

Varieties of Censorship: Revisionism in American History

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This unit introduces middle school students to the concept of revisionism by analyzing different perspectives to learn the truth behind recorded historical phenomena. The focus is on the implementation of this lesson in a social studies classroom that emphasizes United States history; however, the activities and concepts can be applied to a variety of grade levels and subject areas. In this unit, students are challenged to rethink the details of commonly taught history – such as the discovery of America – in a way that provides a more accurate telling of the past than typically learned. The goals of the unit are for students to think more critically about the historical texts they read and to be able to translate that skill into every acquisition of information. Students should also gain a greater understanding of events in early United States history while becoming more skeptical of how history is recorded.