

Law Day Resources - 2017
Theme: “Celebrating Nebraska’s Legal Landscape – 1867-2017”
Classroom Resources



Nebraska’s 150th Anniversary

Nebraska became a state on March 1, 1867. This year, it will celebrate 150 years of statehood. The Bar Foundation and the Nebraska Supreme Court together have been named a Nebraska 150 Celebration Official Program Partner. To read more about state’s Sesquicentennial and events scheduled around the state, visit <https://ne150.org/>.

Now You Know Nebraska

Videos, playlists, and channels designed to be used as teaching tools
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCCgcZHpdAb2_UGuVOMh3EA

I Am Nebraska

A website where Nebraskans can upload oral history videos that could one day end up in the Nebraska State Historical Society’s archives
<https://iamnebraska.com/>

Before and After Statehood Information and Activities

Nebraska Studies Website

<http://nebraskastudies.org/0300/frameset.html>

This website has been developed by the Nebraska State Historical Society, Nebraska Educational Telecommunications, and the Nebraska Department of Education. It provides a historical timeline for Nebraska, even before statehood. Following are some of the pre-statehood dates of note:

- 1541 – Coronado/Spanish
- 1600 – Native Tribes Return to the Plains
- 1650 – Horses Stolen from Spanish Transform Native Lives
- 1720 – Villasur Sent to Nebraska
- 1714 – French Trader Uses Oto Word to Name “Nebraskier”
- 1803 – Louisiana Purchase
- 1814 – Fur Trader Manuel Lisa Settles Bellevue
- 1820 – Fort Atkinson Built
- 1830 – Oregon Trail
- 1854 – Kansas-Nebraska Act Signed

1855 – First African-American Settler/Free Public Schools

1862 – Homestead Act Signed/Union Pacific Railroad Chartered

Seven eras, each covering 25 years, are featured. There are also six sections titled “Notable Nebraskans.” Susan La Flesche Picotte and J. Sterling Morton are among the notables.

There are teacher activities and lesson plans available for each period. The pages also include maps, paintings, political cartoons, and videos. While Nebraska Social Studies Standards are listed, please check to be sure they are the current Standards.

Nebraska State Motto

“Equality Before the Law”: Thoughts on the Origin of Nebraska’s State Motto

Nebraska legislator Isaac Wiles created the motto, which was adopted on June 15, 1867.

This article about its origin comes from *Nebraska History*, a publication of the Nebraska State Historical Society. <http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/history/full-text/NH2010Motto.pdf>

Fourteenth Amendment, U.S. Constitution

One day after adopting the State Motto, the Nebraska Legislature ratified the Fourteenth Amendment, making it the 24th state to do so. It extended “equal protection of the laws” to all people within a state’s jurisdiction.

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/amendmentxiv>

Use of State Seal

The words of the State Motto appear at the top of the State Seal, which is kept for official use in the office of Nebraska’s Secretary of State. Replication of the State Seal in print or other media requires special permission from the Secretary.

<http://www.sos.ne.gov/symbols/seal.html>

Flying the State Flag

Official guidelines for displaying the State Flag

http://www.sos.ne.gov/protocol/flag_stat.html

Legislative Resolution 3 – Proposed Resolution to Create a New State Flag Design

http://www.omaha.com/news/legislature/nebraska-s-state-flag-could-get-a-makeover-resolution-says/article_f2442022-d37f-11e6-8b02-77b563f1d792.html

History of the Nebraska State Capitol

The current Capitol was the third such building to be constructed in Lincoln. Here is a brief history of Nebraska’s capitols, located first in Omaha, then in Lincoln. From this page you may also find tabs telling more about the building itself; how to arrange a visit; and resources for students and teachers.

<http://capitol.nebraska.gov/index.php/building/history/nebraska-capitols>

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Nebraska Blue Book

State Executive Branch, Pages 409-750

<http://nebraskalegislature.gov/about/blue-book.php>

Early Nebraska Governors and Their Mansions

Article: "Housing Nebraska's Governors, 1854-1980," *Nebraska History*, by Peg Poesche

The current mansion, built in 1956, is the second one for housing Nebraska governors. The first governor's mansion dates back to 1899. This article provides legislative background for building the residences, some of the experiences of the residents, as well as interior and exterior photos.

