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OER FAQ

What is the OER Project?

We are a coalition of educators and historians focused on boosting student engagement and achievement through transformational social studies programs. We offer teachers better curricula and a vibrant community—which helps them make better readers, writers, and thinkers out of the young historians in their classrooms.

Currently, the OER Project offers two full courses—Big History Project (BHP) and World History Project (WHP)—both of which are completely free, online, and adaptable to different standards and classroom needs.

We also offer two extension courses—Project X and Project Score—which allow you to enhance your existing curriculum with OER Project tools and methodologies.

Unlike textbooks, lesson websites, and other commercial products, everything has been purpose-built to empower teachers and leave traditional history courses in the past.

What does “OER” stand for?

“OER” stands for open educational resources. When you grab a free worksheet off of Pinterest for your tenth graders, that’s an example of an OER resource. While there are great OER resources out there, they are generally in the form of one-off lesson plans, or content repositories that lack any kind of clear framework. The OER Project, on the other hand, offers two cohesive and coherent OER curricula: World History Project and Big History Project. OER Project courses provide more than just quality content—they also integrate the instructional and professional support necessary for quality teaching.

What is Big History (BHP)?

Spanning 13.8 *billion* years of history, Big History Project is a free, online social studies course for middle- and high-school students. It weaves insights from many disciplines to form a single story that helps students develop a framework to organize and connect what they're learning both in and out of school. Please see David Christian's TED Talk: https://www.ted.com/talks/david_christian_the_history_of_our_world_in_18_minutes.

What is World History Project (WHP)?

World History Project is the newest course from the OER Project. We offer three versions—Origins to the Present, 1200 to the Present, and 1750 to the Present. We built on the success of BHP to create WHP—a course specifically tailored with high-school world-history teachers in mind. Each version of WHP uses the same proven instructional approach but tackles a different timeframe, allowing teachers to choose the version that best fits their needs.


How are BHP and WHP similar?

Both BHP and WHP share a common DNA and a common approach; awesome content; and a vibrant community. Both OER Project courses are completely free, online, and adaptable to different standards and classroom needs.

What's the difference between WHP and BHP?

BHP teaches history at the largest possible scale, starting with the Big Bang and ending with the future. WHP is more specifically the story of humanity. The Origins to the Present version begins with early humans while the other two course—1200 to the Present and 1750 to the Present—kick off in 1200 CE and 1750 CE, respectively. Each version guides students through the Industrial Revolution, and onward into the twenty-first century. To learn more about the differences between the WHP courses, check out the WHP FAQ below.

BIG HISTORY PROJECT




A STORY 13.8 BILLION YEARS IN THE MAKING.

- An introductory history course that establishes an interdisciplinary foundation of historical thinking practices
- Harness students' natural curiosity about our world to help them make sense of their place in it
- Ideal as a general history course for middle and high school

[LEARN MORE >](#)

WORLD HISTORY PROJECT



A WORLD HISTORY COURSE FOR TODAY. FOR ALL.

- A standards-based world history course that builds upon foundational historical thinking skills in preparation for AP, college, and beyond
- Looking at the narratives large and small to create a coherent view of the world's past, present, and future
- Ideal for high school

[LEARN MORE >](#)

What is Project X?

Project X is a short, standalone extension course that helps students think critically about data—an essential skill in a time when almost everything is being measured but the ability to analyze, understand, and use this information is often lacking. Project X is designed to be completed in four weeks, and can be folded into your current curriculum.

Note that Project X materials are also integrated directly into the three versions of the WHP course.

What is Project Score?

Project Score is a free historical writing curriculum that includes writing prompts; scaffolded activities for pre- and post-writing; and tools proven to help students write better. Project Score can be taught as a two-week course, or folded into any curriculum you currently teach, including BHP and WHP.

This standalone course utilizes Score, our automated essay-scoring system, which provides students with feedback on writing fundamentals, thus freeing your time to engage more meaningfully with the ideas they are trying to get across in their essays. Score uses the Revision Assistant machine-scoring engine from Turnitin. It's been “trained” against the OER Project Writing Rubric. So, rather than waiting days or weeks for results, students get immediate feedback that helps them understand and implement the expectations of the rubric as they write.

