



Earth's Place in Space

Fifty years ago Apollo astronauts snapped the “Earthrise” photo of Earth rising over another celestial object. “What we saw was a bright, beautiful planet full of life, against the deep blackness of space,” says NASA Chief Scientist Dr. Jim Green. “You want your students to be able to dream, and this image allows them to do that.” [This site has 22 links to teaching resources](#), including videos, lesson plans, discussion questions and other teaching resources on the solar system, earth science, ecology and more. (TEKS-aligned; all grades)



Bring Hamilton to the Classroom

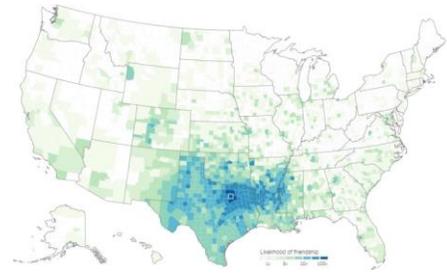
Alexander Hamilton’s birthday is January 11. Mark it with clips from the musical and lessons about this complex early American leader.

- [Lessons From the Musical ‘Hamilton’](#) -- Explore the life of Alexander Hamilton as Lin-Manuel Miranda, creator of the musical *Hamilton*, weaves together history and rhyme in these video clips and lesson plans from the PBS documentary *Hamilton's America*. (TEKS-aligned; middle and high school)
- [‘Discovering Alexander Hamilton’ Lesson Plan](#) – This lesson has students look at U.S. paper currency and identify which of the featured individuals served as U.S. President. They also explore video segments from the PBS program *Rediscovering Alexander Hamilton* to learn about Hamilton’s contributions and they end by writing an article, poem, song, speech or story. (TEKS-aligned; grades 4-6)



How Far-Flung Are Facebook Friends?

[This interactive map](#) lets students choose any county in the country and see the relative probability that someone in that county has a Facebook friendship link to another U.S. county. The exercise invites lots of discussions, from what differences users notice about the “friend” patterns in different places to how probability statistics work. The site includes resources on statistics. From the New York Times Learning Network. (middle and high school)



NPR Student Podcast Challenge

Have something important to say? NPR’s first-ever Student Podcast Challenge has begun. It invites teachers and students in grades 5 through 12 to turn their classrooms into production studios, their assignments into scripts and their ideas into sound. [The website has lots of help to get you started](#). The contest runs January 1 – March 31.



Extracurriculars

- **FREE Online PD on Empathy from Daniel Tiger** This virtual professional learning adventure for PK – 2 educators is designed and led by fellow educators. The hour-long session will highlight resources and models to use in the classroom. **The event is Tuesday, January 8 at 6 p.m.** [Click to register](#). If you can't attend the live virtual event, PBS will send a recording in a follow-up email to all registrants. PBS also will provide a certificate of attendance.
- **For sheer fun, [watch this inventive, high-energy performance](#)** by the state champion dance team from Walden Grove High School in Arizona. They're incredible!



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