

# A Resource Directory for Teaching Appalachian Topics in Elementary and Secondary School Courses

## **INTRODUCTION**

This compilation is meant to assist classroom teachers in developing or refining the Appalachian content in their lesson plans. It has been digitized to make the materials easily accessible for time-pressed teachers -- clicking on the hotlinks will take users directly to those materials or show how they can be obtained. Although I have tried to be reasonably comprehensive in compiling the directory, users should view it as a springboard for delving into the many other Appalachian teaching resources available on the Web and elsewhere.

The directory was also designed with teachers working on advanced degrees in mind. To this end, it serves as an entry point for research into the history of teaching Appalachian topics. Thus citations for bibliographies are included, along with D.Ed. dissertations, M.A. theses, journal articles, teaching practica, library and archival collections, and some relatively early efforts to introduce young learners and their teachers to the Appalachian region and its people.

A few caveats are in order. First, being included in the directory is not an assurance of quality. As users become more acquainted with the field of Appalachian Studies, they will quickly be able to assess for themselves which materials are out of date, which are uninformed to the point of being stereotypical, and which are accurate in their interpretation and appropriate for classroom use.

Second, the categories used in the directory are not exclusive. Categories frequently overlap because many different subjects are often treated by single entries. For instance, some entries in the Literature, Language, and Folklore category can be used to teach about religion, families, work, history, crafts, and ethnic groups in Appalachia. Others focus on Appalachian women and their roles in protests, union organizing, education, coal mining, and health care. Although the categories are few, the resources they contain cover a wide range of Appalachian topics.

Finally, all such lists are a work in progress. If you would like to share your thoughts and experiences using this list, including new citations or websites you would recommend, please feel free to contact me at [solotso@aol.com](mailto:solotso@aol.com).

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## **AUDIO/VISUAL RESOURCES**

Appalshop is nationally-recognized source of Appalachian documentary films and regional music. See <http://www.appalshop.org/>

The Digital Library of Appalachia, maintained by the Appalachian College Association, provides a rich source of photographs and other graphic images from the Appalachian region. See <http://www.aca-dla.org/>

The Index to Bibliographies of West Virginia and Appalachian Films maintained by Ferrum College within its Applit page lists many A/V materials (see also Literature and Language section below). See <http://www.ferrum.edu/AppLit/Bibs/WVFilmIndex.htm>

### **SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

The Appalachian Studies Association (based at Marshall University) provides information on its annual conference where many teaching materials are available for purchase; also available are on-line syllabi for college level Appalachian Studies courses, and a directory of Appalachian Centers that can provide speakers or advice on course development. See <http://www.appalachianstudies.org/>

Berea College's Southern Appalachian Archives host collections of photos, oral histories, ballads and folk music, and settlement school materials. See <http://www.berea.edu/hutchinslibrary/specialcollections/saarchives.asp> Social studies teachers will be especially interested in the online exhibition at <http://www.berea.edu/hutchinslibrary/specialcollections/exhibit/exhibitsaa101intro.asp>

Fairmont State University publishes *Hillchild* which contains "stories, poetry, drawing, folklore, cartoons, and more;" *In the Mountain State*, a teacher's guide for grades 4-8; and related materials about West Virginia. See <http://www.fairmontstate.edu/WVFolkLife/Publications.asp>

James Mason University provides a general introduction to Appalachia and its literature for youth and young adults on its Appalachian Resources page. See <http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/mulapach.htm>

Morehead State University's Center for Virtual Appalachia provides links to maps, art, music, literature, religion, and crafts that can be adapted for classroom use. See <http://cva.morehead-st.edu/>

Ohio University at Zanesville's Appalachian Treasures Gateway provides links to sites dealing with Appalachian history, culture, physical and social environments, images, and stereotypes. See <http://www.zanesville.ohiou.edu/library/appalachia/>

Radford University's Appalachian Regional Studies Center provides a listing of teaching resources at <http://www.radford.edu/~arsc/resources.html> See especially its Folklife Collection at [http://www.radford.edu/~arsc/folklife\\_AtoF.htm](http://www.radford.edu/~arsc/folklife_AtoF.htm) Also of interest are the activities of the Radford Appalachian Teachers' Network.

Subscribe to the ATN newsletter, *Stitches*, at  
<http://www.radford.edu/~arsc/atn.htm>

The University of North Carolina's website, LearnNC, has a variety of Appalachian-related teaching resources for regional history, dialect, Native Americans in the region, quilting, and storytelling. See <http://www.learnnc.org/>

West Virginia University's Appalachian Studies Bibliography is one of the oldest and most extensive compilations of information about Appalachia available. See <http://www.libraries.wvu.edu/appalachian/bibliography.htm>

### **GENERAL**

Appalachia: A Thematic Unit for Miami County Teachers on Appalachian Culture. 1995. Compiled by John Virgint. Mimeo by the Miami County Educational Service Center. The Center can be contacted at <http://www.miami.k12.oh.us>

Appalachian Culture: A Guide for Students and Teachers. 1976. Peggy Calestro and Ann Hill. Columbus, OH: Ohio State University Research Foundation. The Foundation can be contacted at <http://www.rf.ohio-state.edu/welcome.cfm>

