

# Labor History Curriculums Designed for **WISCONSIN**



1. Malone, Bobbie. Celebrating Everyday Life in Wisconsin History: A Classroom Exhibit Resource and Planning Guide. Madison, Wis.: Office of School Services, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1997. 52 p. ISBN 0-87020-300-2. A wonderfully accessible guide, prepared in anticipation of the celebration of the sesquicentennial of the statehood of Wisconsin, designed to assist fourth-grade teachers in creating classroom exhibits about state history through the use of local history resources readily available in each teacher's area. The first third of the book takes the teacher, step-by-step, through the manageable process of creating a good exhibit, while the rest of the book uses five major exhibit themes to help structure the history gathering activities of the students. The exhibit themes, based on major aspects of daily living, are: 1) "Seasons--Wisconsin's seasonal environment and people's adaptations to it"; 2) "Changes in Work--technology, jobs, and work environments"; 3) "Changes in Foodways--the food that people ate, its growth, preservation, and preparation, recipes, family traditions"; 4) "Childhood--including, but not limited to, clothing, toys, recreation, and education"; 5) "The Built Environment--buildings and monuments, roads, neighborhoods, main streets, and town planning". The five exhibit themes are each broken down into three separate exhibit topics from which a class may select. To guide the students' exploration of their exhibit topic, each of the fifteen exhibit topics is also provided with its own chapter which includes a statement of the thesis of such an exhibit, exploratory questions for the teachers and students to work on together, a list of related historical items the student can find and where to look for those items, and possible interview questions for related oral history. *(To obtain a copy of this guide, contact the Office of School Services (telephone, 608/264-6547) at the State Historical Society of WI in Madison.)*

2. State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Office of School Services. The Changing Workforce: Teaching Labor History with City and County Directories. Madison, Wis.: Office of School Services, State Historical Society of WI, 1996. 1 kit (1 folder with 11 photographs on card stock + teachers' guide (20 p.)). (Teaching History with Community Resources). ISBN 0-87020-288-X. A great curriculum guide demonstrating the interesting technique of using city and county directories to teach high school students about data gathering techniques used by historians. Through the activities demonstrated, students learn how to analyze the information found in their area's directories and how to chart changes (in occupations, neighborhoods, etc.) brought about during the period of rapid industrialization in the United States from the mid-1890s through the mid-1920s. Although the teacher's guide and sample handouts use the city of Oconomowoc, Wisconsin in the representative lesson provided, the eleven individual 8-1/2 x 11" photographs that come in the kit show a variety of men's and women's occupations found throughout Wisconsin during that time period and the teacher's guide offers lots of ideas on customizing the curriculum to meet teaching needs. *(To obtain a copy of the kit, contact the Office of School Services (telephone, 608/264-6547) at the State Historical Society of WI in Madison.)*

3. Wisconsin. Department of Public Instruction. Lessons in Labor History. Benson, John T., State Superintendent; Fortier, John D., Assistant State Superintendent, Division for Learning Support--Instructional Services; Grady, Susan M., Director, Content and Learning Team; Salvesson, Connie J., Consultant, Content and Learning Team; prepared in collaboration with the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO; the Wisconsin Federation of Teachers, AFT, AFL-CIO; the Wisconsin Education Association Council, NEA; and the Wisconsin Labor History Society. Madison, Wis.: WI Department of Public Instruction, 2001. 95 p. ISBN 1-57337-041-X. Finally, there's a Wisconsin curriculum guide designed for labor history! "Pursuing the following study suggestions will be extremely helpful in gaining a better understanding of what unions are, how they developed in this country, what they have done in the past, and what they do today. The study suggestions provide a series of topics around which student and teacher investigation, research, and discussion can be instituted. The study suggestions relate to a number of Wisconsin Model Academic Standards in various academic areas, ranging from social studies to English to the arts."--Section 1, "Introduction" (p. 1). *(To obtain a copy of this curriculum, contact the WI Department of Public Instruction (telephone, 608/266-2364) in Madison or the WI State AFL-CIO (telephone 414/771-0700) in Milwaukee.)*