

Richmond History Timeline Lesson Plan

Covering from the mid-1600s to present day, the web-based Richmond History Timeline (<https://thevalentine.org/explore/richmond-stories/interactive-timeline/>) seeks to give students the opportunity to put Richmond history in a larger historic context. There are over 500 entries on the timeline that cover everything from when Manchester was annexed into the city to the story of Lady Wonder, the psychic horse.

There are many ways the timeline may be used with students, here is one example.

Essential Questions

How did this event make a difference in our community?

- What caused the event to happen? What else was going on at that time (locally or nationally)?
- What were the effects afterward from the event? What impact did the event have on our community?

Objectives

- Students will analyze the cause and effect on the city's development of 4 events from a particular time period in Richmond's history from the [Valentine's Richmond History Timeline](https://thevalentine.org/explore/richmond-stories/interactive-timeline/) (<https://thevalentine.org/explore/richmond-stories/interactive-timeline/>)
- Students will create a yearbook page representing their 4 events that includes a title that thematically connects the four events together, images and captions including how the events impacted our community.

Virginia SOLs

Skills: Grades 4-6 and 9-12

Grade 11/12

- selecting and synthesizing evidence from information sources, including, but not limited to artifacts, primary and secondary sources, charts, graphs, and diagrams, to question and understand information about events in Virginia and United States history;
- determining cause and effect to analyze connections;
- developing products that reflect an understanding of research and content to make real-life connections;

Materials

- Computer and internet connection to access timeline
- Word processing program to create yearbook page or art supplies to create yearbook page
- Pen, paper and/or markers if not using computer
- Printer

Directions

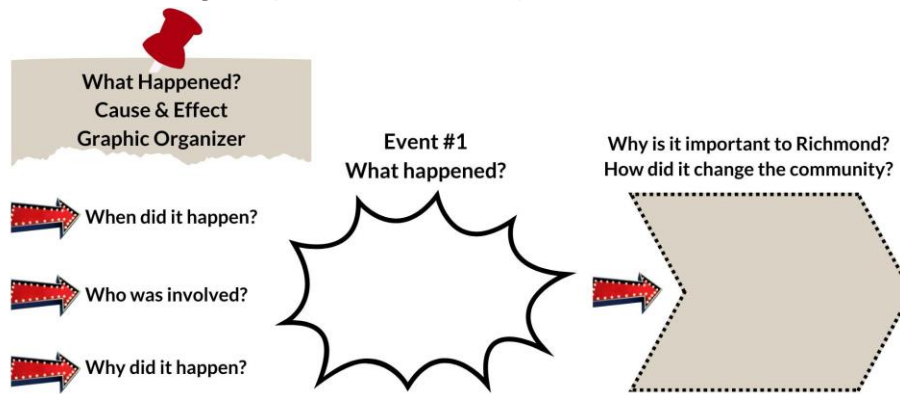
There are **two parts** to this lesson plan. In the **first part**, students complete a cause/effect analysis of 4 events from a particular time period in Richmond history. In the **second part**, students create a yearbook page highlighting those events and create a theme that ties the events together. **Part 1 and 2 may be used independently or together.**

Part 1

What Happened? Identifying Cause and Effect using a Graphic Organizer.

1. Create student groups and assign each group a time period.
 - a. Prior to 1600-Early Indigenous to 1600-1775-Colonial
 - b. 1775-1784: Revolutionary
 - c. 1785-1850: Building America
 - d. 1850-1865: Civil War Period (includes leading up to the war)
 - e. 1866-1870: Reconstruction
 - f. 1871-1899: Post Reconstruction
 - g. 1900-1950: Early 20th Century
 - h. 1951-1999: Late 20th Century
 - i. 2000-present: Early 21st Century
2. Students will identify 4 events in their time period from the [Richmond History Timeline](#) they would like to examine.
3. Students will fill out [What Happened graphic organizer](#) identifying the cause/effect for each event. Organizer may be downloaded from [<https://thevalentine.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/what-happened-graphic-organizer.pdf>] Questions from the organizer:
 - a. What happened?
 - b. When did it happen? (cause)
 - c. Who was involved? (cause)
 - d. Why did it happen? (cause)
 - e. Why is it important to Richmond? (effect)

f. How did it change/impact the community? (effect)



Part 2

How are events connected? Weaving together events by creating a Yearbook Page.

1. Students will identify a theme that ties each of their four events together.
2. Students will create a yearbook page that features all four events and the theme they have created to connect these events. Students can use various tools (Word, Canva, etc.) to create the yearbook page depending on what they have available.

Each page should contain:

- 4 events (including date and event description)
 - 4 images (an image for each event)
 - Page title that reflects the theme and a short paragraph (3-5 sentences) explaining how all the events are connected and how they have changed or affected the Richmond community.
3. Students will present their yearbook page to the class highlighting each event and the connections among the events and their impact those events had on the Richmond community.

[Sample yearbook page can be downloaded here:](#)



What comes next...

1868 Kidd Started Pickle Empire	1868 New Virginia State Constitution	1869 Virginia Public Schools Established	1870 Fire & Police Switched to New Telegraph System
At 16 years old, Ellen G. Kidd began making her grandmother's pickle recipe out of her parents' kitchen and selling them to friends and neighbors to make a little "pin money" or extra spending money.	John C. Underwood shepherded through the new state constitution that was adopted after the constitutional convention met in Richmond from 1867 until 1868. The constitution, created a free public school system, and established a state	After the ratification of the Underwood Constitution, A state supported public school system opened in Richmond offering a free education to all students. Schools were segregated by race until 1959 following federal courts' overturning of Virginia law	By 1870, Richmond's hand-run system was replaced by the Electric Fire Alarm and Police Telegraph System. Using call boxes, circuits, alarm bells, and a central control office, the system rang out a different code for each fire station.