

Library of Congress and National Archives

- [Immigration: The Changing Face of America](#)—Library of Congress (LoC): *American Memory* online exhibit of immigration-related 19th and 20th century primary sources from the LoC collection.
- [Ship Passenger Arrival Records](#)—National Archives (NARA): Links to digital immigration records for arrivals to the United States from foreign ports between approximately 1820 and 1982, arranged by Port of Arrival.

Historical Sources

- [English Bill of Rights \(1689\)](#)
- [Virginia Declaration of Rights \(1776\)](#)
- [Declaration of Independence \(1776\)](#)

Law

- [The Great Binding Law, Gayanashagowa State \(The Constitution of the Iroquois Confederacy, n.d.\)](#)
- [Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo \(1848\)](#)
- [Chinese Exclusion Act \(1882\)](#)

Supreme Court: [Roper v. Simmons](#) (2005)

General Fiction and Non-Fiction

- William Bradford, “The First Thanksgiving” from [Of Plymouth Plantation](#) (1620-1647, publ. 1912)
- Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (1835-9)
- Israel Zangwill, “The Melting Pot” (play) (1908)
- Ernest Hemingway, *A Farewell to Arms* (1929)
- M.K. Gandhi, *Non-Violent Resistance* (1951)
- Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior* (1975)
- Gloria Anzaldúa, “How to Tame a Wild Tongue” (1987)

Poetry: [Cole Porter](#) Songs (1928 – 1958)

Children’s Literature

[Norah Dooley](#), *Everybody Books* (1991-2002)

Young Adult Literature

Younghill Kang, *East Goes West* (1997)

Web Resources

- [James McNeil Whistler](#)—Smithsonian Institution, Freer Gallery of Art: Online exhibition about Whistler with interactive portion related to the Peacock Room.
- [“What They Left Behind: Early Multi-National Influences in the United States”](#)—EDSITEment: National Endowment for the Humanities. Lesson and activities about the history of the various European nations in North America.
- [History in the Key of Jazz: World War II](#)—PBS: Website to accompany the Ken Burns series *Jazz* that focuses on jazz in Europe during World War II.
- [Olana State Historic Site](#)—New York State Office of Parks: Frederick Edwin Church of the Hudson River School built this intensely decorated Persian-style villa with a magnificent view of the Hudson River.

Mass Moments is an online compendium of stories from Massachusetts history, including the following ones that touch on the topic of *Global Connections*.

[First Missionaries Leave for Hawaii: On October 23, 1819](#) a crowd gathered on a Boston wharf to bid farewell to the first Protestant missionaries bound for Hawaii. Among them were seven Massachusetts couples, four of them recently married.

[Herman Melville Sails from New Bedford: On January 3, 1841](#), Melville boarded the whale ship *Acushnet* out of New Bedford, the whaling capital of the world. As he later wrote, the *Acushnet* was Ishmael’s “Yale College and Harvard.”

[First Esperanto Society Formed: On February 16, 1905](#), the first Esperanto Society in the United States was established in Boston. The Esperanto language was created in the 1880’s to promote international communication.

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Picturing America

V. GLOBAL CONNECTIONS



Clockwise from top:

- Mission Concepción, San Antonio, Texas, 1775 ([1-B](#))
- Silver of the 18th, 19th & 20th Centuries ([2-B](#))
- Gilbert Stuart, *George Washington*, 1796 ([3-B](#))
- Ohio State Capitol, 1838 – 1861 ([7-A](#))
- James McNeil Whistler, *The Peacock Room*, 1876 – 1877 ([11-B](#))
- Childe Hassam, *Allies Day, May 1917* ([12-B](#))
- William Van Alen, *Chrysler Building*, 1926 – 1930 ([15-B](#))
- Thomas Hart Benton, *The Sources of Country Music*, 1975 ([18-A](#))

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V. GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Much of what is considered “American” culture was born as far outside its borders as the word. From food (pasta), clothing (pajamas), and music (jazz), America and Americans are living proof of historic global connections – which have benefitted American artists. Conversely, American art forms are practiced throughout the world, and democracy is often seen as an American export as much as the moving assembly line. This set of art works asks you to consider the influence of other cultures on American art, politics and culture, as well as consider how the United States influences people and cultures around the world.

Taking Inventory

Note the diversity of forms, colors, styles and symbols in these images. Do you recognize references to other nations and cultures outside the United States? Can you identify specific details to suggest this?

National Culture United States politics and culture are deeply rooted in the ideals of the classical world of ancient Greece and Rome, where republicanism and democracy first flourished. Especially during the federal period (1780 – 1830), American architects and painters frequently referenced classical forms and motifs.

- Consider Silver of the 18th, 19th & 20th Centuries, *George Washington*, and Ohio State Capital, 1838 – 1861 as you look for classical columns and Greek temple-like shapes.
- Compare Mission Concepción and the Ohio State Capital. How are they different stylistically? Similar? Look at rooflines, symmetry, mass (bulky, heavy, light, airy), and the decoration of each. What could account for this?
- In what ways do buildings inform us about the people/cultures who constructed them?

Trade, Industry, and Culture

- Whistler’s *Peacock Room* is full of references to Asian art and culture, known to Americans through trade with the Far East in the 18th century, and highly fashionable during the last years of the 19th century.

In *Peacock Room*, locate:

- 1) The blue and white china filling the shelves;
- 2) Peacocks;
- 3) A kimono-like robe;
- 4) The sheen of the room.

Compare the colors and design of this room with the other images in the set.

- Compare Silver #2 to the *Chrysler Building*. This style is called Art Deco. Though French in origin, the style found its greatest expression in the United States, influenced by industrial design. List some of the characteristics.

War Hassam’s *Allies Day, May 1917* uses color as well as patterns to visually unite three nations.

- Which nations are represented?
- Notice the similarity in colors and tone in all three nation’s flags. How does this choice of a color palette suggest a message of international influence and cooperation? Now pay attention to the specific organization of the flags.

(Im)migration The title of Benton’s *The Sources of Country Music* suggests that “country” is an American form of music. Yet both Benton’s style of painting and much of this work’s content celebrate the global influences that have, together, created this American staple.

- Notice the instruments in the painting, and the individuals playing them and moving about the mural. Which details suggest non-US sources for country music? (Note: parts of the US once belonged to other nations).
- Benton’s use of massive forms, twisted compositions and distorted figures tie this work to European modernism. Identify three figures that reflect these descriptive terms.
- The light on the front of the train creates a highlighted area of the painting. What might be Benton’s intent?

A Closer Look

The twentieth century is also called “the American Century.” Does any of the art here give a hint of that?

What nicknames would you give the 18th and 19th centuries, based on the art in this set?

Children’s Activity



1. Look closely at The Ohio State Capital and the Chrysler Building. Notice all of the decorations and designs on each.
2. On a separate piece of paper, draw some of what you see.
3. Which do you like better?

Optional: Try to find examples of each type of decoration and design in your city or town.