Which course is right for me?

- The Big History Project provides foundational skills and concepts for middle- and high-school students that position them well for future studies in history and the social sciences.
- The World History Project develops essential skills and concepts that prepare high-school students for AP courses. (Please note that a new course—WHP AP—is coming soon, too!)
- Project X teaches key data literacy and critical thinking skills in a compact four-week module. It is most suitable for high-school students.
- Project Score fosters writing proficiency in middle- and high-school students. It can be used as part of your existing curriculum, and includes automated essay-scoring assistance.

We encourage you to explore our website to learn more about our courses to decide which one is best suited for your use. If you have any specific questions, please email us at help@oerproject.com.

Can I use materials from Big History Project (BHP) and World History Project (WHP) at the same time?

BHP and WHP are two distinct courses (with a tiny bit of overlap!), each with distinct skills progressions. Although you may occasionally find supplemental materials you would like to incorporate in other OER Project courses, we recommend that you stick to the materials in the course you are teaching.

Could districts/teachers teach both courses consecutively?

A very popular pedagogical approach we've seen with our partnering districts is to use the Big History Project in middle-school social studies classes, with the World History Project following in high school. WHP extends the skills development of BHP, providing a strong starting point for high-school history students.

How do BHP and WHP fit with my state's standards?

BHP and WHP are designed to align with many existing standards. Check out our [Planning Resources hub](#) to see how BHP and WHP fit with your state's standards. If you don't see your state listed, choose a state that you know shares similar standards with your own. We're rapidly adding new states, so check back soon.

How is OER Project content delivered?

All OER Project course content is available online. A web-based model ensures that content is up to date, relieves the need for costly textbooks, and helps teachers engage students by providing media-rich materials that can be downloaded and viewed or printed anywhere. At the discretion of teachers and schools, OER Project courses can also be integrated with a variety of LMS platforms and Google Classroom (see our guide). You can also sign in to OER Project using Clever! Find out more [here](#).

Who is involved in the OER Project?

Our course designers have played and continue to play an integral role in the conception, design, and development of BHP and WHP:

Pilot schools: Our courses are codeveloped with pilot-school teachers and administrators. All aspects of the course—from the core curriculum and content to the assessment strategy—are authored with our pilot-school partners.

David Christian: Professor of history at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. David, who built a widely taught college-level course, is the “father” of Big History. David helped create the strategy for BHP and appears in several course videos.

Bob Bain: Associate professor of history and education at the University of Michigan. Bob played an integral role in the course design and delivery of both BHP and WHP, as well as in the outlining of the course assessment plans and alignment to standards.

Trevor Getz: Professor of African history at San Francisco University. Trevor worked closely with Bob Bain to design WHP, and continues to serve as the lead academic adviser for all elements of WHP.

Our OER Project Advisory Board represents a diverse array of academics and historians.

- Laura Mitchell—UC Irvine
- Molly Warsh—University of Pittsburgh
- Lauren Harris—Arizona State University
- Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks—University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
- Urmi Engineer—Pitzer College
- Tim Keirn—CSU Long Beach
- Rita Verma—Adelphi University
- Ross Dunn—San Diego State University
- Yohuru Williams—University of St. Thomas
- Tony Maccarella—Saddle River Day School
- Pete Lapré—Park East High School
- Heather Streets-Salter Northeastern University
- Audra Diptee—Carleton University
- Rob Collins—San Francisco State University
- Nick Dennis—St. Francis' College
- Craig Benjamin—Grand Valley State University
- Elaine Carey—Purdue University Northwest
- Alejandro Quintana—St. John's University
- Bekisizwe Ndimande—University of Texas at San Antonio
- Tony Yeboah—Yale University
- Judith Jeremie—Brooklyn Tech High School
- Sousan Arafeh—Southern Connecticut State University
- Jane Kamensky—Harvard University



BHP FAQ

What is the Big History Project (BHP)?

Big History Project is a free, online social studies course for middle- and high-school students that spans 13.8 billion years. It weaves insights from many disciplines to form a single story that helps students develop a framework to organize and connect what they're learning both in and out of school. For an overview, see Big History founder David Christian's TED Talk: https://www.ted.com/talks/david_christian_the_history_of_our_world_in_18_minutes

What are the goals of the course?

