



AP LEARNING AND
EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL



Exceptional Educational Journeys

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I am thrilled to introduce this invaluable resource designed to elevate the educational experience for both AP History teachers and students. As a former educator with 18 years of classroom experience, including serving as an Advanced Placement (AP) history teacher, and as someone who has had the privilege of working as a College Board-endorsed consultant for AP World History, I understand the importance of providing educators with tools that enhance their teaching and enrich their students' learning journey. Embracing these roles, teaching, and traveling with students, has immensely enriched my life, expanding my worldview, creating joy, and shaping me into a lifelong learner and passionate traveler.

This resource is a testament to our commitment to bridging the gap between classroom instruction and real-world experiences through educational travel. ACIS empowers educators to inspire the next generation of global citizens through exceptional educational travel experiences, going beyond traditional textbooks and lectures.

As educators, we recognize that some of the most profound lessons take place beyond the classroom walls. It's through exploration and experiential learning that students gain a deep understanding of historical events, cultures, and civilizations. Our ultimate goal is to empower educators to invigorate history lessons while seamlessly aligning with the rigorous requirements of the AP program's course content and objectives, making the classroom and educational travel a transformative and enriching journey.





AP History Courses Share the Same Reasoning Processes and Historical Thinking Skills

AP European History, AP World History, and other AP courses interlink through a shared emphasis on critical analysis and global perspectives, fostering a comprehensive understanding of history's intricate tapestry and preparing students for advanced academic challenges.

THE GOALS OF AP HISTORY LEARNING

Using three different AP History Classes, let us examine the key learning skills that unite them.

1. [CED — AP European History](#)
2. [CED — AP World History: Modern](#)
3. [CED — AP United States History](#)

AP REASONING PROCESSES- 3 C'S

Reasoning Process 1 Comparison (Similarity and Difference)

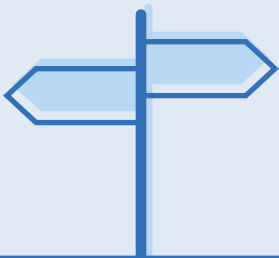
1. Describe similarities and/or differences between different historical developments or processes.
2. Explain relevant similarities and/ or differences between specific historical developments and processes.
3. Explain the relative historical significance of similarities and/or differences between different historical developments or processes.

Reasoning Process 2 Causation (Cause and Effect)

1. Describe the causes and/or effects of a specific historical development or process.
2. Explain the relationship between the causes and effects of a specific historical development or process.
3. Explain the difference between primary and secondary causes and between short- and long-term effects.
4. Explain how a relevant context influenced a specific historical development or process.
5. Explain the relative historical significance of different causes and/ or effects.

Reasoning Process 3 Continuity and Change (Continuity and Change)

1. Describe patterns of continuity and/or change over time.
2. Explain patterns of continuity and/or change over time.
3. Explain the relative historical significance of specific historical developments in relation to a larger pattern of continuity and/or change.



BRINGING THE 3C'S ABROAD

In Italy, AP students engage with key historical themes—Renaissance innovation, Reformation shifts, the struggle for unification, and the turmoil of WWII and the 20th century. This journey embodies the '3 C's' of comparison, causation, continuity and change, as they witness Italy's evolution through its art, architecture, and historical landmarks, vividly linking past narratives with the nation's ongoing story.

HISTORICAL THINKING SKILLS

| Skills | Description |
|--|--|
| 1. Developments and Processes | Identify and explain historical developments and processes. |
| 2. Sourcing and Situation | Analyze the sourcing and situation of primary and secondary sources. |
| 3. Claims and Evidence in Sources | Analyze arguments in primary and secondary sources. |
| 4. Contextualization | Analyze the contexts of historical events, developments, or processes. |
| 5. Making Connections | Using historical reasoning processes (comparison, causation, continuity and change), analyze patterns and connections between and among historical developments and processes. |
| 6. Argumentation | Develop an argument. |

[COLLEGE BOARD RESOURCE: AP HISTORICAL THINKING SKILLS](#)

HISTORICAL RESEARCH IN HISTORIC PLACES

Utilizing historical thinking skills, students can link Venice’s era as a Republic to Italy’s Unification by comparing Venice’s maritime governance with the broader Italian push for nationhood. This analysis not only contrasts Venice’s autonomy with Italy’s unification efforts but also illustrates the continuity and change in Italy’s quest for unity and self-governance, enriching students’ understanding of the nation’s complex historical journey.

