Special “Lesson” plan for the Teaching American History Course FSC April 2005  
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Since taking the TAH course this year, I have been encouraged to share Hands Across Time with fellow teachers as a method to try with their students; it’s also a great way to help adults remember the sequence of American History. I hope to take all the TAH courses and hope to compare and contrast new content in them with what I’ve been teaching in HAT.

*Hands Across Time*....

is a unique way to learn the timeline of American History through hand motions, slogans, note taking, reading and stories and videos. *Hands Across Time* can be taught one of two ways; as an addition to any traditional, chronological US history course, or as a once a week class as we have done at my school over the years.

If used as a once a week class, we have used Larry Gonick’s *Cartoon History of the United States*, as a text, though this technique fits almost any US History textbook.

Each week, students learn a set of hand motions that relate to a “chapter” in US history. They also take two pages of keynotes on the same chapter. These notes contain names, terms and a few dates.

There are two quizzes titled Who’s Who in American History. Each can be taken without notes, then a week later with notes.

At the end of the years students perform the hand motions as an “oral” final exam. Seventh and eighth grade students and myself designed the hand motions.

Below is a sample of the update for students to use for review and drill.

1. TFA  18. &F  35. T
2. WAH  19. Cg  36. ES
4. ASO  21. TR  38. TIR
5. SbF  22. DI  39. I taToT
6. SbF  23. tUSA.  40. TwRM
7. SbC&OC.  24. OoCW  41. EoS
8. TELO  25. casyfC
9. FttE  26. aFFF
10. TttW  27. WaPoNt
11. TwWtgE  28. aPPP
12. TfaNW.  29. TCE
13. TE  30. NG
14. TC  31. I ttMD
15. TC  32. I &I LtaEo
16. TC  33. A
17. ER  34. M

Below is a sample of one of the Who’s Who in American History Quizzez
1. Andrew Johnson____ | A. Her “Hull House” worked to help urban dwellers
3. Langston Hughes____ | C. His 14 points hoped for a just peace after WW 1
4. Frances Perkins____ | D. Laws designed to segregate and discriminate
5. Hiram Revels____ | E. Muckraking photographer of tenements
7. Jim Crow____ | G. First Woman in a President’s cabinet
8. FDR____ | H. First Black US Senator, took Jeff Davis’ seat
9. Sacco & Vanzetti____ | I. Victorious at the Little Bighorn
10. Calvin Coolidge____ | J. Only president elected to four terms
11. Jane Addams____ | K. His assassination ended “Camelot”
12. Crazy Horse/Sitting Bull____ | L. One of many who fought for Women’s suffrage
13. Alfred T. Mahan____ | M. Reformer and Founder of the NAACP
14. Wm. Jennings Bryan____ | N. Only President to resign from office
15. Carrie Catt____ | O. Anarchists and immigrants executed for murder
17. The Ghost Dancers____

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