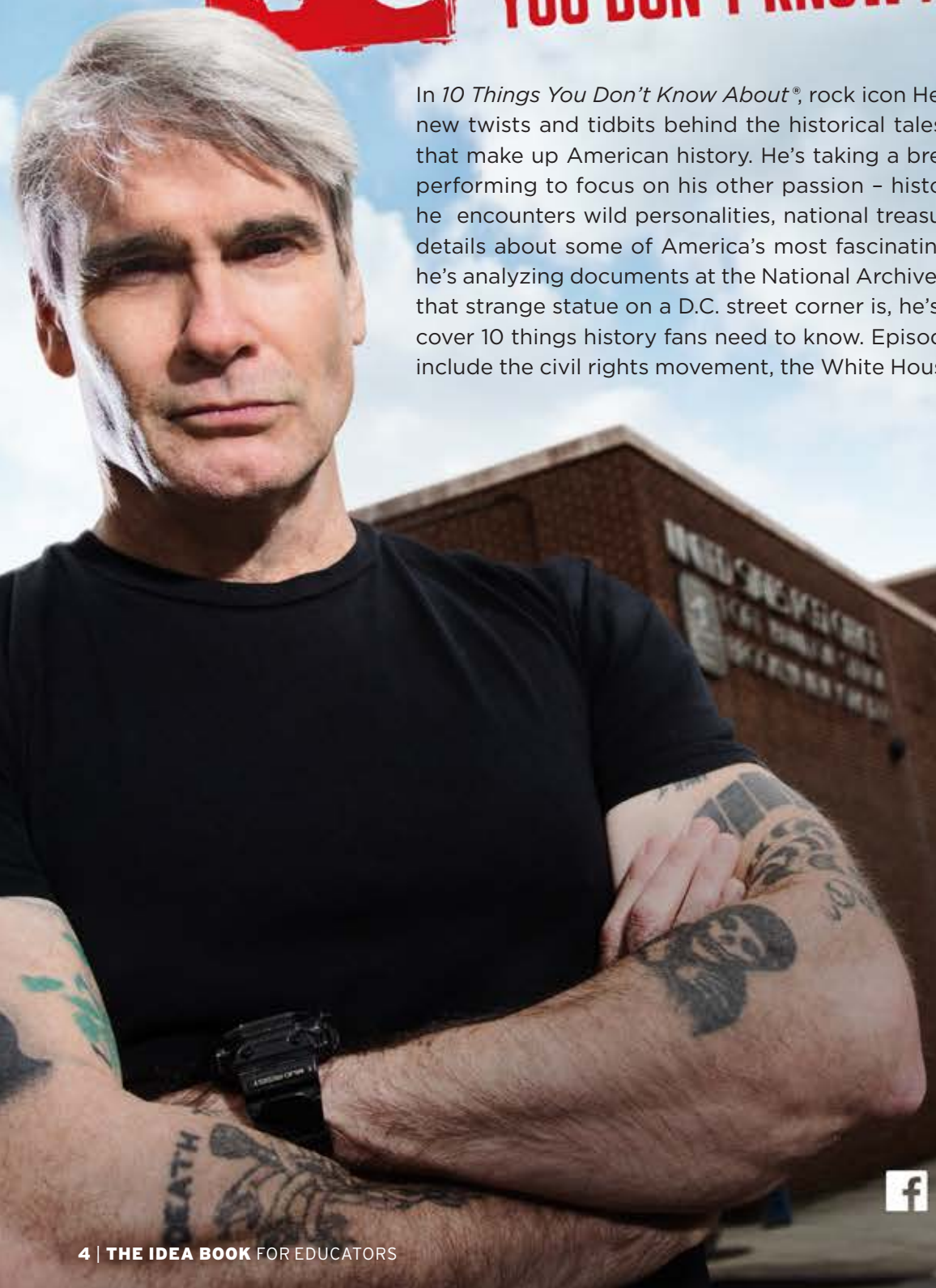




10 THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT.



In *10 Things You Don't Know About*®, rock icon Henry Rollins uncovers new twists and tidbits behind the historical tales, figures and places that make up American history. He's taking a break from writing and performing to focus on his other passion – history. In each episode, he encounters wild personalities, national treasures and provocative details about some of America's most fascinating subjects. Whether he's analyzing documents at the National Archives or finding out what that strange statue on a D.C. street corner is, he's on a mission to discover 10 things history fans need to know. Episode topics this season include the civil rights movement, the White House and more.