Big History challenges students to think critically and broadly, and tries to ignite a passion for inquiry and exploration. In addition to helping students master the sequence and scope of 13.8 billion years, the course develops essential skills and intellectual tools such as: thinking critically across scales and disciplines, building informed arguments, making and testing claims, and writing. See the [BHP Full Course Guide](#) for details on these essential skills and core concepts.

Who is the target student?

Big History is designed as a social studies/history course targeting sixth- through tenth-grade students. With a variety of content formats, scaffolds, and structured routine-based approaches to fundamental historical thinking and writing skills, Big History Project accommodates a wide range of student skill levels. If you're teaching middle-school or general high-school social studies, Big History Project is right for your students.

How is the course delivered?

All of the content is available online. A completely web-based model ensures the content is up to date, relieves schools of the need for costly textbooks, and helps teachers engage students by providing approachable, media-rich materials that can be used in different ways. Students and teachers are issued a personal login to gain access to the school version of the course. Class materials are available in PDF and Google Docs formats to facilitate viewing and printing in a variety of environments. At the discretion of teachers and schools, the course can also be downloaded and integrated into a variety of LMS platforms and Google Classroom (see guide). You can also sign in to OER Project using Clever! Find out more [here](#).

How is the course structured?

It might seem like 13.8 billion years is a lot to cover in a semester- or year-long course but we've structured it in a way that makes it possible...and worth the trip! Big History is made up of eight thresholds. Each represents a moment when the Universe got more complex. We start with the Big Bang, where all of the matter and energy in the Universe originated. The story of these eight thresholds is told over ten units. Within each unit is a series of four to ten lessons broken down into articles, videos, infographics, and activities that reinforce key concepts and develop critical skills. All this is tied together with classroom rituals and routines that facilitate engagement and learning throughout the journey. Every unit includes a guide that walks through the key ideas, vocabulary, possible student misconceptions, lesson plans, and assessments. For a more detailed look at course structure and contents, [download the course guide](#).

What planning and instructional resources are available to teachers?

BHP offers teachers a wide variety of resources and support for course planning, including:

- More than 40 ready-to-teach lesson plans.
- Example course plans from a variety of grade levels, school types, disciplinary approaches, and classroom profiles.
- Teaching guides and supplementary PowerPoint decks.
- A robust online community of educators and experts available to answer questions and share lessons, activities, and instructional strategies.
- Project-based learning (PBL) activities such as Unit 5's Invent a Species, and Unit 7's How Many People Could the Earth Support Now and 100 Years from Now?
- Investigations, which are writing activities that help frame some of the big issues tackled in each unit, designed to cultivate critical ELA, research, and persuasive writing skills.
- Score, a free essay-scoring service that empowers students with real-time writing feedback, and provides teachers with classroom- and student-level reports on Investigation writing activities. This frees up teachers' time for more personalized student instruction.
- Videos with captions and transcripts, complex texts, animations, comic books, infographics, interactive classroom activities, leveled readings, audio readings, and more, thus accommodating a variety of learning and instructional styles.

What assessments are included in the course?

The course gives teachers many opportunities to review student work both formally and informally. All assessments are optional and to be used at the teacher's discretion. Assessment tools include:

- Rubrics to guide student writing, presentations, and PBL projects.
- Lesson-closing activities such as exit cards, group discussions, peer reviews, and essays,
- Practice-question sets available at the end of each lesson and in end-of-term exams.
- Formal writing activities such as Investigation essays and research papers, which research shows help improve student writing proficiency over the duration of the course. [Download our research report](#) to see the results.

What is Score?

For students to really understand how to write well, they need lots of quality feedback on their work. This takes a lot of time that teachers often don't have. That's why we developed Score, a free service that provides immediate feedback on student writing for the course's nine Investigation writing assignments. Score is not a replacement for teachers, but a formative tool that helps students improve as they write, and which provides teachers with the information and time they need to help individual students. Score uses the Revision Assistant machine scoring engine from Turnitin. It's been "trained" against the OER Project Writing Rubric. So, rather than waiting days or weeks for results, students get immediate feedback that helps them understand and implement the expectations of the rubric as they write. To learn more, check out the [Score Guide](#).

