GANINGMENT TO THE COMMON CORE: BIOGRAPHY IN CONTEXT

GALE BIOGRAPHY IN CONTEXT

ABOUT BIOGRAPHY IN CONTEXT

_Biography in Context_ delivers outstanding research support with more than 640,000 biographical essays—on more than 600,000 individuals—spanning disciplines, history, and geography. Virtually every course of study—from history to science to literature—is ultimately tied to the study of people and _Biography in Context_ intuitively conveys needed information on all core subjects from science to literature to history.

It’s a curriculum-aligned resource that offers media-rich content in a context that’s updated daily to meet the needs of today’s users. Its unprecedented collection of content and curriculum-focused tools that help students develop both research and critical-thinking skills include:

- Biographies from award-winning Gale reference titles
- Primary source documents
- Periodical articles
- Images
- Videos
- Podcasts, including premier NPR programs
- Websites
- Topic pages covering the most-searched and studied subjects

ABOUT THE COMMON CORE

The Common Core State Standards set forth objectives to help students achieve college and career readiness in an increasingly competitive global economy. These K-12 standards address English language arts (ELA) and mathematics; the ELA standards cover literacy in history/social studies, science, and technical subjects. The Common Core Standards emphasize the critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills that are essential for twenty-first-century learners.

Common Core Standards stress the importance of nonfiction, asking students to:

- evaluate texts carefully for meaning and make inferences
- determine central ideas and analyze their development
- analyze the text’s structure
- assess the impact of the author’s point of view on content and style
- evaluate content in diverse formats and media
- evaluate the author’s arguments and claims
- compare two or more texts on similar themes or topics

USING BIOGRAPHY IN CONTEXT TO SUPPORT THE COMMON CORE

By offering a rich database of content types, Biography in Context supports the Common Core objectives that ask students to critically analyze nonfiction and informational writing, assessing explicit meaning and making inferences. These various content types provide a means in which students are able to analyze structure and assess techniques used to convey meaning or persuade an audience. The various types of multimedia content in Biography in Context support standards that require students to evaluate content in diverse formats and media. In these and many other ways, Biography in Context supports the goals of the Common Core, as well as other national and state standards, to help students achieve college and career readiness and to compete on an increasingly complex global stage. For details on how Biography in Context supports specific Common Core standards, see below:

For more information on products that directly align Gale’s online resources to high school curricula as well as to Common Core and other national and state standards, investigate Classroom in Context (CLiC), a web-based curriculum portal that transforms text-based instructional content into a more enriched, interactive learning experience and effectively develops 21st-century skills for students.

800.877.4253
visit: gale.cengage.com
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ANCHOR STANDARDS FOR READING

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.1
Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

Biography in Context offers biographical overviews of both historical and contemporary people, from the United States and around the world, who have had an impact on various subjects like politics, religion, literature, the arts, and science. Biographical portal pages include a number of content types (primary sources, journal articles, images, videos, and podcasts) that enable students to compare various accounts of the subject’s life and identify abundant textual evidence to support conclusions.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.3
Analyze how and why individuals, events, or ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

Biography in Context offers multiple biographical essays for each person included in the database, allowing students the ability to compare them and better analyze how and why these people were important to events and historical periods in history. The differing emphases of these multiple biographies also allow students to study a specific aspect of the person’s life and significance.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.4
Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

The different reading levels found in Biography in Context allow students to analyze articles at a level that is comfortable for each user. Basic-level articles often include parenthetical explanations of technical terms or figurative meanings, allowing students to understand what is being read and allowing for analysis of the text. Students are able to build upon this knowledge by progressing to the intermediate and advanced articles.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.6
Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

By providing multiple perspectives on a given person, Biography in Context encourages students to assess a writer’s intention and agenda, and to explore the impact of that agenda on the content and style of the essay. For example, one biographical essay on Martin Luther King Jr. may focus on his life as a religious leader, while another essay may focus on his work as an activist for African American equality. These different perspectives allow students to delve deeper into the history of a subject and develop his or her own point of view.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.7
Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

Biography in Context features a variety of multimedia elements (images, videos, and podcasts) to accompany articles, biographies, and other text. These elements allow students to ingest information in a number of formats, exploring the same content from several angles: textual, numerical, visual, aural, and so on, while providing users the opportunity to integrate these pieces of multimedia into papers and presentations.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.9
Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Biography in Context provides numerous biographical essays on each individual included in the database, enabling students to study multiple perspectives on a given person. These multiple essays allow users to build knowledge of the subject that they can draw upon for analysis and writing.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.10
Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

All content in Biography in Context is assigned content levels to assist readers in finding appropriate texts as well as in challenging themselves by gradually advancing to more complex informational text.

ANCHOR STANDARDS FOR WRITING

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.1
Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

The wide range of content types (reference content, primary sources, as well as newspaper, magazine, and journal articles) found in Biography in Context provides students with the research they need in order to write arguments supported by valid reasoning and sufficient evidence. The many other content types—including videos, images, and podcasts—lend additional perspectives and evidence to support arguments.
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CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.2
Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

*By including various content types—such as biographies, primary sources, newspapers and journal articles—Biography in Context provides students with the research they need in order to clearly and accurately write informative and explanatory texts.*

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.7
Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

*Biography in Content is divided into easy-to-navigate biographical portal pages based on the most-studied people and topics as dictated by school curricula. These portal pages are further divided into various content types that provide students with extensive and varied research on these individuals and topics. This format allows users to conduct brief or extensive research as needed to answer focused questions and prepare substantive research projects.*

ANCHOR STANDARDS FOR SPEAKING AND LISTENING

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.2
Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

*Biography in Context features a variety of multimedia content (images, videos, and podcasts), providing the opportunity for students to integrate these pieces of multimedia into papers and presentations.*

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.5
Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.

*Biography in Context offers students a digital solution for research on both historical and contemporary people in a wide range of subject areas. Students are able to create dynamic presentations and other projects through the integration of various types of multimedia. Subject-specific websites encourage students to seek additional visual data.*

ANCHOR STANDARDS FOR LANGUAGE

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.L.4
Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, and consulting general and specialized reference materials, as appropriate.

*Biography in Context provides biographical essays at different reading levels, allowing students to analyze articles at a level that is comfortable for each user. Basic-level articles often include parenthetical explanations of technical terms or figurative meanings, enabling students to understand what is being read and analyze the text. An embedded dictionary provides a general reference source for students to define unfamiliar terms.*