<http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/history/full-text/NH1980GovHouses.pdf>

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Nebraska Blue Book

State Legislative Branch, pages 269-408

<http://nebraskalegislature.gov/about/blue-book.php>

"Compiling a Nebraska Legislative History"

By Patrick J. Charles

Gives step-by step guide for compiling a legislative history in Nebraska.

http://www.creighton.edu/fileadmin/user/law-school/library/Library_Publications/CompilingAnebraskaLegislativeHistory.pdf

Nebraska Statutes Index

Includes all legislative bills passed and approved and all ballot measures passed by voter approval through May 2015.

The Topics Headings Outline lists Business and Commerce, Government, and Human Affairs. More than 40 sub-headings of Nebraska laws are listed.

<http://nebraskalegislature.gov/pdf/revisor/2015statutesindex.pdf>

JUDICIAL BRANCH

Nebraska Blue Book

State Judicial Branch, pages 751-798

<http://nebraskalegislature.gov/about/blue-book.php>

Famous Nebraska Cases

Standing Bear vs. Crook - 1879

Background and lesson plan

<https://tinyurl.com/mqhuyjv>

Daniel Freeman vs. John Scheve, et. al. – 1902

History of case on Homestead Nation Monument of America's website

<https://tinyurl.com/jsbchss>

Meyer v. Nebraska – 1923

A Supreme Court lesson plan from iCivics

Asks what effects landmark cases such as Meyer v. Nebraska have on everyday life

<http://tinyurl.com/hnxmlxs>

Wounded Knee Trials – Judge Urbom

Lincoln Journal Star article, October 29, 2012, with remembrances by Judge Warren K. Urbom who presided over the trials.

<http://tinyurl.com/c7mafwb>

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Homestead National Monument of America

<https://www.nps.gov/home/index.htm>

Nebraska State Historical Society

Teaching Materials

<http://www.nebraskahistory.org/museum/teachers/material/>

Nebraska Humanities

<http://humanitiesnebraska.org/>

Center for Great Plains Studies

<http://www.unl.edu/plains/welcome>

US Board on Geographic Names

This is a federal body created to maintain uniform geographic name usage in the United States.

<https://geonames.usgs.gov/>

PUBLICATIONS

Many of these publications may be found in your local library.

2014-15 Nebraska Blue Book

(This is the most current version available.)

Online: <http://nebraskalegislature.gov/about/blue-book.php>

The History of Nebraska Law, Edited by Alan G. Gless, Ohio University Press, 2008.

<http://www.ohioswallow.com/book/The++History+of+Nebraska+Law>

Law in the American West Series

University of Nebraska Press

<http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/catalog/ProductSearch.aspx?ExtendedSearch=false&SearchOnLoad=true&rhl=Law+in+the+American+West&sj=770&rhdcid=770>

I Am a Man: Chief Standing Bear's Journey for Justice by Joe Starita, St. Martin's Griffin

<http://us.macmillan.com/books/9780312606381>

Standing Bear of the Ponca by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, illustrated by Thomas Floyd, University of Nebraska Press

<http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/product/Standing-Bear-of-the-Ponca,675774.aspx>

The Press is also making the book available at a significant discount to the Nebraska 150 Committee. The Committee will, in turn, give each Nebraska fifth grader a copy of the book in the fall of 2017.

Images of America Series

Arcadia Publishing

<https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Search?searchtext=Nebraska&searchmode=anyword&searchoption=SKUShortDescription>

- Historic Railroads of Nebraska
- Nebraska State Fair
- Nebraska's Cowboy Rail Line
- Nebraska Courthouses: Contention, Compromise & Community
- Nebraska POW Camps: A History of World War II Prisoners in the Heartland
- Norfolk, Nebraska

- Alliance, Nebraska
- Nebraska City, Nebraska

The Little Book of Cowboy Law by Cecil C. Kuhne III, American Bar Association
<http://shop.americanbar.org/eBus/Store/ProductDetails.aspx?productId=213139>

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Mobile Children's Museum

Visiting 42 Nebraska communities, the museum brings play, interactivity, and technology opportunities to help children. More information coming soon.

<https://ne150.org/museum/>

Omaha World Herald article with museum schedule, March 9, 2017:

<http://tinyurl.com/zqaa4ay>