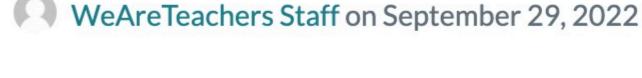
TOPIC: Social Studies, Sponsored | GRADES: High School:

**Lesson Plans** 

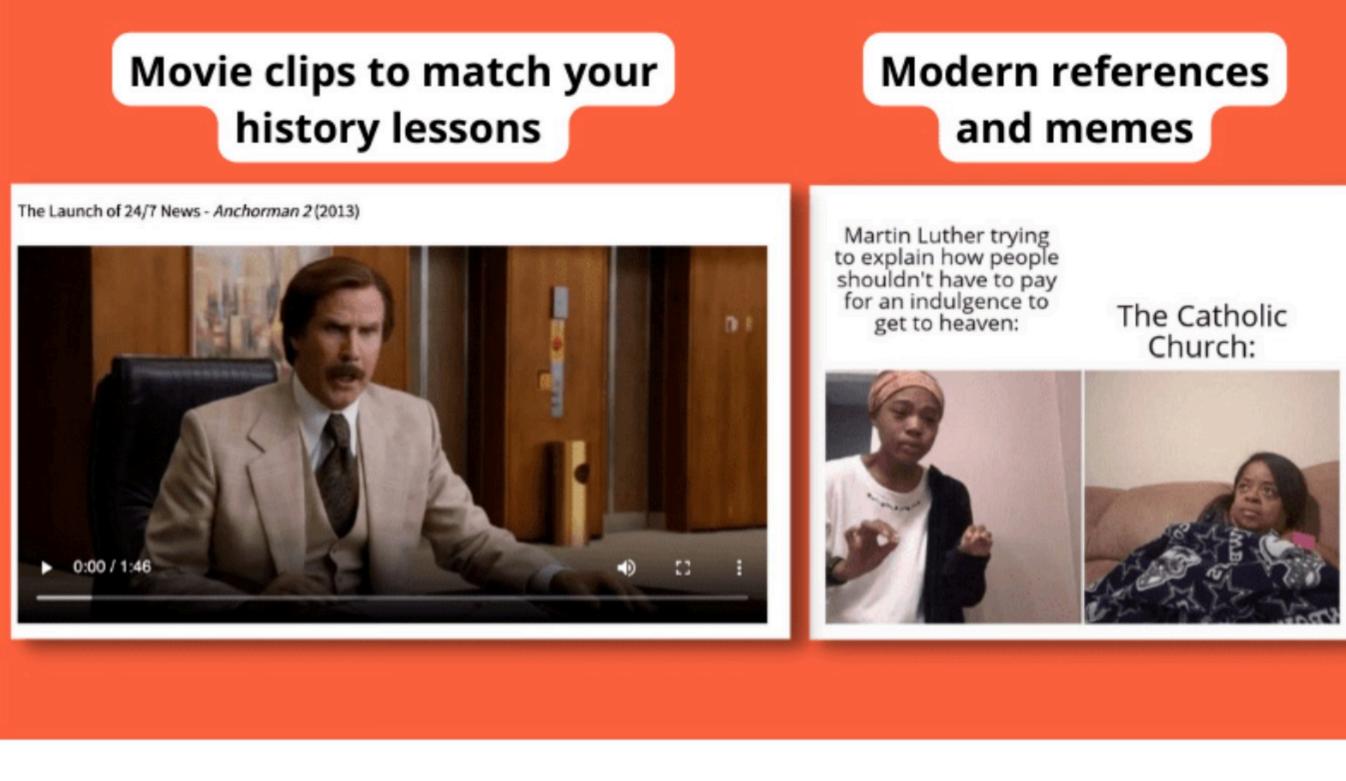
Classroom Ideas

## How I Use Pop Culture To Teach History, and You Can Too!

And psssst, it's free!







**Poptential**<sup>™</sup>

Content is available for World History, American History, Economics, and Government!

students, exciting to teach, and something that felt like "me."

Brought to you by Poptential

As I entered my 22nd year as a teacher, I found myself teaching high school World History for the first time. I was searching for an online platform for my

Get FREE standards-based lessons, videos, quizzes, bellringers and more that

include pop culture references to keep your social studies students engaged!

social studies content that ties in pop culture. I must say, I immediately knew I'd struck gold. The platform is 100% free and includes a blend of short video clips and text so I can reach the different learning styles of my students. The best part? Throughout the lessons, you'll find clips from movies and shows, memes, and modern references that your students can relate to. As a music and movie lover, I knew that this curriculum would work for both me and my students. You'll find references from Parks and Rec, Anchorman, Miracle on Ice, Moana, House of Cards, and so much more.

