

## State Historical Society of Iowa Heritage Education Questionnaire

Staff members of the State Historical Society of Iowa are reviewing SHSI's strategic plan to make sure we are providing the services that are most needed by Iowans. We are looking at SHSI's heritage education programs and hope to identify teachers' needs with regard to instructional materials, activities, delivery methods, and professional development. We hope to provide services to all social studies teachers in grades K-12, along with teachers of language arts, the arts, and the sciences. Ideally we would like to see Iowa studies become an integral part of the K12 curriculum in every Iowa school district.

The State Historical Society's heritage education programs emphasize the use of local historical and cultural resources to teach students about the past and present. These resources include written documents, buildings, sites, objects, traditional culture, photographs, oral histories, objects, art, music, landscapes, and other primary materials. If there is a need we want to add new lesson plans and activities each year so that our heritage education initiatives remain dynamic and meet the ongoing needs of Iowa's teachers and students. The State Historical Society of Iowa also wants to gain insight in where and how to provide professional development opportunities for teachers. We need your help in identifying where we should focus our resources.

Return this survey by mail or e-mail to:

Lynda J. Wessel, Distance Education Coordinator  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
600 East Locust  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
E-mail: Lynda.Wessel@dca.state.ia.us

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1. Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2. In what school district and school do you teach?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What grades and subjects do you teach?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How long have you been a teacher? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you know what *Prairie Voices: An Iowa Heritage Curriculum* is?  yes  no  
If yes, do you use it in your classroom or in your school?  yes  no

6. Do you teach Iowa history?  yes  no If yes, at what grade level? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Have you taken Iowa history courses or participated in sessions about Iowa history topics?  yes  no  
If so, at what level?  college level  in service professional development

8. What do you want SHSI to develop? What four products would be of most value to you?

- K12 scope and sequence for Iowa history
- Iowa history/heritage assessment tools
- Prairie Voices Curriculum index
- Iowa history & culture overview course for credit through using the ICN and a Web site
- Interactive CD-ROM Encyclopedia of Iowa History
- Web site lesson plan bank
- Iowa history/heritage online discussion group

- New lesson plans
- Topical Study Units with lesson plans, activities, copies of primary sources, etc.
- Other? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Is it important to you to learn how to use primary sources that can be accessed local level  Yes  No

10. If yes, check your top 3 choices for primary sources you would like to learn more about using.

- Published documents  
(books & articles, theses & dissertations, newspapers, government documents, ephemera, commercial histories, directories, maps, etc.)
- Unpublished documents  
(archives & manuscript collections, census records, federal records, vital records e.g. birth, death, marriage, divorce, etc.)
- Oral history and folklore
- Visual Documents  
(photographs, drawings, painting, murals, movies)
- Artifacts  
(building furnishings, clothing, adornment-grooming aids, symbols of belief, tools, art objects, recreational items, packages & containers, etc.)
- Landscapes, Historical Buildings and Structures
- Family History

11. Which **two** months of the year are best for offering professional development opportunities for teachers?

- Jan  Feb  Mar  Apr  May  June  July  Aug  Sept  Oct  Nov  Dec

12. If you teach elementary, middle school, or high school social studies, U.S. history or other disciplines how likely would you be to incorporate Iowa history information/materials in your study units if SHSI developed and distributed the materials. (e.g. Iowa's role in Civil War when you are teaching about Civil War and Reconstruction, immigration and settlement in Iowa or historic trails across Iowa when you teach Westward Movement, etc.)

- Very likely
- Might do it some of the time depending on the unit
- Unlikely

13. Have you taken a web course for professional development in the past?  yes  no

14. Have you taken a professional development class offered on the ICN?  yes  no

15. Would you take Iowa heritage professional development classes on the Internet if you could receive graduate or staff development credit?  yes  no

16. Do you use the Internet at home or at school to access educational information & materials?  yes  no

17. If yes, how do you connect to the Internet at school?

- fiber optic,  modem (speed \_\_\_\_\_),  digital hookup  other \_\_\_\_\_

18. Do you have a computer in your classroom for your use?  yes  no

19. Do students in your classroom have access to a classroom computer?  yes  no

20. Do you have an ICN classroom in your school building?  yes  no

21. How frequently would you access and utilize SHSI's web site if it offered lesson plans, activities, idea exchanges, a project spotlight, tips on teaching, mentoring program, listserv, training using audio & video streaming, etc.
- would use it daily  would use it weekly  would use it monthly  probably not use it
22. Which two delivery methods for professional development do you favor and would most likely utilize?
- Web Courses  ICN Courses  On-site classroom at your AEA or School District  
 Interactive Video  Multi-Media CD-ROM
23. How interested would you be in taking a 3 credit hour twelve-week Iowa history overview course offered by SHSI?
- Very interested and would definitely take the course  
 Interested and would probably take the course  
 Somewhat Interested  
 Not Interested
24. How interested would you be in taking a 1 or 2 credit hour course on a specific Iowa history topic or theme
- Very interested and would definitely take the course  
 Interested and would probably take the course  
 Somewhat Interested  
 Not Interested
25. What are your 3 top choices for Iowa history themes to be developed for classroom use?
- Archaeology & Prehistory  Agriculture  Built Environment (buildings, structures, sites, objects)  
 Education  Fashions  Foodways  Government-Laws-Politics  Health  Industry & Work  
 Leisure & Entertainment  Literature-Music-The Arts  Migration-Settlement-Demographics  
 People Who Made A Difference  Religion  Science-Technology-Medicine  Social Life-Customs-Manners-Morals  Transportation  Urban-Small Town-Rural Issues

**Short Answer Questions:**

26. What kinds of teacher or student materials and activities, programs and services, multimedia would you like to see the State Historical Society include on its web site?
27. What is the one most important thing the State Historical Society can do to serve you better and enrich the teaching of Iowa history/culture/heritage?