[AP HISTORY CONTENT TIMELINES](#) 

[ITALIAN HISTORY TIMELINES](#) 

Educational Travel and AP Learning Goals

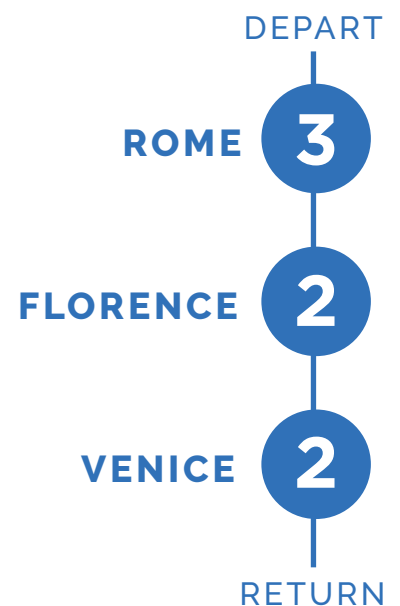


Educational Travel is incredible because it makes all of the lesson plans, key learning objectives and educational resources in the classroom come to life.



Using the [ACIS Tours Bell'Italia Itinerary](#) as an example, let's examine the applicable AP history lessons that appear throughout an educational tour.

This itinerary for Bell'Italia is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of key themes and developments in AP European History and AP World History focusing on the rich cultural, artistic, and historical heritage of Venice, Florence, and Rome.



Day 1–4: *Rome*

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

Rome is called “The Eternal City” because the ancient Romans believed that no matter what empires rose and fell, Rome would endure forever. Today’s sightseeing tour introduces you to every phase of Rome’s legendary history with a panoramic drive of the city. In addition, your local guide accompanies you through the incomparable **Vatican Museums**, including Michelangelo’s **Sistine Chapel**, and continues to **St. Peter’s Basilica**. In the evening try your hand at an Italian tradition with a [pizza making lesson](#) and dinner. Pay close attention to the pizza chef’s presentation on how to lay out the dough for a perfect pie, top it with ingredients in the Roman style and finish it off in the oven. Work in teams to assemble and cook your own creations as you enjoy an authentic, brick oven pizza dinner.



Your tour manager will introduce you to Rome with an evening walking tour that winds past the imposing illuminated columns of the **Pantheon** and into the ever-lively **Piazza Navona**. Mingle with locals and experience a true slice of daily Roman life during this morning’s [Rome market tour](#). Learn how to shop for the best of the produce varieties and traditional foods, and sample some of the wares. Then visit the famous **Colosseum**, a nearly two thousand year old Roman emblem.

AP WORLD HISTORY: MODERN

Rome, a city where ancient history and Renaissance art coexist, offers a unique exploration of religious and political power. Students will delve into the Vatican’s role in the Counter-Reformation (Unit 3), witnessing how art was used as a tool of religious authority and political influence, a key aspect of Unit 1. Rome’s transformation from a Papal stronghold to the capital of a unified Italy (Unit 7) provides an exceptional case study in nation-building and identity formation. Exploring Rome is not just a journey through time but an immersive lesson in the complexities of history.

ROME: ECCLESIASTICAL POWER AND MODERN IDENTITY (UNITS 1, 3, 7)

Religious Dominance (Unit 1 & 3) National Capital (Unit 7)

- Explore Rome’s impact on religion and art, especially during the Counter-Reformation.
- Witness Rome’s transformation from a papal city to the capital of unified Italy, a symbol of national identity.