curriculum that fit my personal teaching style. It needed to be engaging for my

At the suggestion of a colleague, I looked into **Poptential**, an online suite of free

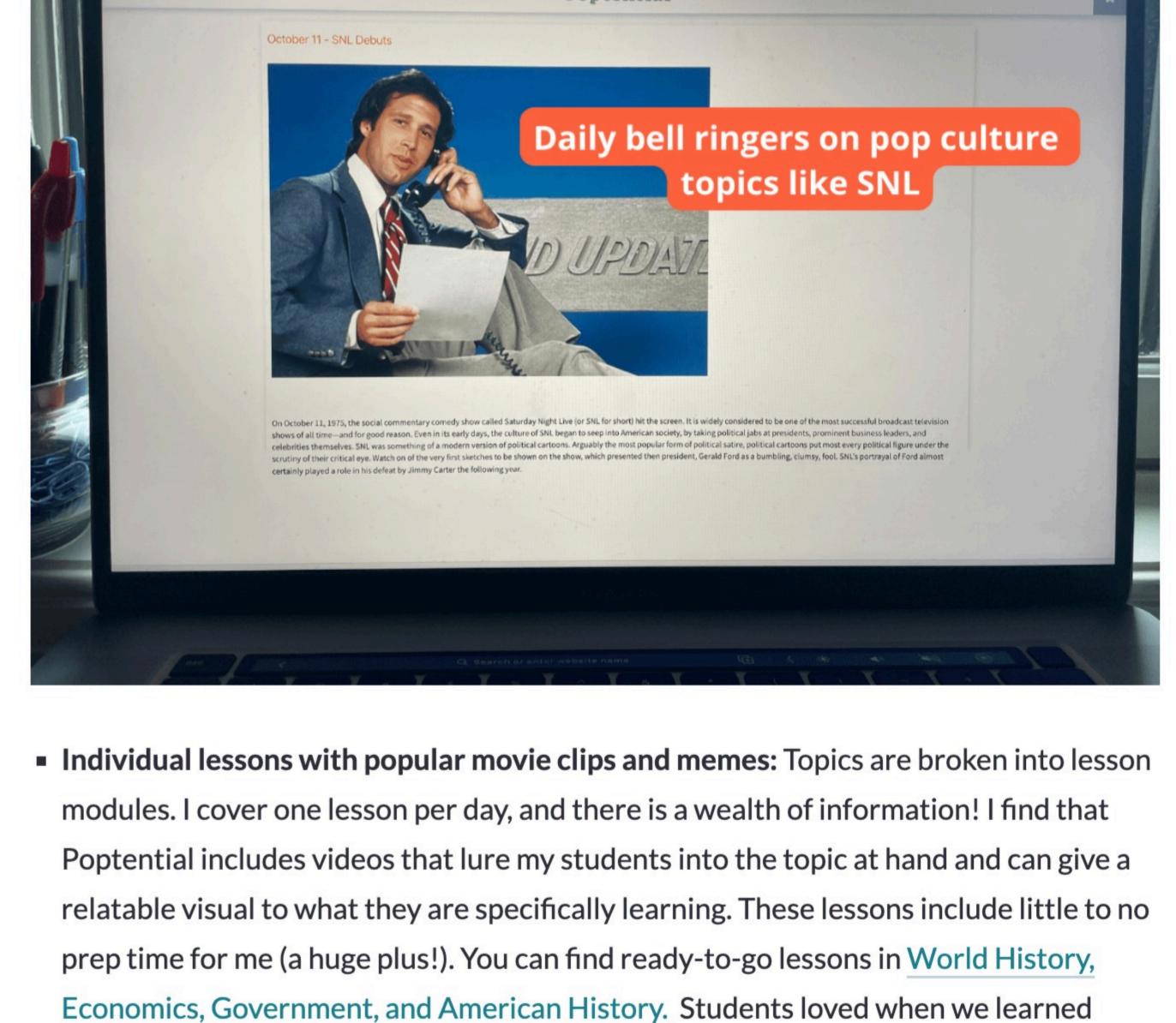
## quickly draw my students in at the start of class. Some topics include Vince Lombardi's fight for equality, the history of MTV, the evolution of the Secret Service, and SNL's

My favorite Poptential resources

debut. I have to set a timer or we'd easily lose ourselves in this section of our lesson! **Poptential** 

