

BIG HISTORY PROJECT



Australia Pilot Application

Overview

Big History

Big History is an interdisciplinary approach to history that places the human past within the largest context possible, from the beginnings of the universe up until life on Earth today. In investigating major questions, it unifies history and the humanities with the latest findings in many scientific fields. The Big History Project is designed to test and refine i) problem-based curriculum for high school students ii) professional development programs, iii) assessment tools and iv) technology needed to support quality instruction for all students. Schools selected to participate will have free access to the curriculum and course resources. Professional development will also be a critical part of the program (details TBA).

Call for Applications

We invite high schools to apply for Phase II of the Big History Project pilot. The pilot will include as many as 15 Australian schools that commit to teaching Big History beginning in Term 1 2013. Participating schools have the opportunity to pioneer the curriculum and will play key roles in evaluating and improving the course. We are committed to including a diverse set of schools and making every participating school successful.

To apply, please complete and mail this form to:

Big History Project PO Box 97000 Kirkland, WA 98083 USA

We will start to review applications September 1, 2011 and will work closely with schools in consideration. We expect to provide final notification to all applicants in March 2012.

For more information about the Big History Project, please visit us online at www.bighistoryproject.com. With questions about this application, please email pilot@bighistoryproject.com.

School Information

School _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Web Page _____

Principal's Name _____

Principal's Phone Number _____ Principal's Email Address _____

Applicant Name _____ Applicant Title _____

Applicant Phone Number _____ Applicant Email Address _____

School Characteristics

Our ambition is to see Big History taught in all types of schools, all over the world. During the pilot, we are seeking participation from a diverse set of schools and encourage schools of all types and widely varying student populations to apply.

Which grades are part of your school? _____

What is the size of your student population? _____

What is the student/teacher ratio? _____

What percentage of students are on free or reduced lunch? _____

What type of school is yours? State Catholic Independent School

What best describes your school location? Urban Suburban Rural

What, if any, history/social science electives are offered at your school?

What, if any, science electives are offered at your school?

Technology

Big History Project is a technology-based syllabus. At a minimum, the course requires the classroom to have a PC, LCD/ projector, and reliable high-speed Internet connection.

Can your school meet these requirements? Yes No

We expect that the student and teacher experience with Big History will be much-improved by access to an Internet-connected PC outside of class (at home, in a school lab or library is desirable).

What percentage of your students have access to Internet-connected PCs at home? _____

Big History Interest

In an attached letter not more than 2-pages total, please number and provide short answers to each of the questions below.

1. How will your school enhance the effectiveness of the Big History Project pilot?

Big History is currently being piloted in public and independent schools in Washington state, Michigan, California and Massachusetts. These schools have taken a wide range of approaches to accommodating the course – some treating it as an optional elective, others enabling students to take it in lieu of a World History requirement or an alternative to interdisciplinary studies requirement.

2. What ideas do you have for incorporating Big History into your school's curriculum?

3. What steps do you need to take to secure official approval for the course being taught starting in Term 1 2013?

Teachers in the Phase I of the Big History Project pilot work solo and as teams. They come from a variety of backgrounds spanning history, science and even international languages. They all share a willingness to learn and excitement to help pioneer a new kind of class.

4. Who at your school should teach Big History and why?

5. What concerns do you have about Big History?

Signatures

Applicant's Name Printed _____

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Principal's Name Printed _____

Principal's Signature _____ Date _____