It's a tricky time for educators who are committed to justice, and one that we will likely try to make sense of for years to come. As we do this work of reflection and growth, it is our responsibility as educators to better understand how media can manipulate facts, truths, and histories. We need to provide the learners in our care with the tools they will need to discern fact from fiction, propaganda from informational texts, and perhaps most importantly - history from harmful mythologies. As you take lessons from this moment, it is crucial to cultivate these critical media literacy skills within your professional practice as you continue deepening your relationships to representation, power, and history.

To better understand the relationships between history, media, and power, we do not have to look far. Still, we have to be aware of the ways stories shape realities and ask critical questions about who is authoring the stories about whom.

As teachers, we must remain close to counter-narratives and stories of the past by listening to the experiences of those who were (and are) actively engaged in struggles for justice. We must remember that history is dynamic, not monolithic. What can we learn, and how can we learn differently from stories of struggle, power, victory, and progress that are not commonly a part of the curricular “canon?” How can we remain critically curious about how power intersects with media-making and carry more intention into our curriculum-design and into our classrooms?

From art, to plays, to music, Iowa is known for its rich, artistic heritage. Catch the performance bug with the help of Iowa PBS and the Ballet Des Moines’s Acts of Resilience series, or catch up on the life and times of some of Iowa's artists by exploring the Arts & Culture theme in Iowa Pathways. Learn more about visual and performing arts in Iowa.
Multimedia

STEAM Show

The Vegas PBS STEAM Camp is a weekly broadcast series for children ages 6-8, designed to bring the fun and discovery associated with camp directly into viewers’ homes. A phenomenon-based question drives each episode’s exploration and the program utilizes community experts, interactive at-home STEAM challenges, and literacy extensions to support inquiry-based learning and conceptual understanding.

To promote interactivity, children are encouraged to share photos and videos of their investigations for possible incorporation into the STEAM Camp website. By aligning STEAM concepts with their real-world applications, the program supports authentic learning while strengthening children’s connection to the community. There are many episodes available for learning.

Explore Iowa's Outdoors this Spring with PBS KIDS

Spring has arrived and Iowa PBS is here to help you get the most out of your outdoor adventures. We bring you local and PBS KIDS resources to keep minds and bodies active as our weather warms up. Find parks to explore, build a fort, stargazing, try geocaching, look for spring insects or find ways nature helps us appreciate art. We have curated a list of activities and adventures that will allow you to get fresh air while you learn.

Reef Rescue

Coral reefs are not just beautiful, they are also home to over a quarter of all marine life and are crucial to human societies around the globe. But as the climate changes and oceanic heat waves become commonplace, corals are bleaching and reefs are dying off. Now, marine biologists from across the world are teaming up to counteract this catastrophe with a technique called assisted evolution. Follow scientists as they attempt to crossbreed heat-resistant corals, and even transplant corals’ algae, in a race to save the coral reefs from extinction.

American Oz

Explore the life and times of author L. Frank Baum, the creator of one of the most beloved, enduring and classic American narratives. By 1900, when The Wonderful Wizard of Oz was published, Baum was 44 years old and had spent much of his life in a restless pursuit of success. He dove into a string of jobs — chicken breeder, actor, marketer of petroleum products, shopkeeper, newspaperman and traveling salesman — Baum continued to reinvent himself, reflecting a uniquely American brand of confidence, imagination and innovation.
PBS LearningMedia is your destination for direct access to thousands of classroom-ready, curriculum-targeted digital resources. It builds on the strength of public media and is designed to improve teacher effectiveness and student achievement.

**All Grades**

**Do you want to use PBS LearningMedia in your classroom?**

If you are interested in learning about PBS LearningMedia for your classroom, contact us! We travel to schools across the state to showcase more than 100,000 resources that are waiting for you online! We can customize a session to meet your needs and even help your students create accounts. Iowa PBS Education is finding great success in providing teacher trainings first, allowing teachers to become familiar with our resources, then returning to train your students and help them to create accounts. We can also return to assist in a parent or community night to show families how to use our resources to further learning at home. To learn more, contact Angela Hiatt at angela.hiatt@iowapbs.org.

