

What knowledge do world history teachers need to teach at the secondary level? The case for epistemic & pedagogic parachutes

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AACTE Conference
#AACTE16

Conclusion: Beginning world history teachers need to be truffle hunters and parachutists

Truffle-hunters & Parachutists

“All historians are either parachutists or truffle-hunters.

The former hangs far above the landscape of the past, looking for general patterns; the latter sink their snouts in the tiniest details preserved in archival documents.

Each has a vital perspective and can often correct the other.”

LaDurie



In our focus on depth studies
and on DBQ we've ignored the
big picture work needed for
historical coherence.

teaching document based questions

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Using Document Based Questions with Struggling Readers ...

[teachinghistory.org](#) › ... › [Ask a Master Teacher](#) ▼ Teachinghistory.org ▼

I am a ninth grade **teacher** in a racially diverse lower income school. My problem is that my students are not great readers but I want to do **document-based** ...

[PDF] Writing in the History Classroom - School of Humanities

[www.humanities.uci.edu/.../DBQpresentat...](#) ▼ University of California, Irvine ▼

of-view of each document. Finally, the student should be able to identify additional sources that would help answer the **question**. Strategies for **teaching DBQ** ...

How To Write Document Based Questions Lesson

<https://www.teachingchannel.org/.../document-based-questions-lesson-ne...> ▼

"Watch how you can **teach** a lesson on writing **Document-Based Questions** for the World History AP Exam. Strategies used includes warm and cool feedback. "

The DBQ Project

[www.dbqproject.com/](#) ▼

Engaging inquiry-based units that inspire clear, evidence-based, argument ... The **DBQ** Project is committed to helping **teachers** implement rigorous writing and ...

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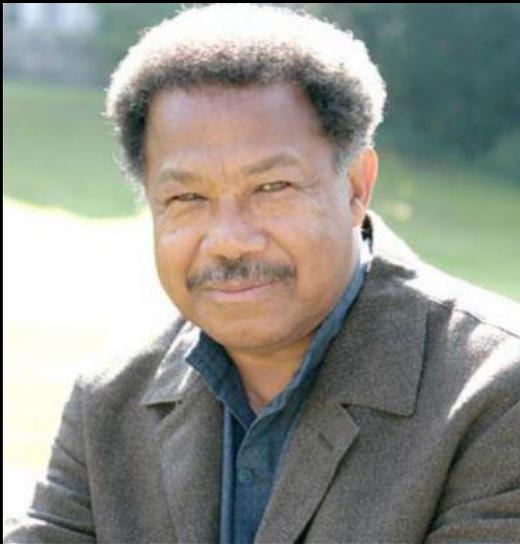
Teaching and Using Document-Based Questions for Middle ...

[www.amazon.com](#) › ... › [Study & Teaching](#) ▼ Amazon.com, Inc. ▼

Amazon.com: **Teaching** and Using **Document-Based Questions** for Middle School (Gifted Treasury Series) (9781563089749): Edward P. O'Connor: Books.

Levels, Scales or Big Picture Problem

“ . . .[is] establishing the continuity between behavioral explanations sited at the individual level of human experience and those at the level of society and social force. The fundamental problem articulated here is one of linkages ”



