including minorities and LGBTQ individuals. It emphasizes the positive and varied contributions of minority groups, men, and women in the history of both California and the United States. A major theme in *American Stories* is personal identity and how it evolves and has changed throughout history. Students are encouraged to examine their identities and roles in their school and community and explore how identity plays a role in historical issues and debates.

Evidence of LGBTQ Coverage, Gender Roles/Identity

- SE/TE p. 104: discussion of participation in town hall meetings regardless of gender, race, wealth, gender identity, or sexual orientation
- SE/TE p. 328: discussion of men and women working in separate spheres, and the close bonds between women that resulted
- SE/TE p. 340: discussion of alternative family structures that resulted due to slavery
- SE/TE p. 417: discussion of the mixed effect of frontier life on the relationships between men and women
- TE p. 418, biographical information about Charley Parkhurst
- SE/TE p. 421: biography of Charley Parkhurst, primary source describing Charley Parkhurst's life, critical thinking questions about Parkhurst and gender roles
- SE pp. 444-445, primary source: Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself" accompanied by biographical information about Whitman, his involvement in the transcendentalism movement, and his support for same-sex relationships and celebration of the people who were part of the growing diversity of the United States.
- SE p. 589, discussion of author Willa Cather's *My Antonia* and how prairie life impacted women
- SE p. 634-635, discussion of Jane Addams and her work pertaining to Hull House
- SE p. 694, Chapter 20 Chapter Review, question on relationship between Progressive movement and people of all sexual orientations
- SE p. R50, primary source: *Walt Whitman's America: A Cultural Biography* by David S. Reynolds (1996), includes information about Whitman's sexual orientation, non-traditional relationships, and American Society. Includes 3 student questions.
- SE p. R57, primary source: *The Young Miner* by Horatio Alger (1879), includes information about Alger's sexual orientation and how it impacted his involvement in society. Three student questions are also provided.
- SE p. R59, primary source: "Outing Jane Addams," by Nara Schoenberg (2007), includes a discussion of Addams' close relationship with Mary Smith and the concept of female companionship. Includes 3 student questions.
- SE p. R59, primary source: *Glimpses of Fifty Years: The Autobiography of an American Woman* by Frances Willard (1889), includes information about the complexities of relationships between women and men and how Willard herself sought relationships with women throughout her lifetime. Three student questions are also provided.