■ Bell ringers based on modern media: Poptential has history bell ringers for every day

of the school year (most have video clips included!). These modern media topics

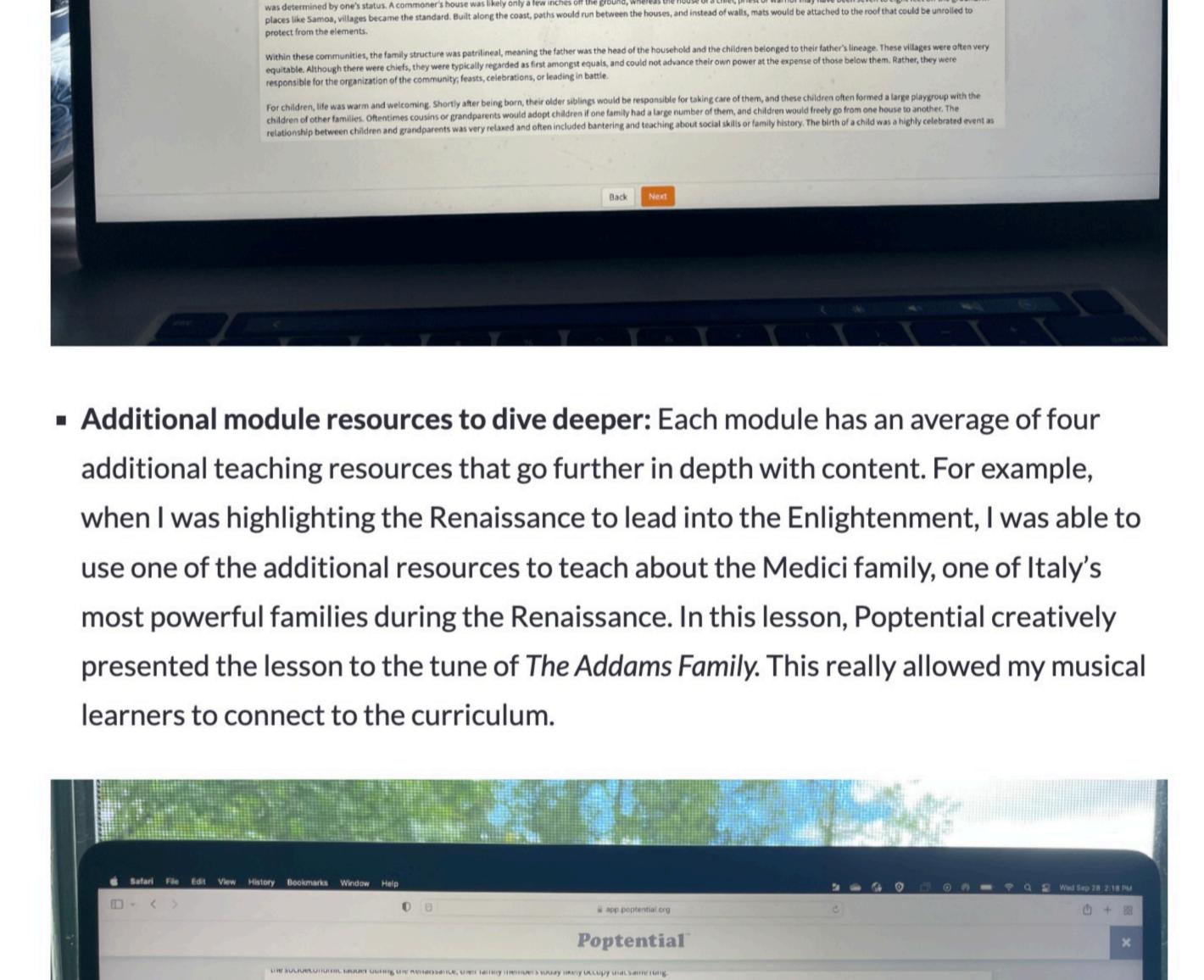


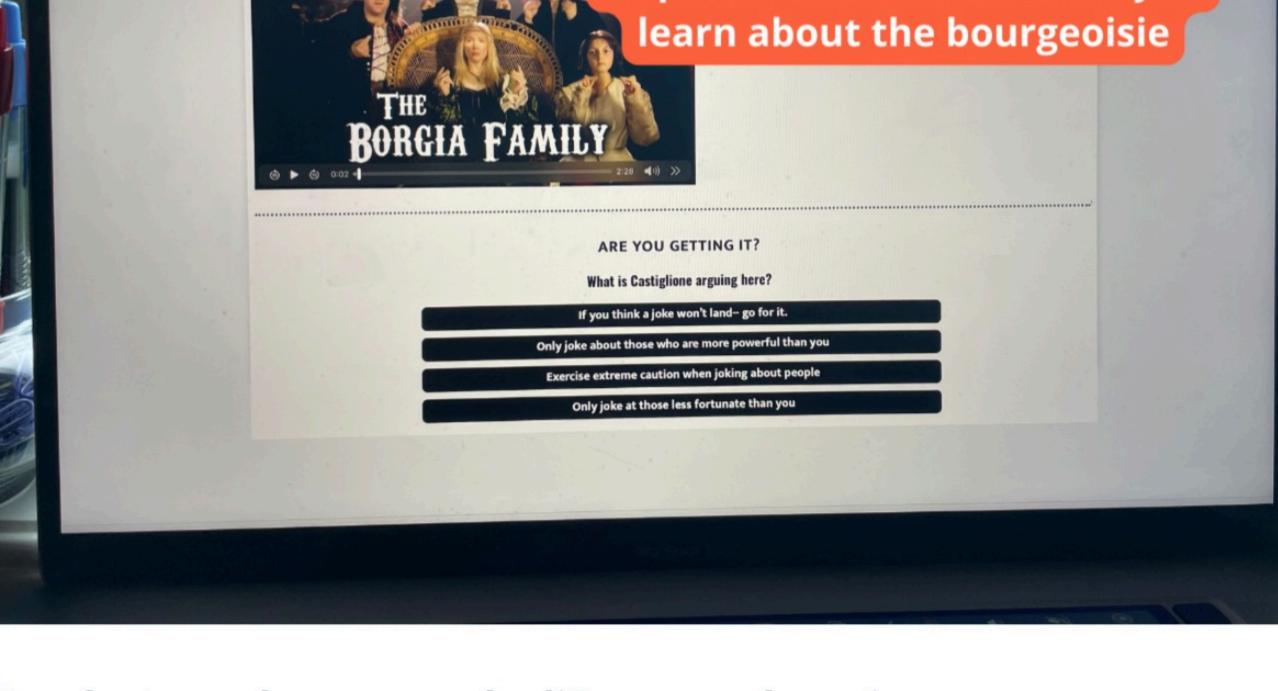
Poptential The settlement of Polynesia was the final phase of human migration that began 200,000 years ago, as it is the furthest and most difficult land to reach. The Polynesians developed astounding navigational skills using little to no technology and only basic vehicles. They used a double canoe made of two hulls, typically fifty to sixty feet long, that were connected with crossing beams of wood. A platform was then laid over these beams, providing storage, working space, and sleeping space. Each individual canoe could carry roughly two dozen people and their supplies, as well as animals and plants. They were also complete with paddles for when the wind swells, stars, the lapping of waves against the canoes, the flight patterns of t Teach about Polynesia with **Moana and Hawaii Five-O** Once these Polynesian islands were settled, distinct cultures began to develop, although interaction between these islands was frequent and they shared many cultural similarities. Nearly every facet of Polynesian society encouraged a close-knit sense of community, one that emphasized relationships and kindness. Polynesian society was typically organized into hamlets, especially on the

larger, volcanic islands in which resources were fairly spread out. These hamlets consisted of a few houses and a couple extended families. They typically were in valleys and had gardens, taro patches, and coconut and breadfruit trees nearby. The houses were rectangular shaped with a thatched roof and open across the front, and they would be elevated on platforms, the height of which was determined by one's status. A commoner's house was likely only a few inches off the ground, whereas the house of a chief, priest or warrior may have been seven to eight feet off the ground. In

