SAMUEL TOTTEN

Teaching About the U.S.S.R.

Resources for Teaching About U.S.-U.S.S.R. Relations

Today, more than ever before, educators from the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. are working together to educate both themselves and their students about one another. The following resources—only a sample of what is available—provide a starting point for American schools interested in encouraging better relations between the two nations.

Organizations

- Educators for Social Responsibility, 23 Garden St., Cambridge, MA 02138. (617) 492-1764. Conducts institutes and seminars and has developed curriculum materials, including *Getting Acquainted: Thinking About the Soviet Union*, an elementary unit; *Raising Questions: Thinking About the Soviet Union*, an introductory unit; "A Day at School in Moscow: A Videotape and Study Guide"; and "What Soviet Children Are Saying About Nuclear Weapons."
- Ground Zero Pairing Project, P.O. Box 19049, Portland, OR 97219. Provides information about U.S.-U.S.S.R. sister city pairing. Has developed materials, including *Curriculum Guide: The Soviet Union and U.S.-Soviet Relations* and *Global Ladder*, a program of communication between American and Soviet youth.
- The Samantha Smith Foundation, 9 Union St., Hallowell, ME 04347. Has developed programs that include U.S.-U.S.S.R. youth exchanges; publishes SAMGRAM, a children's magazine for and by youth.

Projects/Programs

- Children's Art Exchange, P.O. Box 503, Middlebury, CT 05793. Enables young children in the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. to make contact through the arts.
- Citizen Exchange Council School Program in the U.S.S.R., 18 E. 41st St., Suite 10-04, New York, NY 10017. "Promote[s] direct communication ... and understanding by means of face-to-face encounters between American and Soviet citizens," including high school and college students.
- Perhaps ... Kids Meeting Kids Can Make a Difference, Box 8H, 380 Riverside Dr., New York, NY 10025. (212) 662-2327. Helps American and Soviet children meet one another, has a pen pal exchange, and publishes a biannual newsletter.
- Russian Pen Friend Project, c/o International Friendship League, 55 Mount Vernon St., Boston, MA 02108. Arranges U.S.-U.S.S.R. pen pal opportunities.
- U.S.-U.S.S.R. Youth Exchange Program, 1549 11th St., Suite 201B, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Organizes summer mountaineering expeditions in the Rockies and the Caucasus mountains for high school and college youth.

Curriculum Materials

- Committee for National Security & The W. Averell Harriman Institute for the Advanced Study of the Soviet Union at Columbia University. (1986). *A Guide to Films About the Soviet Union*. $5.00. Write to the Committee at 2000 P St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Detailed evaluations include essential information for schools and educators on more than 50 films on such topics as arms control, culture and lifestyle, history, and geography.
- Hess, Jacqueline. (1983). *U.S.-Soviet Relations*. Arlington, Va.: Close Up Foundation. Provides a succinct but solid overview for high school students.
- Miller, James R., ed. (1987). *Politics, Work, and Daily Life in the U.S.S.R.: A Survey of Former Soviet Citizens*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Provides an analysis of interviews with thousands of recent emigrants from the U.S.S.R. to the U.S.; presents a unique view of how the Soviet social system works and how the Soviet people deal with it.
- *The Russian Culture Videotape Series* (116 Stewart Center, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907). This series, which comprises 45 half-hour color videotapes, relates the development of Russian culture and civilization, with an emphasis on the ways in which the Russians have contributed to the civilization of humanity; for example, through art, literature, music, and architecture.
- Talbot, Elizabeth, and Janet G. Vaillant. (1985). *Russia/Soviet Union: A Guide to Print Materials for Teachers*. $4.00. Available from: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Russian and East European Center, 1208 W. California Ave., Urbana, IL 61801. Provides critiques of classroom materials, reference books, Russian and Soviet literature, scholarly papers, and so on.
- Vaillant, Janet G., and John Richards III. (1985). *From Russia to the U.S.S.R.: A Narrative and Documentary History*. Wellesley Hills, Mass.: The Independent School Press. For grades 9-12. Composed of primary sources, eyewitness accounts, and literary works, this outstanding text also provides an overview of the "essentials of Russian and Soviet history and geography, and how the Soviet system works today."
- Warner, Gale, and Michael Shuman. (1987). *Citizen Diplomats*. New York: The Continuum Publishing Corporation. Provides nine in-depth profiles of Americans (including Samantha Smith) who have contributed to better American-Soviet relations.□

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