What training and professional development (PD) opportunities are available?

At BHP, we like to say we're investing in teachers, not textbooks. That's why we offer so many ways to support and connect teachers through the BHP journey. Teacher supports include:

Teaching Big History online PD

Teaching Big History online professional development is created and moderated by master BHP teachers. Access online any time and move at your own pace through sessions that build course knowledge and skills and get you up and running quickly.

[Check out Teaching Big History.](#)

OER Project Teacher Community

The [OER Project Teacher Community](#) is the online meeting place of veteran Big History Project teachers, new teachers, and content and technical specialists. In this vibrant community, teachers from around the world connect to ask and answer questions, share lessons and success stories, and start or join conversations about teaching and learning.

Ongoing PD

Regional professional learning consortiums (PLCs) occur throughout the year to provide schools and educators face-to-face professional development, implementation guidance, and direct assistance. Schedules are emailed to registered teachers and posted in the Teacher Community.

We also conduct frequent live PD virtual sessions. These hour-long seminars are designed to help on-board new teachers and help familiarize you with a specific topic in the course.

Check out our [professional development schedule](#) here.

Do I have to teach the entire curriculum?

Because the essential thinking and reading and writing skills build on each other throughout the course, the best way to teach Big History is to teach the whole course. However, we want anyone and everyone to use BHP in whatever way best serves them. If that means using bits and pieces to supplement your current curriculum, that's great too!

What does it cost?

Our goal is to ensure that Big History is taught effectively with no cost to schools. We provide, free of charge:

- All content and courseware
- PD/teacher-training program
- Score essay scoring and reporting
- Access to core project team for support, assistance, and feedback

How does the course align to existing standards?

The Big History Project course is designed to align with the CCSS ELA, C3, and NGSS standards. Check out our [Planning Resources hub](#) to find out how BHP aligns to your state's social studies and ELA standards. If you don't see your state listed, choose a state that you know shares similar standards with your own. We're rapidly adding new states so check back soon.

How can Big History fit with my school's learning environment?

Big History can be tailored in a variety of ways to fit your school's identity, mission, and infrastructure. Example course plans are available representing a wide variety of teaching environments and school types:

- **Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) focus:** Rigorous yet accessible content covering basic chemistry, physics, biology, and data literacy and analysis make BHP a great fit for schools with a STEM focus.
- **Project-based learning (PBL) focus:** PBL activities in BHP allow students to dive deeply and creatively for solutions to driving questions related to complex interdisciplinary issues. Combining PBL and BHP creates meaningful, student-driven learning experiences. We offer ready-to-deploy PBL activities in [Unit 5](#), [Unit 7](#), and [Unit 10](#).
- **IB Program compatibility:** BHP works well in an IB context, and we've even developed an [IB course plan](#) to get you started.
- If you're looking for a high-school world history curriculum, check out one of our free, online World History Project course offerings: [Origins to the Present](#), [1200 to the Present](#), and [1750 to the Present](#).



WHP FAQ

What is the World History Project AP® (WHP AP®)?

We've learned from the success of Big History Project. Now we bring you World History Project, another free, online, awesome curriculum in the OER Project family of courses. World History Project is aligned to world history curriculum standards across the United States.

There are three versions of the WHP course: Origins to the Present, 1200 to the Present, and 1750 to the Present. Each version of the course includes carefully scaffolded units and lessons that you can use throughout your school year. The World History Project course assets (activities, readings, videos, writing assessments, and more) will support your students in drawing a line from the past to the present, with an eye to the future.

What will I find in the World History Project curriculum?

WHP has a clear focus on narrative and skill-building. In WHP, students put the narratives of history into a context, looking for evidence to support, extend, and challenge their thinking. The course has a clear focus on reading a variety of texts, including primary sources, as historians do, with a dedicated close-reading approach. World History Project also places a strong emphasis on aligning with AP historical thinking skills and reasoning practices such as contextualization, sourcing, causation, comparison, and continuity and change over time (CCOT), as well as developing writing skills to prepare students for advanced high-school and college work.

