

***Digital Wisconsin* User's Manual**

Background

Digital Wisconsin is a digital collection of instructional video and print materials with which to teach and learn about Wisconsin's geography, history, and cultural heritage. This guide is a brief overview of how to use the *Digital Wisconsin* resource with students.

The materials within *Digital Wisconsin* were developed by the Wisconsin Educational Communications Board (ECB) and include three ECB instructional television series designed for fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students:

- *Cultural Horizons of Wisconsin,*
- *Exploring Wisconsin Our Home,*
- *Investigating Wisconsin History.*

These three instructional television series, comprising a total of 37 fifteen-minute programs, were originally created for broadcast over public television. Each series has a companion Website and printed teacher guide. Both the culture and history series have accompanying CD-ROMs. *Digital Wisconsin* is intended to supplement other information sources for teaching and learning about Wisconsin, and was designed for use by both teachers and students. Depending on the age and technological abilities of the students, the teacher may wish to play the video content for students rather than direct them to explore it on their own.

Using *Digital Wisconsin*

All 37 videos programs are available for viewing within *Digital Wisconsin*; each program is fifteen minutes long. In addition, the ECB staff has deconstructed these programs into over two hundred individual video clips, ranging from 1 to 3 minutes in length. The content of each clip answers specific *Focus Questions* that are organized by the Historical Eras and Themes identified in *Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Social Studies*.

The short video clips present highly focused snippets of information on specific topics. Their power lies in enabling students to explore at their own pace, either individually or in small groups, as they uncover the information presented in the videos without having to watch an entire 15-minute program.

One benefit of using the video clips is that their content is organized within the ten Historical Eras and Themes. Teachers can easily find, and play multiple times, the clips dealing directly with the Era rather than having to watch an entire video program, or having to fast-forward or reverse through the tape to cue up the desired segment.

The video clips in *Digital Wisconsin* are color coded by series to help teachers know from which series each clip comes. The color is found on the title bar at the beginning of each video clip.

- *Cultural Horizons of Wisconsin* series: turquoise
- *Exploring Wisconsin Our Home* series: green
- *Investigating Wisconsin History* series: brown

The best way to become familiar with the materials and how the videos work is simply to explore. Preview *Digital Wisconsin* to determine how best to incorporate specific *Focus Questions*, video programs, and video clips into lessons and units. Follow the links. Pay attention to how the *Focus Questions* and related video clips are organized. Watch several clips. Review and download the teacher guide PDFs which may be found by clicking on the **View by Series** link. Consider selecting an Historical Era that you already teach and review just those videos. Or, investigate whether an Era supplements an existing unit by presenting information you don't already cover.

A document containing all the *Focus Questions* and video clips, organized by each of the ten Historical Eras and Themes, will aid your lesson development. As you preview clips, you can record notes next to the clip titles and more easily find them again later. This PDF file is located in the **Teacher Resources** section of *Digital Wisconsin*.

The **Teacher Resources** page has links to:

- ❑ Tips for Tech Set-up and Troubleshooting
- ❑ Tips for Playing Video Clips
- ❑ Lesson Plans and Units Created by Teachers [pdf]
- ❑ Description of all ten Historical Eras and Themes
- ❑ Document listing all *Focus Questions* and video clips by Era [pdf]
- ❑ Description of Related *Cultural Horizons* CD-ROM Content
- ❑ Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Social Studies
- ❑ Information and Technology Literacy Standards [pdf]
- ❑ ECB Instructional Database

