DPLA Network Primary Source Grant

Lake Erie & The Modern Environmental Movement

Morgan McQueen, Ohio History Connection

Why this topic?

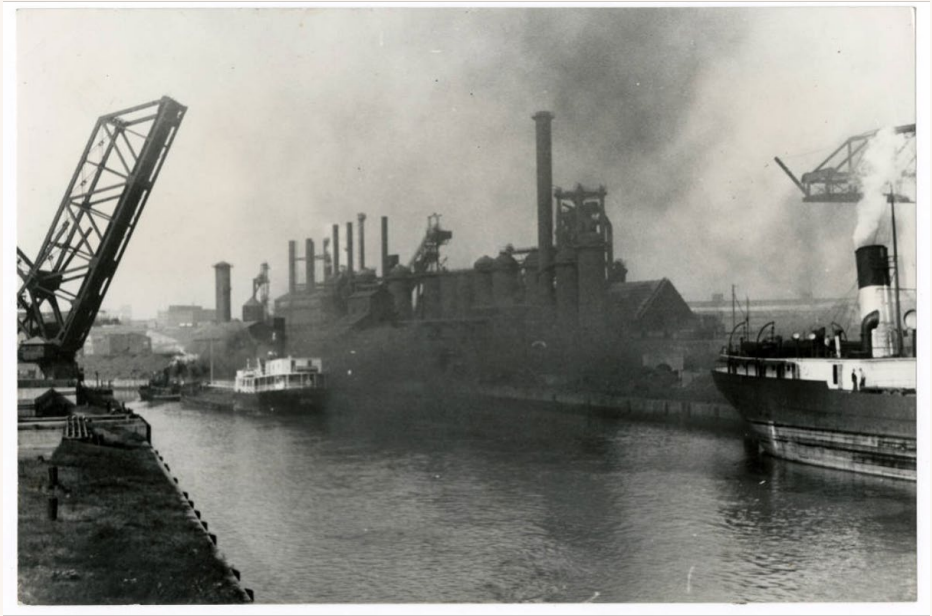
- DPLA call for proposal areas of focus
- An often misunderstood topic
- Lake Erie demonstrative of broader historical trends
- Professional research area

Initial Research

- Searching for Lake Erie pollution, refining search
- Tributaries' pollution
- Existing sources from past research: do they exist on DPLA?
    - If not, what do we replace them with?
- Broaden outside key terms, looking into govt. records



Lost Beaches.. 1972-03. Retrieved from the Digital Public Library of America, https://ark.digitalcommonwealth.org/ark:/50959/9z9069886.