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM:

EXPERIENCING THE VATICAN'S POWER AND LEGACY

Imagine the journey from a classroom discussion on the Papal Supremacy, the intricate power dynamics of the Vatican, and the pivotal moments of the Reformation, to the very heart of these historic narratives.

Teachers have introduced students to the complexities of religious and political power plays, the artistry that characterizes the Vatican during the Renaissance, and the turbulent times of change and reformation. Now, envision entering the Vatican with a tour manager whose knowledge and storytelling breathe life into these lessons. As they guide students through this sacred city, every corner and corridor tells a part of the story.

The magnificence of St. Peter's Basilica isn't just an architectural wonder; it's a testament to the formidable influence of the papacy over centuries. The Sistine Chapel becomes a canvas where Michelangelo's frescoes do more than dazzle the eyes; they echo the theological and artistic revolutions of the time, making students feel the pulse of history with every view.

The ACIS Tour Manager links these wonders to the narrative of the Reformation, illustrating how art, faith, and power interwove to shape the course of history. In this way, the Vatican is not just a series of landmarks to admire but a living museum where the legacy of Petrine Supremacy and the echoes of the Reformation are felt, perfectly bridging the gap between the classroom and experiential learning. In this way, the Tour Manager takes the baton that you, the educator, have been holding throughout the course and brings the learning moment full circle.



Day 5—6: Florence

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

Today's sightseeing tour with a local guide shows you the splendid **Duomo**, Ghiberti's famous **Baptistry Doors** and the **Piazza della Signoria**—the political center of this Renaissance city. Then breeze by the lines at the **Accademia** with your timed entrance to see Michelangelo's *David*. During your free afternoon, perhaps learn about Florence's merchant history or do a little shopping with a stroll across the **Ponte Vecchio**. Or choose to partake in an optional [fresco making workshop](#) where you will learn about fresco painting from a local expert and craft your own masterpiece. Tonight we'll provide restaurant vouchers and suggestions for our favorite trattorias so you can dine like (and with) the locals.



AP WORLD HISTORY: MODERN

In Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance, every street and piazza tells a story. As we walk through this historic city, AP History students will witness firsthand the cultural revolution that reshaped Europe. Imagine analyzing the masterpieces of Michelangelo and Raphael, not just as art, but as reflections of Unit 1's Global Tapestry. Florence also serves as a vibrant backdrop to discuss Italian nationalism and unification, directly linking to Unit 7. This city is a living classroom where history, art, and culture intertwine, offering an unforgettable educational experience.

FLORENCE: RENAISSANCE FOUNDATIONS AND NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS (UNITS 1: THE GLOBAL TAPESTRY & 7: REVOLUTIONS)

Florence: Cradle of the Renaissance to Modern Influence (Units 1, 3, 4)

- Renaissance Foundations (Unit 1): Explore Florence's emergence as the epicenter of the Renaissance, fostering unprecedented artistic, intellectual, and cultural growth during the period from 1200 to 1450.
- Influence on State Power (Unit 3): Delve into how Renaissance ideals influenced the consolidation and governance of land-based empires, reshaping the political landscape of Europe.
- Impact on Global Interactions (Unit 4): Examine the Renaissance's contribution to the Age of Exploration and the ensuing global exchange, highlighting the period's advancements in science, technology, and culture.



AP EUROPEAN HISTORY

Florence is a living classroom, a vibrant canvas where the Renaissance sprang to life. Imagine walking in the footsteps of revolutionary thinkers like Leonardo Bruni and Niccolò Machiavelli, whose ideas fueled the humanist movement and laid the groundwork for modern Western thought. As we explore the city, every corner and cobblestone will tell a story of the cultural upheaval that reshaped Europe. Art enthusiasts prepare to be awestruck by the masterpieces of Michelangelo and Donatello, showcasing the Renaissance's groundbreaking approach to human form and perspective. Not just a feast for the eyes, Florence will challenge you to think about the roots of modern political and philosophical ideas, directly linking to Units 1 and 2 of the AP European History curriculum.