Appalachian Idea Book. 1989. Tina Constanzo, Felicia Napier, *et al.* "A collection of ideas and activities designed to help teachers develop awareness of Appalachian history and culture among their students." Available for a fee from the Urban Appalachian Council. See <http://uacvoice.org/resources.html>

Appalachian Readings and Activities Handbook. 1981. Emma Jo Dotson. M. E. practicum, Ashland, OH: Ashland College. See <http://library.ashland.edu/search/adotson/adotson/1%2C4%2C4%2CB/frameset&FF=adotson+emma+jo&1%2C1%2C>

An Appalachian Curriculum: A Fourth Grade Curriculum Guide. 1995. Mary Chandler, Lisa Gibson, *et al.* "A guide written by teachers for teachers [for use] by any class or group who wishes to learn more about the resources of the Southern Appalachian region." Print copies available for a fee through <http://www.radford.edu/~arsc/resources.html>

The Countdown to the Millennium project combines oral history with a focus on Appalachian Ohio. For a lesson plan, see <http://www.tcomschool.ohiou.edu/cdtm/Lessons.htm>

Discover Appalachia is an interactive map maintained by the National Geographic Society. Resources on the region's history, culture, ecology, and festivals can be accessed by clicking on icons arranged by state. See <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/appalachia/map.html>

Foxfire is an approach to teaching and learning, as well as a source of Appalachian resource materials. See <http://www.foxfire.org/index.html>

Increasing Appalachian Awareness with Classroom Projects. 2000. Selena Hillenberg and Corrina Harmon. Classroom materials for helping Appalachian students discover their heritage. Print copies available for a fee through <http://www.radford.edu/~arsc/resources.html>

Lesson Plan on the Appalachians – People, Culture, Lifestyle. 1999. Jody Honaker. (Fourth grade social studies.) See <http://www.adprima.com/social5.htm>

Nestled in the Misty Mountains: An Appalachian Studies Unit for the Elementary Classroom. 1995. Carol E. Hancock. A 55-page kit of ideas and activities that includes topics such as food, music, and crafts. Print copies available for a fee through <http://www.radford.edu/~arsc/resources.html>

Ohio Appalachia Activity Book: Things to Learn, See, and Do. 2005. Rebecca Baer and Deanna Tribe. Piketon, OH:OSU Extension Center. The Center can be contacted at <http://southcenters.osu.edu/>

Teaching Appalachia: Image and Reality of Appalachian Culture provides 15 lesson plans by topic and by grade level. [This is a broken link and requires two steps to gain access.] Go to <http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&ie=ISO-8859-1&q=teaching+Tennessee+appalachian&btnG=Google+Search> and click on “Teaching Tennessee History.”

A Unit of Study on Appalachian History, Life, and Migration (Grades 5-8). 1975. Kathleen Sowders. Mimeo by the Urban Appalachian Council, Cincinnati, OH. Contact the Council at <http://www.uacvoice.org/>

### **ECONOMICS AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

The Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation website has a strong educational component, including links to a “coal classroom,” academic resources for teachers, an environmental education center, and a “kids page” among others. See [http://www.orangewaternet.org/modules.php?name=Web\\_Links&l\\_op=view\\_link&cid=18](http://www.orangewaternet.org/modules.php?name=Web_Links&l_op=view_link&cid=18) Be sure to check out the 14 teaching modules at [http://www.orangewaternet.org/index.php?name=Content&pa=showpage&p\\_id=4](http://www.orangewaternet.org/index.php?name=Content&pa=showpage&p_id=4)

David Cooper has developed a 15-minute DVD and a teacher’s guide focusing on “the impacts of mountaintop removal coal mining on the communities and environment of Appalachia.” These materials can be obtained at no charge by sending a request to [davecooper928@yahoo.com](mailto:davecooper928@yahoo.com)

## LITERATURE, LANGUAGE, AND FOLKLORE

Applit, Ferrum College's website, provides "Resources for Readers and Teachers of Appalachian Literature for Children and Young Adults" including lesson plans and study guides. See <http://www.ferrum.edu/applit/>

Appalachian Literature, Appalachian Culture: Literature-Based, Cross-Curricular Activities for Middle and High School Classrooms. 2000. Written by Judy Sizemore and edited by Ginny Eager. Published by Forward in the Fifth, and available for a fee through the Jesse Stuart Foundation at <http://www.jsfbooks.com/bookdetails.asp?ProductID=345>

Appalachian Studies in Grades 6-12: Language Arts and English Curricula in Central Appalachia. 1994. Linda J. Wilson. D.Ed. dissertation, Blacksburg, VA: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. See <http://addison.vt.edu/search/awilson%2C+Linda/awilson+linda/1%2C6%2C6%2CB/frameset&FF=awilson+linda+j&1%2C1%2C>

Carol Hurst's Children's Literature Site describes Appalachian picture books, novels, and folktales. See <http://www.carolhurst.com/subjects/appalachiachart.html> For her article on Appalachia in *Teaching K-8 Magazine*, see <http://www.carolhurst.com/subjects/appalachia.html>

