

14. USING RESOURCES TO BUILD BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

Below are some websites and textbooks that will help you learn more about American History, European History and Western Civilization.

AMERICAN HISTORY

Websites

Digital History: www.digitalhistory.uh.edu

- Use the online textbook to learn about different periods in American History.
- To find specific information, scroll down the page, and look at the bottom of the left menu bar to find the links to the parts of the “History Reference Room.”
 - Click on “Glossaries” for short information about people, events and ideas.
 - Click on “Chronologies” for important dates in American history.

Textbooks (Available at the Center for English Language Learners, QCC)

A People and a Nation: A History of the United States (Brief 7th ed.), by M.B. Norton, *et al.* (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2007).

The American People: Creating a Nation and a Society (Brief 7th ed.), by G.B. Nash, *et al.* (New York: Pearson Longman, 2007).

- Choose the chapters that relate to what you are studying.
- Find specific information about a person, event, or idea by using the index at the back.
- Find time-lines of events at the beginning of each chapter in *A People and a Nation*.

EUROPEAN HISTORY AND WESTERN CIVILIZATION

Websites

Dictionary of Cultural History

- Go to: <http://bartelby.com/59/>
- Scroll down the page to find a list of topics.
- Topics about European History and Western Civilization include:
 - The Bible
 - World History to 1550
 - World History since 1550

Oxford Reference

- Go to: <http://libraries.cuny.edu/resource.htm>
- Click on: “Oxford Reference Online” in the “General/Reference” box.
- Enter the person, event, or time period that you want to learn more about.
- You may get results from several books. Click on a link from a history book (e.g., *A Dictionary of World History*).