FLORENCE: THE CRADLE OF THE RENAISSANCE

Cultural and Intellectual Developments (Unit 1: Italian Renaissance)

- Explore the Renaissance origins with Leonardo Bruni, Leon Battista Alberti, and Niccolò Machiavelli.
- Delve into the development of naturalism and the use of geometric perspective in art.

Art and Architecture (Unit 1: Italian Renaissance)

- Admire masterpieces by Michelangelo, Donatello, Raphael.
- Visit architectural sites reflecting classical styles and innovations in design.
- Understand Brunelleschi's role in revolutionizing architecture with his design of the Florence Cathedral dome, exemplifying the blend of artistic innovation and classical styles.

FROM CLASSROOM TO FLORENCE:

ANTICIPATING MICHELANGELO'S DAVID

This activity is designed to connect classroom learning with the anticipation of seeing this iconic sculpture in person. Embark on a journey through Renaissance art and history, setting the scene for a transformative experience in Florence.

In class, begin your lesson on Michelangelo's David by providing a brief introduction to the Renaissance period, emphasizing its focus on humanism, individualism, and artistic expression. This sets the context for understanding David as a symbol of the era's values.

INTRODUCE THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

- Briefly introduce the Renaissance, highlighting the resurgence of interest in classical art and human potential.
- Discuss Florence's role as the Renaissance epicenter and the Medici family's patronage in fostering art and culture.

PRESENT DAVID:

- Display a high-quality image of Michelangelo's David. Ensure it's large enough for everyone to see the details.
- Explain that David is a biblical figure, known for his victory over Goliath, symbolizing strength and divine favor.

DISCUSS ARTISTIC CHOICES:

- Address why Michelangelo chose David: to embody the Renaissance ideals of human beauty, strength, and intellect.
- Discuss the statue's realism: the detailed anatomy, the intense expression, and the life-like stance all demonstrate Renaissance art's focus on naturalism and human emotion.



- Explain the nudity: It's a nod to classical antiquity, emphasizing the human form's beauty and power, a common theme in Renaissance art.
- Point out the muscular physique: It represents the ideal human form, showcasing the Renaissance's admiration for classical Greek and Roman art.

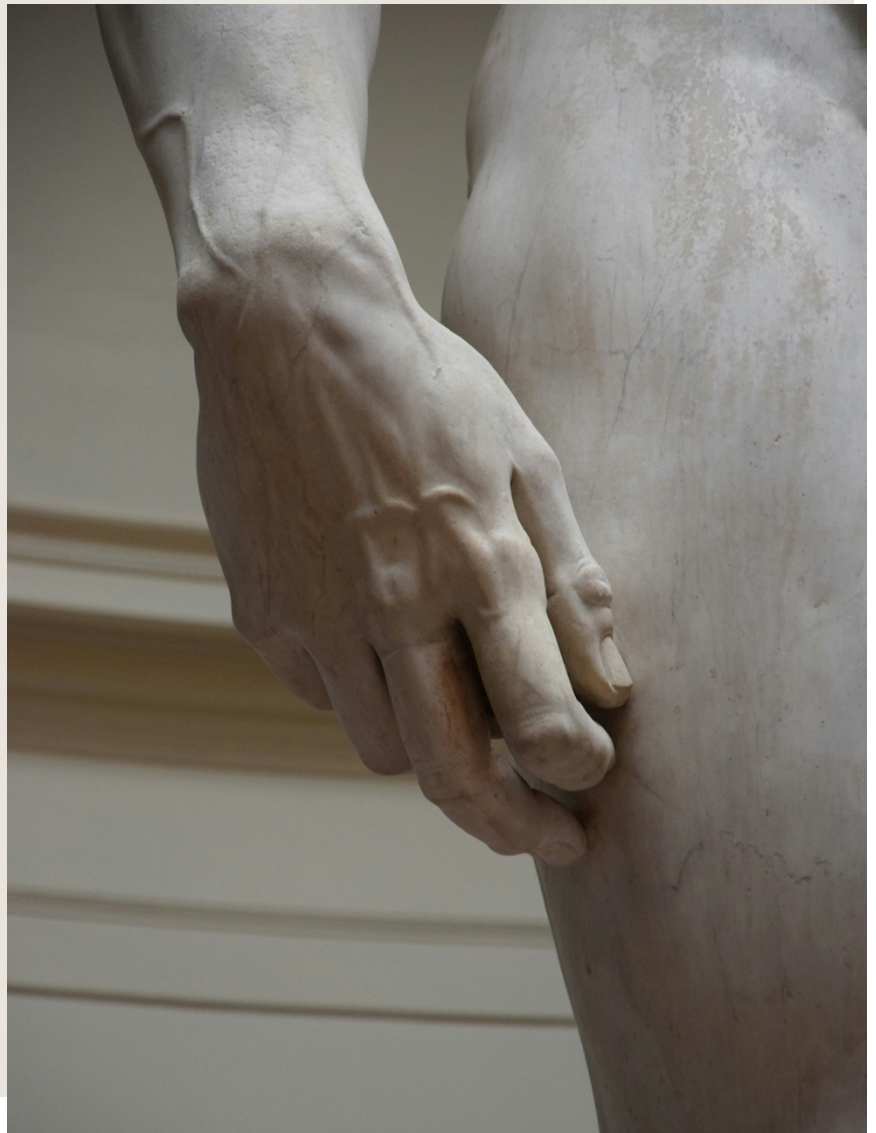
CONNECT TO AP HISTORY CURRICULUM:

