

# Resources for Teachers:

## Nonfiction DVDs to Use in the Classroom

### Famous Historical Figures

#### ***Edison - DVD 621.3 Edi***

Documentary about Thomas Edison that explores the complex alchemy that accounts for the enduring celebrity of America's most famous inventor. It offers new perspectives on the man and his milieu, and illuminates not only the true nature of invention, but its role in turn-of-the-century America's rush into the future. Rating: TV-PG

#### ***In Search of Shakespeare - DVD 822.3 In***

An intimate look at William Shakespeare and his world. Rating: Not Rated

#### ***Johann Sebastian Bach - DVD 921 Bach, J.***

One of the greatest composers in Western musical history, Bach created masterpieces of choral and instrumental music. More than 1,000 of his works survive from every musical form and genre in use in 18th century Germany. During his lifetime, he was appreciated more as an organist than a composer. It was not until nearly a century after his death that a musical public came to appreciate his body of work. Rating: Not Rated

#### ***Ludwig Van Beethoven - DVD 921 Beethoven, L.***

One of the greatest masters of music, Beethoven is particularly admired for his orchestral works. The highly expressive music Beethoven produced, inspired composers like Brahms, Mendelssohn, and Wagner. Rating: Not Rated

#### ***George Fredric Handel 1685-1759 - DVD 921 Handel, G.***

Presents a factual outline of Handel's life and an overview of his work. Handel's greatest gift to posterity was undoubtedly the creation of the dramatic oratorio genre, partly out of existing operatic traditions and partly by force of his own musical imagination. Rating: Not Rated

#### ***The Life of Leonardo DaVinci - DVD 921 Leonardo da Vinci***

Shows many of Da Vinci's triumphs, including the creation of The last supper and the Mona Lisa, and some of his bitter defeats including the crash-landing of his flying machine, as well as the bitterness of his rivalry with Michelangelo. DVD extras include a look at the rise of Renaissance Italy, Leonardo's masterpiece paintings and inventions, a look at the works and contrasting styles of Da Vinci and Michelangelo, including a timeline. Rating: Not Rated

#### ***Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart - DVD 921 Mozart, W.***

Uncover Mozart's character and explore the obstacles he overcame in trying to establish himself as an independent artist. Rating: Not Rated

### ***Giacomo Puccini 1858-1924 - DVD 921 Puccini, G.***

The composer of some of the world's best loved operas, Puccini's gifts were primarily theatrical. He had a great feeling for the stage and the sound of instrumental colors, combined with a well-developed melodic sense. He won fame and fortune for Manon Lescaut, La Boheme, Tosca and Madame Butterfly. Rating: Not Rated

### ***Rebel: Loreta Velazquez, Secret Soldier of the American Civil War - DVD 973.7 Reb***

In 1861, at the outbreak of the American Civil War, a teenager from New Orleans headed to the front lines. Under the alias Harry T. Buford, he fought at First Bull Run, was wounded at Shiloh, and served as a Confederate spy. By 1863, Buford was working for the Union. But Buford harbored a secret? He was really Loreta Velazquez, a Cuban immigrant from New Orleans. Rating: Not Rated

### ***Richard Strauss - DVD 921 Strauss, R.***

Before 1900 and his marriage to soprano Pauline de Ahna, he held two conducting posts. His wife encouraged his composing and he wrote tone poems Till Eulenspiegel, Thus Spake Zarathustra, Don Quixote and Ein Heldenleben. After 1900, Strauss concentrated on operas including the cynical Feuersnot, the more advanced Salome and the powerful Elektra. Intending to devote the rest of his life to composition, Strauss was thwarted by the loss of his fortune invested in London, at the age of 50. Rating: Not Rated

## **Science**

### ***Secrets of the Sun - DVD 523.72 Sec***

Now, with the help of new spacecraft and Earth-based telescopes, scientists are seeing the Sun as they never have before and even re-creating what happens at the very center of the Sun. Their work will help us understand aspects of the sun that have puzzled scientists for decades. Secrets of the Sun reveals a bright new dawn in our understanding of our nearest star, one that might help keep our planet from going dark. Rating: Not Rated

