



George Washington vs. the Wii: 7 Ways to Make History Fun for Kids

Easy to implement immediately in the classroom and beyond

1. Students as Teachers

Take 5 minutes (or more) on a regular basis to ask them what they think. Of anything you've taught them. Ever. You will get blank stares for a while. Keep at it. It will show them you respect their opinions and they will act accordingly.

Key question: What do you think?

2. Human Side

When describing important historical figures, be sure to include personal details that make them stand out. George Washington was scared of his mother. Thomas Jefferson has bright red hair and freckles.

Key question: What makes this person human?

3. Puppets

Create puppets out of the major figures you study. The kids can do it. You can do it. Once you have them, the kids can enact scenes with those major players. They step into those people's shoes for a little while.

Key question: What would this person say?

4. Secret Agent Assignments

This is a special name for a set of expansive questions you can ask kids, so that their minds expand, and anything is possible for them. For example, if you were the first president of a new country, how would have celebrated your first evening? If you were on the battlefield at Bunker Hill, what are some things you might said about the British? If you had to wear a wig, which would you choose?

Key question: What are the possibilities?

5. Steal from Comedy Improv

Get all the kids up in a circle, and you start the game, "Yes And" with a sentence such as, "Today, I met John Adams in Boston and he looked very upset." The next person to your right says, "Yes, and he was running down past a bunch of fishmongers towards the assembly." Each person adds another sentence, starting with "Yes, And," and then offering another fact they learned in the current lesson. They build a picture together, AND they get in the habit of accepting each others' ideas.

6. Unlock the Power of the Library

Talk to your school's librarian or the one in town, and ask them for a really unusual document or book they carry. Something not available online. It could be a copy of the Declaration of Independence from a rich person in town. Who knows? Then give the kids an assignment to find it (or a few things). They will quickly understand that the library is a cool place to hang out.

Key Question: What unique gifts does the library have for kids?

7. The Power of Film and Family

You have your favorite educational movies, such as John Adams HBO special or the History Channel's History of US. Easy as pie: recommend them to your students and suggest that the whole family watch them. It's an easy way for the family to be together and maybe even have a couple questions for the parents to have a brief chat after watching the film. Plus, if the parents are interested, they will keep the subject alive at home afterwards.

Hey, you've officially made history fun for kids.

Meet Christina Frei, Dynamic Educational Performer

Hi, I'm Christina Frei and I love inspiring kids to love who they are and be their best. As an educational performer with a degree in American Studies, **I offer fun educational workshops for the 8- to 12-year-old crowd.** I blend my background as an improv performer, singer and songwriter, organizational trainer and meditation teacher into lessons that show kids how they can apply the wisdom of America's Founding Fathers to their everyday life.

Contact me today and let's discuss how I can make your next special event truly memorable.

Email: Christina@ChristinaFrei.com

Phone: 1 (800) 256 5292

Visit me online at www.ChristinaFrei.com