■ IDS://app.poptential.org/ereader/jiOMUou9GVFVkhwmY0vAW?chapterUUID=18R6hdiBMQbTd0yBm3dgit C

about Polynesia and watched a portion of Moana and Hawaii Five-O!





"Moreover we must diligently consider the bounds and limits of exciting laughter by derision, and who it is we deride; for laughter is not aroused by jeering at a poor unfortunate nor yet at an open rascal and blackguard, because the latter seems to merit greater punishment than of being ridiculed...We out also to treat with respect those who are universal favorites and beloved by all and

A spin on the Addams Family to

erful, for by jeering at these persons a man may sometimes bring dangerous enmities upon himself," page 124 of the book of the courtier

## Ready-to-go lessons make life so much easier.

My students are excited to participate in class.

The curriculum closely aligns with learning standards, so pulling together additional resources is not necessary (saving my valuable time). This allows more time to focus on other areas of life! I feel that as a huge fan of pop culture, I am able to be real in the classroom, teaching with passion and sharing content with my students in a way I know will be memorable.

My students' excitement and engagement with Poptential content is evident in daily Q&As. The pop culture references are truly engaging, and students love that they are able to learn with these memorable connections. I fully put my stamp of approval on this free curriculum. It has ignited an excitement for World History, not only for myself but also for my students!

Whether you teach Government, Economics, American History, or World History, using Poptential will increase student engagement and classroom effectiveness. Check out Poptential now to get this free curriculum that includes standards-based lessons, videos, bell ringers, quizzes, and more, ready-to-go for your history classroom.



Posted by WeAreTeachers Staff

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