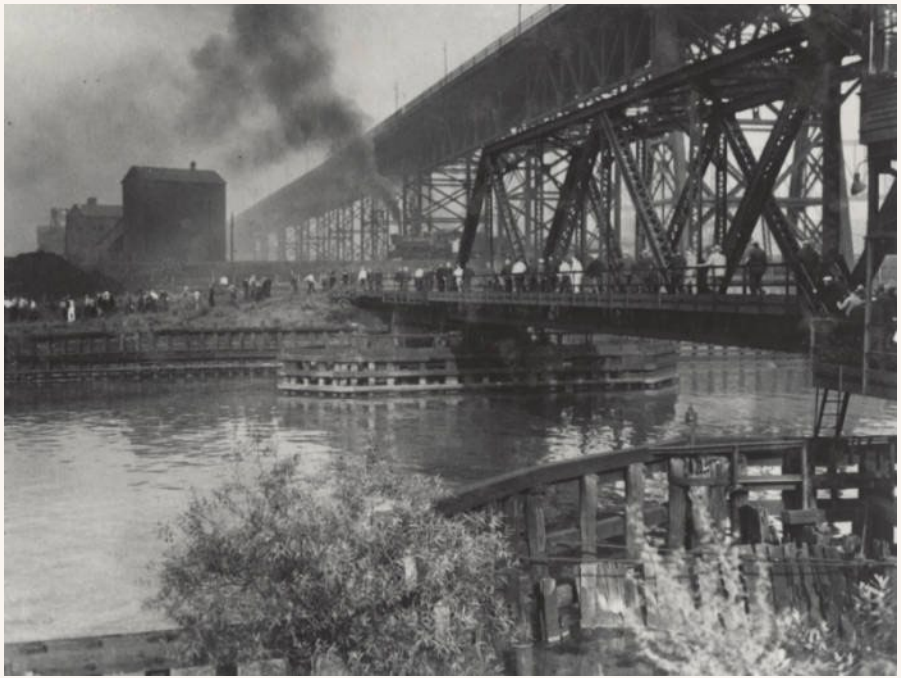
Refining Sources

- Federal sources: a plethora
- Local sources: less kid-friendly
- Diversity of source type, readability
- Considering discussion questions, activities, and the standards/skills students would engage with

Ohio Federal Writers' Project. Republic Steel plant in Cleveland. Cleveland (Ohio), Cuyahoga County (Ohio), 1940s. Retrieved from the Digital Public Library of America, http://www.ohiomemory.org/cdm/ref/collection/p267401coll34/id/7093.

Translating Sources into Discussion Questions

- Standards: what skills and content areas does this topic cover?
- Going beyond “yes” and “no” questions
- Variety of source formats
- Differentiation



Corrigan-McKinney Steel Co. Workers. 1937. Retrieved from the Digital Public Library of America, http://cplorg.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/p4014coll18/id/112.



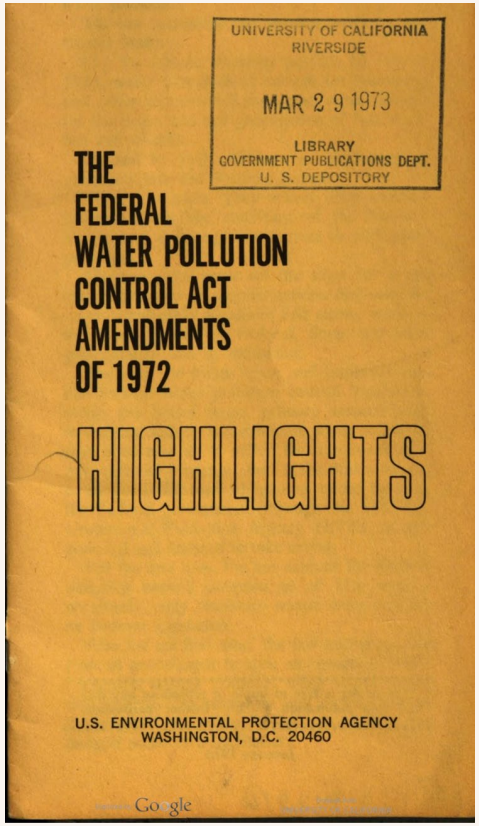
Translating Sources into Activities

- Standards (part 2)
- Fun, engaging, adaptable
  - Sneaky skill practice
  - Built-in differentiation and opportunities to add more
- Group size
- Visual, hands-on; minimizing "lecture" time

Standard Oil Company, Oregon, Ohio [approximately 1940]. Oregon (Ohio), Lucas County (Ohio), 1940. Retrieved from the Digital Public Library of America, http://www.ohiomemory.org/cdm/ref/collection/p16007coll33/id/194764.

Challenges

- Cutting down sources to manageable number
  - Determining the most valuable option for a given subject
  - Ensuring balance of source types while also ensuring full story is told
- Searching beyond “Lake Erie”
- Representing broader US history without overwhelming students
- Providing context without overwhelming students



United States. Environmental Protection Agency. Office of Public Affairs. The Federal water pollution control act amendments of 1972 : highlights. 1973. Retrieved from the Digital Public Library of America, http://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/102180413.

Thank You!

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