George Ella Lyon is a celebrated author of Appalachian-themed children's books. See <http://athena.english.vt.edu/~appalach/writersG/lyon.html>

Cynthia Rylant is an award-winning author of children's books that have an Appalachian focus. See <http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/rylant.htm>

Mountainlit is a website with a West Virginia emphasis that is helpful for teachers and librarians. Provides reviews, essays, and a section on authors of children's literature. See <http://www.mountainlit.com/>

The Southern Appalachian English website offers transcripts and corresponding audio samples of traditional anecdotes. "Many terms in the transcripts are linked to dictionary entries so that browsers can find more detail on them, including further quotations, etymologies, and sometimes brief word histories." See <http://www.cas.sc.edu/engl/dictionary/>

"Using Appalachian Literacies as a Basis for Literacy Learning at School: A Study of a Teacher-Authored Project." 2001. Rosary Lalik and LaNette Dellinger. (Describes the use of storytelling, theater, and music to make a curriculum more relevant to students.) *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, volume 7, number 1. Full text available by accessing the EBSCO Academic Search Complete database from your local library, or available for a fee from the Appalachian Studies Association through <http://www.appalachianstudies.org/contact/>

## MUSIC

- Appalachian Folk Music: A Lesson Plan on Appalachian Folk Music for Grades 4 & 5. N.D. Carmen Billings. See <http://www.lessonplanspage.com/MusicSSAppalachianFolkMusicAndCulture45.htm>
- Appalachian Riddle Song. (Lesson plan for Grades 2-8). See <http://www.teachervision.fen.com/music-styles/lesson-plan/8299.html>
- Mountain Music Study Guide. N.D. Jeff Robins. Includes descriptions of instruments and lyrics to songs. See <http://jeffrobbins.com/study.html> Students can also make and play a simple, one-string guitar as a class project. See <http://jeffrobbins.com/onestring.html>
- Music of the Southern Appalachian Mountains. 2003. Mike Seeger. Includes background information on mountain music, bibliography, and suggested lesson plans. See [http://mikeseeger.info/html/1\\_sgcov.html](http://mikeseeger.info/html/1_sgcov.html)
- Voices from the Mountains. 1996. Guy and Candie Carawan. 256 pages. University of Georgia Press. Contains “words and music to more than fifty ballads and songs, laments and satires, hymns and protests.” See [http://www.ugapress.uga.edu/FMPro?-DB=Testdbwebsite.fp5&-Lay=Layout\\_1&-Format=books\\_details.html&-Token.1=Anthropology&-Token.2=Folklore&-Token.3=&-Token.4=&-RecID=41597&-Find](http://www.ugapress.uga.edu/FMPro?-DB=Testdbwebsite.fp5&-Lay=Layout_1&-Format=books_details.html&-Token.1=Anthropology&-Token.2=Folklore&-Token.3=&-Token.4=&-RecID=41597&-Find)

## REFERENCE BOOKS FOR TEACHERS AND SCHOOL LIBRARIES

- A Handbook to Appalachia: An Introduction to the Region. 2006. Grace Toney Edwards, JoAnn Aust Asbury, and Ricky L. Cox, eds. Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press. See <http://utpress.org/a/searchdetails.php?jobno=T01000>
- Appalachia: Social Context Past and Present. Fifth Edition. 2007. Phillip J. Obermiller and Michael E. Maloney, eds. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishing. See <http://www.kendallhunt.com/index.cfm?PID=219&AUT=&ISB=&DIS=0&GRA=0&DES=&MTC=exact&BOOL=AND&KEY=APPALACHIA&PPS=25&SRT=rank&CMD=detail&SRH=simple&PRD=6742>
- The Appalachians: America’s First and Last Frontier. 2004. Mari-Lynn Evans, Robert Santelli, and Holly George-Warren, eds. New York:Random House. See <http://www.amazon.com/Appalachians-Americas-First-Last-Frontier/dp/1400061865>
- Confronting Appalachian Stereotypes: Back Talk from an American Region. 1999. Dwight Billings, Gurney Norman, and Katherine Ledford, eds. Lexington:

University Press of Kentucky. See  
[http://www.kentuckypress.com/viewbook.cfm?Category\\_ID=1&Group=4&ID=107](http://www.kentuckypress.com/viewbook.cfm?Category_ID=1&Group=4&ID=107)

Encyclopedia of Appalachia. 2006. Jean Haskell and Rudy Abramson, eds. Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press. See <http://cass.etsu.edu/encyclo/index.htm>

High Mountains Rising: Appalachia in Time and Place. 2004. Richard Straw and Tyler Blethen, eds., Champaign, IL:University of Illinois Press. See <http://www.press.uillinois.edu/s04/straw.html>

The United States of Appalachia: How Southern Mountaineers Brought Independence, Culture, and Enlightenment to America. 2006. Jeff Biggers. Emeryville, CA: Shoemaker & Hoard. See [http://www.shoemakerhoard.com/catalog/united\\_appalachia.html](http://www.shoemakerhoard.com/catalog/united_appalachia.html)

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