

History's Mysteries: A New K-5 Civics Curriculum Using Primary Sources

Laurie Risler, Instructor, Westfield State University and Co-Writer

Initial Eastern Region Grants: Westfield State University for *History's Mysteries*

Current: iCivics for *Private i History Detectives*

Helping educators place inquiry at the center of elementary social studies teaching & learning

Strategies and Methods

- **Preparation activities:** Surveyed educators and past users of *History's Mysteries* using the new *Private i* materials to gather feedback. Collecting ongoing feedback via PD and piloting work through a grant from the US Department of Defense.
- **Recruitment & retention strategies:** Actively working to recruit more elementary educators via marketing channels, professional development, and iCivics' educator network
- **Implementation activities:** Continuing to build out the curriculum and roll it out to teachers nationwide.
- **Dissemination and communication methods:** Marketing emails to iCivics' list of over 166,000 of educators, paid & organic social media efforts, professional development online and in person, and major conference attendance.
- **Plans for sustainability:** Seeking additional federal & private funding to continue expanding the curriculum.

Target Audiences & Focus Topic

- **Participant-educator audiences:** All fifty states
- **Curricular topic & grade levels:** Civics and Social Studies, K- 5
- **Key partners & collaborators:** iCivics, Emerging America at the Collaborative for Educational Services, Westfield State University
- **Progress to date**
 - 21 Units, 69 Mysteries
 - 28,038 downloads
 - 46,507 Pageviews