Tom Holt



Content needs link and connections

SOCIETIES, NETWORKS, AND TRANSITION

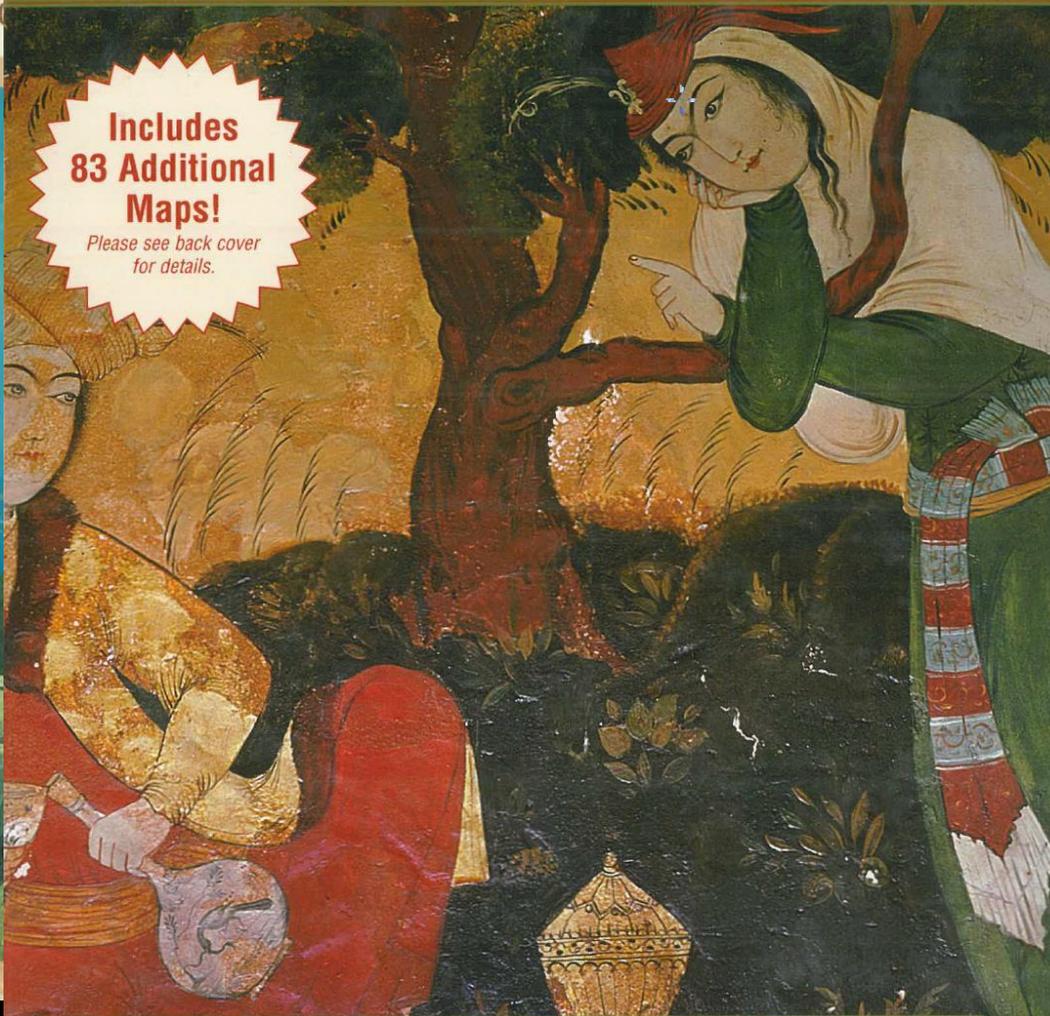
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**Foster, Ashby &
Lee**

- **Studying frameworks**
- **Students work with pictures and cards**
- **Organize and describe**
- **Findings:**
 - **Event-like reasoning**
 - **Process-like**

Event-like reasoning

Medieval times, Battle of Hastings 1066, William of Normandy, Shakespeare, King Weard, Henry VII and his 8 wives Tudors, Stuarts, Queen Elizabeth, Victoria, Elizabeth 2nd, World War 1 &2, Jack the ripper, Margaret Thatcher, Gulf War, Cold War, Vietcong, Vietnam, nuclear bombs, Hollywood, cinema, cars, planes, the moon, space travel, Tony Blair, George Bush, Iraq war, terrorism, Euro all currency in Europe except [U.K.].

Foster *et al.* 2008: 26

Causation

“Most historians will go to some lengths to avoid ‘monocausal explanation’. Almost all historians are used to the idea that historical events . . . have several sufficient as well as necessary causes, any one of which might have been enough to trigger the event on its own. Generally, however, they see it as their duty to establish a hierarchy of causes and to explain if relevant the relationship of one cause to another.”

Richard Evans, *In Defense of History*

Carretaro, et. al.