### ***Earth From Space - DVD 525 Ear***

Earth From Space is a groundbreaking two-hour special that reveals a spectacular new space-based vision of our planet. Produced in extensive consultation with NASA scientists, this special takes data from earth-observing satellites and transforms them into dazzling visual sequences, each one exposing the intricate and surprising web of forces that sustain life on earth. Rating: TV-G

### ***Alien Deep - DVD 551.4607 Ali***

A five-part series on deep sea exploration from the people at National Geographic. Using cutting-edge tools and technologies, Dr. Bob Ballard, discoverer of the Titanic, travels to the most remote parts of the world's oceans, revealing new species, natural wonders and archeological finds. Rating: TV-PG

### ***Superstorm 2012 - DVD 551.55 S***

National Geographic goes inside the eye of the superstorm, Hurricane Sandy, to explore why it happened and how it could happen again. Weaving together user-generated stories from those who rode out the catastrophic storm, first responders, weather experts and storm chasers, Superstorm 2012 explores the mammoth and merciless wake that caused fatalities and paralyzed life for millions of people. Rating: TV-PG

### ***The Human Family Tree - DVD 569.9 Hum***

Join geneticist Spencer Wells and a team from National Geographic's Genographic Project as they trace the human journey through time, from our origins in the heart of Africa to the ends of the world. Cutting edge science, coupled with a cast of New Yorkers -- each with their own unique genetic history -- helps paint a picture of these amazing journeys. The human family tree answers some of humanity's most burning questions -- who we are and where we come from -- and forces us to change how we think not only about our relationships with our neighbors, but ourselves. Rating: Not rated

### ***Sharks - DVD 597.3 Sha***

National Geographic explores the power, beauty, and behavior of one of the world's most notorious predators, the shark, in five classic specials. Featured are footage of great white shark behavior, migratory patterns of hammerhead sharks, and shark havens. Rating: TV-PG

### ***World's Worst Natural Disasters - DVD 904.5 Wor***

Catastrophic tornadoes, historic floods, destructive fires, violent earthquakes: through eyewitness video, historical archives, and cutting edge CGI, National Geographic provides a comprehensive, yet intimate look at the most significant natural disasters of all time. A team of world experts reveal the pivotal moments that turned the top ten from natural phenomenon into human catastrophe and explain why these disasters became genuine game-changers. Rating: TV-14

## **History**

### ***Forgotten Ellis Island: The Extraordinary Story of America's Immigrant Hospital - DVD 304.873 For***

In the era before antibiotics, tens of thousands of immigrant patients were separated from family, detained in the hospital on Ellis Island, and healed from illness before becoming citizens. 350 babies were born, and ten times that many immigrants died on Ellis Island and were buried in pauper's graves around New York City. Rating: Not Rated

### ***To Form a More Perfect Union - DVD 323.1 To***

"A powerful and compelling journey documenting the ten milestones of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950's and 1960's emphasizing rare and unseen archival video footage of the actual events. Strong emphasis on the non-violent aspects of the Civil Rights Movement and the pivotal role played by the Supreme Court"--U.S. Allegiance, Inc. website. Rating: Not Rated

## ***The March: The Story of the Greatest March in American History - DVD 323.1196 Mar***

Witness the compelling and dramatic story of the 1963 March on Washington, where Dr. Martin Luther King gave his stirring "I Have a Dream" speech. This watershed event in the Civil Rights Movement helped change the face of America. Recounts the events when 250,000 people came together to form the largest demonstration the young American democracy had ever seen. Rating: Not Rated

## ***Iceman Murder Mystery - DVD 599.9 Ice***

He's been dead for more than 5,000 years, and poked, prodded, and probed by scientists for the last 20. Yet Otzi the Iceman, the famous mummified corpse pulled from a glacier in the Italian Alps, continues to keep many secrets. Now, through an autopsy like none other, scientists will attempt to unravel mysteries about the ancient mummy, revealing not only the details of Otzi's death, but also an entire way of life. Rating: Not Rated

## ***Egypt's Golden Empire - DVD 932.01 Egy***

Examines the rise and fall of Egypt's New Kingdom, 1560 B.C. to 1080 B.C. Rating: Not Rated