- Tie the discussion back to the AP History curriculum by illustrating how David represents the political, cultural, and artistic achievements of Florence during the Renaissance.
- Highlight how the Medici family's patronage is an example of how wealth and power can influence art and culture, a theme relevant in multiple historical periods.

BUILD EXCITEMENT FOR THE TRIP:

- Encourage students to think about how they'll see David in person, transforming classroom learning into a tangible experience.
- Create anticipation by discussing how seeing the statue up close will allow them to appreciate the fine details and craftsmanship they've learned about

This approach not only teaches crucial aspects of the AP History curriculum, focusing on the Renaissance, art, and cultural history, but also builds excitement for the upcoming trip to Italy, making the encounter with David a highly anticipated educational and cultural experience.



Day 7–8: Venice

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

Consisting of an archipelago carved by nearly 150 canals into 118 different islands, the incomparable city of Venice contains a wealth of sights. Arrive in **St. Mark's Square** where you can see the **Basilica of St. Mark** and the **Bridge of Sighs**, which connected the old prisons of Venice to the interrogation rooms of the neighboring **Doge's Palace**. You'll learn more about one of Venice's most famous exports during an authentic **glassblowing demonstration**, before enjoying views up and down the **Grand Canal** as you stop for a photo at the iconic **Rialto Bridge**. Then explore more at your own pace with unlimited access to the entire canal network and smaller islands using your vaporetto pass. You'll feel like a local in no time.



AP WORLD HISTORY: MODERN

Venice, once a maritime republic, is a perfect illustration of the interconnectedness of the early modern world (Units 1 & 2). As students navigate its canals, they'll explore how trade and cultural exchange shaped this city, witnessing the blend of Eastern and Western influences in its architecture and art. Venice's role in Italian unification (Unit 7) and its strategic importance in 20th-century conflicts (Unit 8) highlight its adaptability and resilience. This city is a testament to how historical forces shape societies, offering a dynamic, real-world context to classroom learning.

VENICE: MARITIME REPUBLIC TO CONTEMPORARY ERA

Trading Empire (Units 1 & 2):

- Discover Venice's historical role as a Mediterranean trade power and cultural hub.

Modern Challenges (Units 7 & 8):

- Learn about Venice's adaptation from a republic to part of Italy, and its role during World Wars.