What grade level is this course designed for?

While you may choose to use the World History Project (WHP) materials with any grade level you'd like (you know your students best!), we designed it to best fit with many tenth-grade world history standards.

I'm interested in using the WHP course materials next year. Where do I start?

This is probably our favorite question to answer! We strongly suggest taking our Teaching World History course (TWH) as you begin mapping out your school year using the WHP materials. TWH is a free, online professional development course that will provide you with the guidance and support you need to start your year with us. Upon completion of the self-paced course, you'll receive a certificate for 14 hours of continuing education. In addition to taking TWH, we suggest introducing yourself in our [OER Project Teacher Community](#). Your fellow WHP teachers are waiting to welcome you and answer your questions as you get started!

- [Teaching WHP Origins to the Present](#)
- [Teaching WHP 1200 to the Present](#)
- [Teaching WHP 1750 to the Present](#)

How does World History Project align with state standards?

WHP is designed from the ground up to meet world history standards across the United States. With a careful balance between content and skills, and the flexibility to incorporate content addressing local requirements, WHP is for everybody. Interested in learning how we align with the world history standards of specific states? Check out our [Planning Resources hub](#), where we highlight several of our alignment documents and sample course plans.

What types of scaffolds are available within the World History Project curriculum?

Our skills practice progressions are perfect for scaffolding. Each of our skills (change and continuity over time, contextualization, comparison, sourcing, claim testing, causation, reading, and writing) are introduced early in the course and then spiral through each unit.

We have leveled texts available for the articles in the course, so you have at least three Lexile-leveled texts to choose from when sharing articles with students. Articles have accompanying audio versions while videos come with full transcripts to support comprehension.

Check out our [Differentiating Instruction with the OER Project Guide](#) for more detail.

I heard the course has two different versions. Which one is right for me?

Yes, there are three different versions of the course: Origins to the Present, 1200 to the Present and 1750 to the Present. The 1750 course is best for teachers in states like California and New York, where state world history standards begin around the year 1750 CE. If your state standards begin a bit earlier, the 1200 course provides more context for the massive worldwide changes that manifested around 1450 CE. For those whose standards start with early humans, the Origins course is the best choice. And if your world history course begins at a different time altogether? Feel free to use materials from all three versions to create your own scope and sequence for the year. [Teaching World History](#) is a great place to start!

I use a learning management system (LMS) to provide assignments and resources to students. Are your materials easily downloadable and accessible through an LMS?

Absolutely! All of our articles and activities are easily downloadable in both PDF and e-pub format. We also have a seamless integration with Google Classroom ([learn more here](#)), and other LMS options, as well as Clever SSO. And if you're looking for student-facing versions of our assets, look no further: We have a student

version of both WHP courses, and granting your students access to your virtual WHP classroom is easy. Learn how to add students to your WHP [classroom here](#).

Are you primarily focused on skills or content?

Both! We believe that great courses should provide engaging content that draws upon the insights of multiple disciplines to inform historical inquiry. We know it's important for students to engage and learn about different perspectives when studying history. WHP students also develop a set of intellectual tools that help them think critically, tie together big ideas, and build informed arguments—and practice these skills across disciplines. Students will spiral through skill-building activities throughout the WHP course content, building their expertise around eight different historical thinking practices: change and continuity over time, contextualization, comparison, sourcing, claim testing, causation, reading, and writing.

How did you incorporate teacher feedback when creating the course materials?

Teacher feedback is extremely important to us. In the 2019/20 school year, we partnered with more than 50 schools to pilot our course materials. Pilot teachers provided feedback on our course content materials so that our articles, videos, and activities represent age-appropriate and teacher-approved materials.

Whom should I reach out to if I have questions about WHP?

You can email us at help@oerproject.com if you have any further questions! We'll make sure you get the information you need.



WHP AP® FAQ

What is the World History Project AP® (WHP AP®)?

World History Project AP (WHP AP) is a free, online College-Board-approved world-history course. Precisely aligned to the AP World History: Modern Course and Exam Description (CED), WHP AP can serve as a textbook for AP World History: Modern classrooms. WHP AP is an OER Project course, and like all OER Project online curricula, it is comprehensive, attends to both content and skills, and is available at no cost.