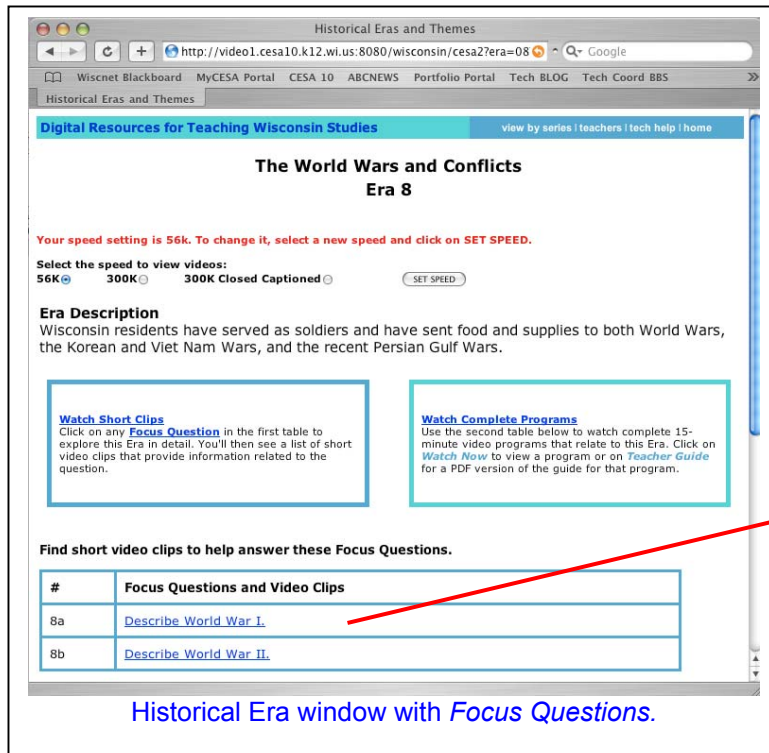
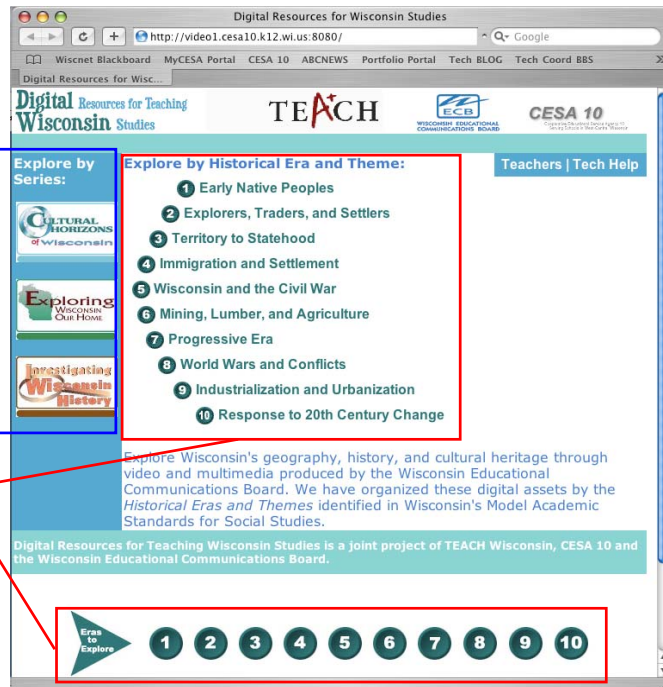
Navigating

Digital Wisconsin

Clicking on a **Series** link will display all the video programs in that series. (e.g. Cultural Horizons, Investigating Wisconsin History)

Clicking on an **Era** link will display the *Focus Questions* that are answered by individual clips from all three series, and the complete videos that relate to the era.

Clicking on a *Focus Question* will open another window with the specific video clips that answer the specific question.



Historical Era window with *Focus Questions*.



Video Clips by *.Focus Question*

Modeling how to use the video clips

Consider modeling for students how to glean information from the full video programs and the shorter clips. Some students will need assistance with learning how to analyze the information presented in order to answer specific questions. Depending on their age, they may think the video will say outright, “the answer to the question is...”

Recommended practices include:

- Provide a list of specific questions for which answers can be found in the videos.
- Emphasize that the information is there, if they don’t get it the first time, watch again.
- Demonstrate launching and watching a video clip or program.
- Demonstrate the *QuickTime* viewing window controls and how to scroll back and forth through a video in order to watch it several times.

Viewing *Digital Wisconsin* Video

Video Playing Format

The video programs and clips are available for viewing in three different formats:

- 300K, for computer lab use by multiple students
- 300K closed-captioned, script appears on screen
- 768K. for single computer use in classroom, has larger and sharper image

By default, all of the *Digital Wisconsin* video content is configured to play in the 300K format. To play video content in either of the other two formats, click to select the desired format, and then click on the **Set Format** button.

Playing Video

Clicking on the “Watch Now” button next to the video titles in *Digital Wisconsin* launches *QuickTime* player, which must be installed on your computer in order to play the video. *QuickTime 6.0* or higher is required to view the video; see “Tips for Tech Set-Up and Troubleshooting” on the **Teacher Resource** page for a link to a free download.

Change Size of *QuickTime* Viewing Window

You can control the size of the *QuickTime* Player viewing window by clicking **Movie** on the player's main menu, and then:

1. Click Double Size to make the viewing window larger.
Shortcuts: [Ctrl-2 \(Windows\)](#) or [Apple-2 \(Mac\)](#)

2. Clicking on Normal Size returns the window to the original size.
Shortcuts: Ctrl-1 (Windows) or Apple-1 (Mac)

Opening Multiple Video Clip and Bookmarking Video Clips

See “Tips for Playing Video Clips” on the **Teacher Resource** page for instructions.

Linking to Video Programs and Clips

Some educators may wish to create their own interface for viewing selected clips from *Digital Wisconsin*. This can be done in a Word document, a Web-quest, or a PowerPoint with links directly to the videos. Clicking the links will open a Web browser window to play the video. Note that for either Word or PowerPoint to launch the videos, the computer must be connected to the Internet and have a Web browser with QuickTime installed, just as if you were viewing the videos directly from *Digital Wisconsin*. This is an advanced skill for teachers, but will be well worth the time invested.

See “Tips for Playing Video Clips” on the **Teacher Resource** page for instructions on:

- Linking from a PowerPoint or Microsoft Word document
- Linking from a Web page