AP EUROPEAN HISTORY

Venice is a treasure trove of cultural and historical wonders. As a pivotal trade hub, this city was the Renaissance's gateway to the East, offering a unique blend of Byzantine and Gothic styles, overlaid with Renaissance elegance. History buffs, you'll be intrigued by how Venice maintained a delicate balance during the Reformation, fostering trade with Protestant regions while remaining a loyal Catholic state. Art lovers prepare to be mesmerized by the works of Titian and Tintoretto, capturing Venice's wealth and diversity. The journey through the winding canals and grand piazzas will be more than just sightseeing; it'll be a deep dive into the complex dynamics of trade, politics, and culture, resonating with Units 1 and 2 of the AP European History curriculum.

VENICE: A CROSSROAD OF CULTURES AND COMMERCE

Trade and Commerce (Unit 1: Renaissance and Exploration)

- Explore Venice's role as a major trade hub and its cultural exchanges during the Renaissance.

Art and Architecture (Unit 1: Italian Renaissance)

- Visit St. Mark's Basilica and Doge's Palace, showcasing Venetian Gothic architecture and Renaissance art..



HOW AN ACIS TOUR MANAGER MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Imagine standing by the Grand Canal as your guide illustrates Venice's role in global trade, making the Silk Road and spice routes come alive. In the bustling Piazza San Marco, discussions about the Renaissance and the Age of Discovery resonate against the backdrop of St. Mark's Basilica, turning history into an interactive experience.

As you navigate the labyrinth of Venice, your tour manager highlights the clash of empires, the rise and fall of the Venetian Republic, and the city's artistic contributions, connecting the dots between classroom theories and historical realities. They don't just recount facts; they engage, prompting students to envision life during Venice's maritime heyday or debate the impact of the Crusades.

The value of the tour manager lies in their ability to make history palpable—allowing students to touch the ancient walls, hear the echoes of historical debates in the city squares, and see the remnants of Venice's golden age. This immersive approach deepens understanding, sparks curiosity, and fosters a lasting connection with the past. It's more than a tour; it's a journey through time, guided by a knowledgeable companion who turns every moment into an opportunity for discovery and reflection.



Across Venice, Florence, and Rome you will find connections to your teaching units.

CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND INFLUENCES:

Impact of trade, war, and diplomacy on cultural exchanges; influence of Italian city-states.

EVOLUTION OF ARTISTIC AND ARCHITECTURAL STYLES:

Comparing Renaissance and Baroque styles across the cities.

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Development of city-states and their impact on European politics; Italy's role during the Renaissance and Reformation.

This tour isn't just about seeing historical sites; it's about connecting the dots between what you've learned in class and the real world. Each city offers a unique perspective on the Renaissance and Reformation, and modernity, bringing to life the pages of your textbooks. Prepare to engage, question, and immerse yourselves in the rich tapestry of history that these Italian cities have woven.



**LET'S GET READY FOR AN
EDUCATIONAL ADVENTURE
THAT'S AS THRILLING AS
IT IS ENLIGHTENING!**

Educational Travel for Every AP Subject

AP History Teachers are not the only ones who can benefit from educational travel! Here are just a few samples of other AP courses that connect directly to an ACIS tour.



AP English Literature

The classics come to life in the very places they were written across England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. Sample activities include workshops with Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, poetry workshops at Dove Cottage, and immersive tours across key literary cities like London.



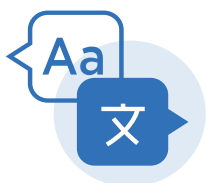
AP Sciences

We offer a variety of itineraries to important ecological destinations. Explore Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, the home of rare and unique animal species, all the way to Iceland and the Azores, which are packed with geological wonders.



AP Art History

See the masterworks up close and personal! The paintings and sculptures you've studied as a class all year long will be right in front of you for even more detailed examination, and the city tours will provide additional historical context.



AP Languages

Students will be able to practice their languages in real time in destinations like [Spain](#), [Germany](#) and [France](#). As language teachers know, immersion makes a big difference in comprehension!

BROWSE TOURS