Featuring both teacher- and student-facing materials, WHP AP supports diverse learners and provides opportunities for all students to engage in college-level material. By the end of the course, students will be proficient in the content, historical thinking skills, and reasoning processes assessed in the AP World History: Modern exam. They will also develop thinking and analytical skills that will serve them well as they continue with their secondary and postsecondary studies.

Is WHP AP approved by College Board?

Yes! College Board has approved WHP AP course materials as a college textbook, and has approved the [WHP AP syllabus](#) as well. Teachers can submit the WHP AP syllabus to College Board during the audit process.

The OER Project team conducted a thorough assessment of WHP AP content assets to ensure that they align with the [AP World History: Modern Course and Exam Description \(CED\)](#). The CED identifies particular topics within each unit. WHP AP has either a single content asset or multiple assets to address each of these topics. As a result, each article, video, and activity in the course aligns with specific topics and themes in the CED.

Is WHP AP a comprehensive curriculum/textbook I can use in my AP World History: Modern classroom, or is it a supplemental resource?

WHP AP is approved as a complete, standalone textbook for teaching AP World History: Modern. You are free to use our materials in your classroom in whatever way you see fit.

What makes WHP AP different from other AP World History: Modern curricula?

WHP AP is one of the few free-to-use College-Board-certified AP World History courses available today, and the quality of its materials and instructional model meets or exceeds that of any existing textbook.

Developed during a three-year pilot study and informed by insights from learning scientists and existing AP World History: Modern teachers, the WHP AP curriculum includes articles, activities, videos, and assessments. Students learn better when they're engaged, and WHP AP also makes a lot of room for fun along the way.

Unique features

- Regular updates with the latest research, information, and improvements, meaning you won't have to struggle with out-of-date textbooks ever again.
- Teaching WHP AP (launching summer 2022), a complementary online PD course that walks you through the structure of the curriculum, demonstrates how skills are scaffolded, and introduces you to key materials.
- The [OER Project Online Teacher Community](#), an active hub (including a dedicated WHP AP group) where teachers swap ideas and seek support.

I'm interested in using WHP AP. Where do I start?

Once you've registered for your free OER Project account, you have access to all of our courses and materials. You can start your planning by downloading the [WHP AP Course Guide](#) and [WHP AP CED Alignment Guide](#). Next, introduce yourself to the [OER Project Online Teacher Community](#). Your fellow WHP AP teachers are waiting to welcome you and answer your questions!

We strongly suggest you take our Teaching WHP AP course (launching summer 2022), where you can begin mapping out your school year using our materials. This free, online professional development course will provide you with the guidance and support you need to start your year with us. Upon completion of the self-paced course, you'll receive a certificate for continuing education credit.

How does WHP AP assess my students' readiness for the AP World History: Modern exam?

WHP AP provides ample opportunities to assess your students' readiness for the AP exam. Resources include end-of-unit DBQ and LEQ assessments that align with the AP Course and Exam Description's recommended reasoning processes such as comparison, causation, and continuity and change over time (CCOT).

SAQ Practice activities in each unit of the course allow students to construct concise and detailed responses to prompts similar to those they'll see on the exam. In addition, each practice progression in the course has a thinking tool, which can be used to formatively assess your students' understanding of historical thinking skills and reasoning processes.

Other opportunities for formative assessment include the Themes Notebook activities, which occur twice in each unit and which assess your students' prior knowledge and demonstrate how their thinking has changed as they progress through the content for each unit.

I use a learning management system (LMS) to provide assignments and resources to students. Are your materials easily downloadable and accessible through an LMS?

They are! If you choose not to use our platform to manage your classes, our materials can be downloaded in a variety of formats, or shared directly to Google Classroom. All our courses are also compatible with Clever single sign-on.

How did you incorporate teacher feedback into the WHP AP development process?

WHP AP was the product of a three-year piloting process during which a group of 50 AP World History: Modern teachers taught the materials and provided feedback on how they could be improved to better serve classrooms. This iterative back-and-forth process resulted in a stronger, easier-to-use curriculum that our pilot teachers can be proud of contributing to.