## ***Secrets in the Tower of London - DVD 942.15 Sec***

Standing guard over the city of London for nearly 1,000 years, the formidable Tower of London has been a royal castle, a prison, a place of execution and torture, an armory and the Royal Mint. This program unlocks the doors to secret rooms, talks to the people who do the jobs no one sees and reveals some surprising facts about one of England's most famous icons. Rating: TV-PG

## ***Chronicle of the Third Reich - DVD 943.086 Chr***

Embark on a unique journey through the bleakest chapter of German history as Michael Kloft traces the story of the Third Reich. Learn about the politics, war years, and crimes of the Nazis from unpublished footage and three famous historians: Sir Ian Kershaw, Brigitte Hamann, and Goetz Aly. Rating: Not Rated

## ***Brothers in War - DVD 959.7 Bro***

'No black, no white, just soldiers,' declared Jack Benedick, a young, white lieutenant of the 9th Infantry's Charlie Company. In 1967, no other person would have ever uttered these liberating words, but Charlie Company was different, functioning largely free of radical prejudice. Boys of '67 recounts the spellbinding chronicle of one of the last combat infantry companies to be shipped off to the Vietnam War, their sacrifices, their bond, and their intertwining lives 47 years later. Rating: TV-14

## ***Conquistadors - DVD 972 Con***

One of history's most fateful chapters and greatest adventures. The exploration of the Americas by Spanish soldier-explorers, and the experiences and tragedies they had once there. Rating: Not Rated

### ***The War of 1812 - DVD 973.5 War***

A two-hour documentary looking at this important historic event from several perspectives, the American, Canadian, British and Native American. Contains some limited reenactments and major historians, authors, and experts. Rating: Not Rated

### ***Underground Railroad: The William Still Story - DVD 973.7 Und***

Tells the compelling story of William Still, one of the most unheralded individuals of the Underground Railroad, and details the accounts of black abolitionists who had everything at stake as they helped fugitives follow the North Star to Canada. Rating: TV-PG

## **Geography**

### ***Grand Canyon - DVD 917.9132 Gra***

A rare scientific odyssey down the Grand Canyon through some of the most treacherous rapids on the planet. From the river cutting through two-billion-year-old stone to the creatures roaming its back-country, the Grand Canyon still has secrets to tell. Rating: Not Rated

### ***Lewis and Clark Great Journey West - DVD 978 Lew***

Relive an amazing tale of discovery and exploration as National Geographic brings to life the first crossing. Two hundred years after Lewis & Clark epic journey, go back in time and discover the adventure, danger, and beauty of the unmapped West. Rating: Not Rated

### ***The National Parks: America's Best Idea - DVD 973 Nat***

Traces the birth of the national park idea in the mid-1800s and follows its evolution for nearly 150 years. Using archival photographs, first-person accounts of historical characters, personal memories and analysis from more than 40 interviews, the series chronicles the steady addition of new parks through the stories of the people who helped create them and save them from destruction. Rating: Not Rated

## **Current Events**

### ***The End of the Line - DVD 333.95 End***

[This film] charts the devastating ecological impact of overfishing by interweaving both local and global stories of sharply declining fish populations, including the imminent extinction of the Bluefin tuna, and illuminates how our modern fishing capacities far outstrip the survival abilities of any ocean species. Scientists explain how this depletion has slipped under the public radar and outline the catastrophic future that awaits us -- an ocean without fish by 2048 -- if we do not adjust our fishing and consumption practices. Rating: Not Rated

### ***Strange Days on Planet Earth - DVD 551.6 Str Vol. 1 & 2***

Around the globe, scientists are racing to solve a series of mysteries. They suspect we have entered a time of global change swifter than any human being has ever witnessed. Where are we headed? Can we alter this course of events? Rating: Not Rated

## ***Making Stuff 2 - DVD 600 Mak***

Go with David Pogue on a fantastic journey through the revolutionary technologies that are making lives better by working faster, safer, colder, and wilder. From quantum computers to maglev trains, and from increasing the speed of a stock transaction to decreasing the risk posed by an earthquake, emerging technologies are changing the world. Rating: Not Rated

**\*\*\*While all DVDs included in this list contain relevant educational material, classroom teachers and homeschool parents are encouraged to review DVDs to ensure that they coincide with curriculum needs and are appropriate for students' grade levels.\*\*\***