**Grades PreK-5**

**Iowa PBS Performances**

Iowa PBS Performances visits stages and venues across Iowa, showcasing diverse performing arts events—from musical concerts to theater productions—and gives viewers a dynamic and entertaining look behind the curtain. Conversations with performers, peeks behind the scenes, extraordinary videography, and enriching educational sidebars are all part of this comprehensive coverage of arts and performances in Iowa.

**Grades PreK-13+**

**Camp PBS LearningMedia**

Whether you’re looking for music and dance activities, science experiments, family-friendly adventures, or learning about dinosaurs, you will find media and activity resources in the Camp PBS LearningMedia collection. We’ve gathered fun, exploratory resources for you to use as you plan summer fun. This collection of resources leverages fun, educational activities to include in your daily schedule, as well as resources to help seed ideas for introducing topics to your campers. Happy exploring!

**Grades PreK-13+**

**Summer Learning**

Avoid the "summer slide" and keep the spirit of curiosity alive with these informal, anytime learning resources. This collection of videos and activities encourages students in grades PreK-12 to spend the summer asking questions, spinning stories, and exploring all the ways that learning can be fun.

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**COMING TOGETHER**

Talking to Children About Race and Identity

**Coming Together** is Sesame Workshop’s commitment to racial justice. We believe in a world where all children can reach their full potential and humanity—and do so in celebration of their races, ethnicity and cultures. Together with experts, we’ve designed developmentally appropriate resources to help you guide your child to be smarter, stronger, and kinder—and an upstander to racism. Children are not born colorblind. We know that babies notice physical differences, from skin color to eye shape and hair texture. This unique set of resources provides you with language and parenting strategies to talk with your child about race and racism.
Early Childhood

iQ smartparent

*iQ smartparent* is an Emmy Award-winning program about parenting in the digital age. WQED-TV created a television series and social network for parents to empower them with new knowledge, tools and abilities to successfully guide their children in the use of digital media and technology. *iQ smartparents* are a community of parents, caregivers, educators and experts who want to understand the opportunities and challenges of media as it relates to child development. After seven seasons, this show has addressed everything from helicopter parenting to teen suicide to learning more about autism.

Elementary

Celebrating Spring

Spring is in the air! After a long and cold winter, it’s thrilling to feel the warmer sun on your face and the longer days. Celebrate the changing seasons with your child with these hands-on learning activities, crafts, and investigations. Cultivate their creativity and curiosity by encouraging them to ask questions about transitioning weather and the world around them. Plant a garden or watch for wildlife. Freshen up your book stack with these spring-inspired reads. Enjoy the vibrant colors of spring with some *Pinkalicious* lemonade or create a *Curious George*-inspired bird feeder to celebrate the new feathered friends in your neighborhood.

Secondary

The Black Church: This is Our Story, This is Our Song

Introducing a series from Henry Louis Gates, Jr., tracing the 400-year-old story of the Black church in America. The series examines the church as a living institution, and the changing nature of worship spaces. The churches Gates visits are both a world within a world, where Black Americans could be themselves, and the epicenter of the freedom struggle. Teachers are invited to utilize lesson plans, which are drawn from the series, to explore the ways that the Black church has shaped our nation's history.

Resources in Literacy, STEM and More

Customized support from Iowa PBS

Iowa PBS can help your educators use multimedia resources to support the various teaching styles taking place during this pandemic. Iowa PBS is prepared to provide teachers in all areas resources which can be printed or consumed digitally. All of Iowa PBS’s assets and trainings come at no cost.

Find ongoing information on iowapbs.org/education or email Angela Hiatt to request Iowa PBS Education to be a part of your event.