- **Card sorts -- causation**
- **Five causes**
 - **Political**
 - **Remote**
 - **Ideological**
 - **International**
 - **Personal**
- **Different events**
- **5th graders - MAs**
psych & history

Discovery of America

Personalistic: Personal motives of Columbus and Spanish King & Queen

Political: Formation of powerful Spanish nation-state

Economic: Search for new commercial route

Remote: Growth of scientific knowledge, new means of navigation (compass, astrolabe)

Ideological: Legends, myths, stories of explorers stirred up curiosity

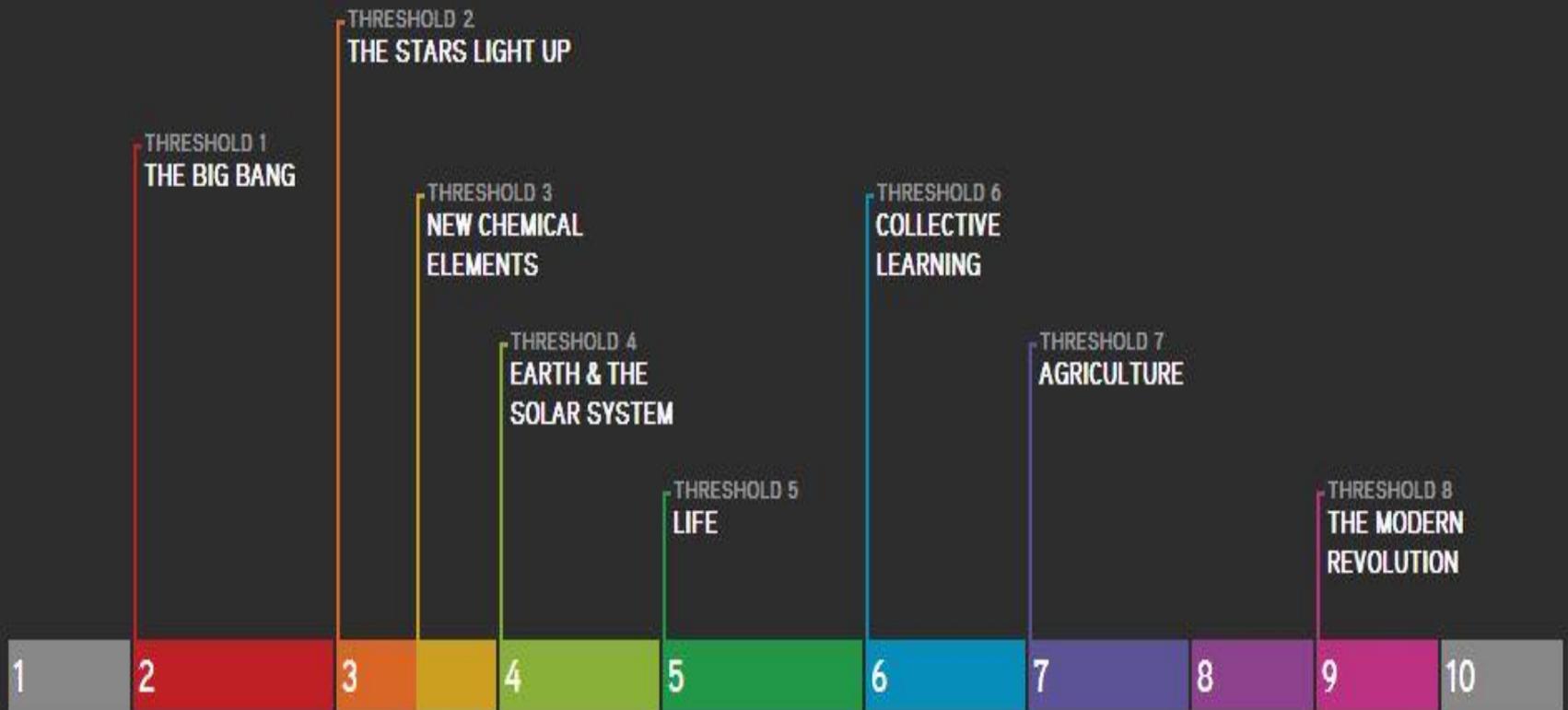
International: Portuguese voyages to Africa