To whom should I reach out if I have questions about WHP AP?

You can always email us at team@oerproject.com. A member of our team will be in touch right away to answer questions, solve technical hurdles, or take your comments!



Project X FAQ

What is Project X?

Project X is meant to help students understand and evaluate data that they encounter and to use data in their own arguments. Project X can be taught as a standalone four-week course or as a progression within the WHP Origins and 1750 courses.

We've designed materials to guide students step-by-step through how to read charts, evaluate data, and make predictions. Project X has three main components:

1. Data Explorations
2. Three Close Reads for Data, an approach to “reading” charts and other means of displaying data
3. Activities that lead to the final project

What are Data Explorations?

At the core of Project X are 10 exercises we call Data Explorations. These explorations are organized thematically around significant topics of world history. Each Data Exploration includes two elements:

- **Articles**—Every Data Exploration begins with an introductory article that introduces students to the charts included in that exploration and provides historical context. These articles are written by Max Roser and the team at Our World in Data (OWID). (Learn more about OWID here: <https://ourworldindata.org/>.)
- **Charts**—Each Data Exploration centers around a selection of thematic charts from the OWID website. Students should spend the bulk of their time during Data Explorations “reading” the charts.

What grade level is Project X appropriate for?

Project X can be used with students at a variety of age levels. It was designed specifically to work for tenth-grade classrooms.

What is a “course extension”?

Big History Project and World History Project are intended to be full-year or semester-length courses. Our course extensions, like Project X, are designed for teachers who wish to use some of our materials as part of their existing curriculum. Project X can be taught as a standalone four-week module at any point in the school year, which would allow you to take advantage of the same lessons on reading data that are included in our World History Project course.

Our [Project X Guide](#) gives some useful pacing suggestions and a brief walkthrough of our teaching methodology.

Can I use Project X with BHP/WHP?

The materials in Project X are already embedded in WHP, so there’s no need to mix and match. While the Project X materials are not as easily aligned with the BHP curriculum, teachers are more than welcome to incorporate any elements they find useful!

Whom should I reach out to if I have questions about Project X?

You can email us at help@oerproject.com if you have any further questions! We’ll make sure you get the information you need.



Project Score FAQ

What is Project Score?

Project Score is an OER Project writing extension that can be used to support social studies writing instruction in a wide variety of classrooms. Generally designed for sixth- through twelfth-grade students, Project Score provides a set of writing activities that have a “choose your own adventure” feel, allowing you to make instructional choices based on where your students could use extra writing support.

What grade levels is Project Score appropriate for?

Project Score is ideal for sixth- through twelfth-grade students.

I’ve seen references to “Score” in some places on the site, and “Project Score” in others. Is there a difference?

Score is an automated essay-scoring tool available in WHP and BHP that can help students significantly improve their writing by giving them frequent, consistent feedback. Teachers can spend less time grading, and more time providing individualized writing instruction. Score uses the Revision Assistant machine scoring engine from Turnitin. It’s been “trained” against the OER Project Writing Rubric. So, rather than waiting days or weeks for results, students get immediate feedback that helps them understand and implement the expectations of the rubric as they write.

Project Score is a set of activities that provide specific rubric-based strategies to address particular aspects of writing. In addition to the rubric-based strategies, you and your students are given access to the Score tool

What is a “course extension”?

Big History Project and World History Project are intended to be full-year or semester-length courses. Our course extensions, like Project Score, are designed for teachers who wish to use some of our materials as part of their existing curriculum. Project Score can be taught as writing intensive standalone module, or you can weave the assignments into your curriculum throughout the year.

Our [Project Score Guide](#) gives a useful overview of the rubrics and activities used in the course extension.

Can I use Project Score with BHP/WHP?

Writing assessments are available in Score in both BHP and WHP, and both courses feature a specific writing progression. However, you are more than welcome to incorporate the warm-up/revision activities, and related tools into your instruction if you would like!

Whom should I reach out to if I have questions about Project Score?

You can email us at help@oerproject.com if you have any further questions! We'll make sure you get the information you need.