

Research, in the California ELA/ELD Framework, is tied to 21st-century learning. Emphasis is placed on the critical thinking required to sift “through the mountains of information made available through technology” (Chapter 2). Perhaps more important, it is tied to the kind of learning that matters in today’s world because it is inquiry-based. In researching, students review texts and images that span time periods, genres, and disciplinary boundaries. In addition, this work involves one of the major new points of emphasis in the revised standards: responding and arguing from textual evidence.

The Amplify Research Collections support this kind of learning with diverse and interdisciplinary materials. The Chocolate Collection, for instance, ranges in history and geography from prehistoric Native American and ancient Aztec civilizations, through colonial West Africa, 18th-century Italy, 19th-century France, and the 20th and 21st-century United States. It takes in labor analysis by William Cadbury, opera by Mozart, and beat literature from Jack Kerouac. Everything but actually eating chocolate is included. In the end, issues including ethics (exploitation), environment, and health are brought to bear on the question of whether school lunches should include chocolate.

Research archives

Lapham’s Archives: Collections designed for independent research

Lapham’s Archives are collections of texts and images focused on a theme that were developed in collaboration with the editors at the literary magazine *Lapham’s Quarterly*. There are 17 in all, and they span a wide range of topics, from Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad to Chichén Itzá to Cesar Chavez. Each Archive contains two research-style questions for students to use as guides through their reading and information-gathering. The research questions from the archive on Japanese internment camps during WWII ask, “What happened to individuals who refused to swear loyalty to the US government? Why was choosing allegiance to America over allegiance to Japan such a difficult choice for some Japanese-Americans?” A question from the archive on Cesar Chavez and migrant workers asks, “What methods did farm workers use to protest their unfair treatment, and why were they effective?”

The research skills that students have developed in the Collections curriculum units have provided them with the tools they need to set out on their own and explore the archives. As students continue to hone their researching skills, they start to demonstrate a number of the “capacities of literate individuals” discussed in the California ELA/ELD Framework. They demonstrate:

- Independence.
- Content knowledge.
- An appreciation of evidence.
- Comprehension and ability to critique.

Archives selections

Each of the Archives listed below includes dozens of individual written and visual resources to support students' research and can be accessed through the Amplify Library.

African-American Women Writers
Body Snatchers
Cesar Chavez and Migrant Workers
Chichén Itzá
Chinese Cultural Revolution
Creation Myths and End of Days
Edgar Allan Poe
Emily Dickinson
Gandhi

Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad
Japanese Internment Camps
Modern Day Romeo and Juliet
Navajo Code Talkers
Norse Mythology
Sacagawea
The Silk Road
Yosemite and John Muir