**Carretaro, et. al
Findings.**

- **Personal trumped all**
- **No real change, 5th grade to MA**
- ***Except* History MAs**
 - **Situated Personal**
 - **Contextualized by event**

Missing perspective





BHP-World History Frame

	Age of Foragers	Agrarian Age	Modern Age
Years			
Dominant system of producing goods & services			
Way of distributing goods & services			
Forms of energy			
Modes of Communication			
Groups in which people live			

Modes of Production Frame

YEARS AGO	HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR TIME?	WHAT DO YOU EAT?	HOW LONG DO YOU LIVE?
60,000	FORAGER: you look for roots and berries, small animals, shellfish, snails and grubs. This takes most of your time.	<i>Whatever you can find that you can digest. Often you eat very little.</i>	<i>You may be killed at birth. If not, you are likely to die before 5 years of age and are unlikely to live past 30.</i>
15,000	HUNTER-GATHERER: if female, you still look for roots and grubs. If male, you hunt big game in a group of 50–100 people. You all follow the big animals as they move around. This takes a few hours per day: you have lots of leisure time.	<i>When lucky you eat meat. When times are hard, it's back to roots and snails. When unlucky, you starve or eat other people.</i>	<i>You're a bit more likely to get to 30. If sick or injured you're likely to be left behind to starve or be eaten.</i>
7,000	FARMER: you herd animals and protect them; sow, weed and gather crops; bake bread; make porridge and weak beer. A few of you with specialist knowledge and skills make baskets, pottery and cloth. This takes nearly all your time: you have little leisure.	<i>When lucky you eat meat and drink milk. Every day you eat bread, beans and porridge. You store food to get you through hard times.</i>	<i>More, but not many, of you live to 30 or 40. You may recover from injuries and sickness but are more likely to get sick or be killed in warfare or in house fires.</i>
150	INDUSTRIAL WORKER: you go to work in a factory or a mine (women and men, boys and girls). You make bricks, machines, clothes and other things we still have today. You have a few hours a week for leisure and a few days a year at the seaside. There are still lots of farmers <i>but</i> you're more likely to work in a factory than on the land.	<i>You eat meat, bread, fresh vegetables and fruit. You drink tea and eat a few things brought from other countries. As long as you can work and earn money you can always buy food and beer.</i>	<i>Most of you will live into your forties but disease is a big killer, especially of children under 5. If you get old or infirm and have no family willing or able to look after you, you're unlikely to live long.</i>
NOW	SERVICE WORKER: you go to work in a shop, office or restaurant. You teach, nurse, wait on tables, write, solve difficult sums or use computers. A few of you even get paid for telling jokes or playing sport. There are still lots of farmers who grow food and industrial workers who make everything from electricity to paper cups, but you're more likely to work in an office than on the land or in a factory. You have so much leisure you're often bored.	<i>You eat junk food and fun food which you buy from a take-away or heat up from frozen. You also eat (and drink) far too much. You rarely feel hungry and are more likely to be overweight than starving.</i>	<i>Most of you can expect to live past 70 or 80 . . . unless something goes wrong! We get almost all our food from overseas AND world population is growing fast. SO WHAT COULD GO WRONG? Will there be enough roots and grubs if we need them?</i>

Columbus and Flat Earth

Year	How was Columbus viewed in colonies or USA? Evidence?	What changed?	What's happening in US?	What's Happening in the world?
1492				
1592				
1692				
1792				
1892				
1992				

Beginning world history teachers must explicitly and intentionally shift their scales/levels of analysis and create cognitive tools to help students.

My conclusion. . .

TE challenges

- Make scale and levels thinking visible
- Explicitly and intentionally “scale” shift – make parachutists and truffle-hunters teachers personas
- Identify *signature* and *effective* pedagogical tools and practices
- Make these public, with evidence of their impact.

Privileging the macro level . . . yields atrophied, lifeless, passionless depictions [of human history]

Isolating micro-level phenomena, on the other hand, renders human behavior simply unknowable.

Holt, 1995, p.100

Thanks

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