  #10Things

CURRICULUM LINKS

10 Things You Don't Know About is useful for history, social studies and current events courses. Some episodes are more appropriate for educational purposes than others, and we recommend that educators watch episodes before recommending them to students. This series is appropriate for high school and college students.

VIEWING GUIDE

Ask students to fill in the chart below while they are watching an episode of this series. The information they fill in will be helpful for the discussion questions and activities that follow.

<i>What was the subject of this episode?</i>
<i>What are a few things you knew about the topic before you watched the episode?</i>
<i>What are a few of the facts in this episode you found most interesting?</i>
<i>What information in this episode was most surprising to you?</i>
<i>What additional questions do you have about this topic?</i>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ask students to respond to the questions below in a class discussion or individually through essays or informal writing assignments.

1. In this series, we learn about the “hidden history” all around us. What is an example of a history story, fact or object in your community that you wish more people knew about? (If nothing comes to mind, think about where you would look to find hidden history in your community.) What are some important ways your community connects to the larger story of American history?
2. What kinds of sources and experts does Henry Rollins consult in order to learn more about the topic of each episode? How do these experts and sources help him uncover new information? Give a specific example to back up your answer.
3. What was your favorite “thing” or fact presented in this episode, and why?
4. One of the goals of this series is to present history in a compelling and interesting way. What are some of your favorite ways to learn more about history (videos, books, documentaries, etc.) and why? Give an example to back up your answer.
5. If you could create your own episode of *10 Things You Didn't Know About*, what topic would you choose to focus on and why?



ACTIVITIES

1. 10 Things. Each episode of this series focuses on a topic such as the American flag, the civil rights movement or the gold rush. Ask students to choose their own topics and create a presentation, essay or video outlining 10 things about a certain topic. Students can research their topics to find little-known facts or details about the item, person or place they picked.

2. Hidden History. In every community, there are places and things that have played an important role in history but may have been forgotten. Choose one of these items and create a presentation, video or op-ed piece about the place or item and why more people should know about its relevance to history.

3. Q&A. In this series, Henry Rollins interviews many experts on important history topics. Think about someone you'd like to interview to learn more about a history topic. This could be a professor, an archivist, a local historian or even a family member. (Visit www.history.com/images/media/pdf/OralHistoryGuidelines.pdf for oral history guidelines if you choose to interview a person about their role in a historical event or time period.) You can write a short essay based on the Q&A and/or create a scrapbook related to the theme you discussed.

RELATED WEBSITES

Learn more about this series:

www.history.com/shows/10-things-you-dont-know-about

Visit History.com for background information for research projects:

www.history.com

National Museum of American History:

www.americanhistory.si.edu

Classroom resources from the National Archives:

www.docsteach.org

Classroom resources from the Library of Congress:

www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials

Q&A with Henry Rollins

We asked *10 Things You Don't Know About*® host Henry Rollins for some insights into the series and some of his thoughts about history; his answers are below. Learn more about the series at: www.history.com/shows/10-things-you-dont-know-about

Q: What places or things you have encountered while working on 10 Things You Don't Know About have surprised you most?

Henry Rollins: I don't know if anything really surprised me because I didn't go in thinking anything was going to be a certain way. Walking through what's left of St. Thomas, a small town covered by Lake Mead, was poetic and moving. The Salton Sea was strange and disturbing. I didn't think the Hoover Dam was going to be as moving as it was. It's a hell of a story.

Q: Which historical leaders or everyday people are most interesting to you, and why?

HR: In terms of historical leaders I would say Lincoln. He got a very tough part of American history in which to be president. President Johnson was a dynamic and deep man. Hard to read and understand. What he got done for America was great but overshadowed by Vietnam. Ahmad Shah Massoud, he beat up on the Soviets in the Soviet-Afghan War. These were people in amazing and horrific times of history who had a lot riding on their shoulders. They're all gone now, so all you can do is read about them.

Q: What kinds of background reading do you do to prepare for 10 Things episodes?

HR: Everything from books to articles, essays, whatever I can get to so I am not only informed for the interviews but so I can be as informed on the bigger picture of the time period. It's not easy, especially on the schedule we're on, but I think it makes me better at my job and also, I am interested in all this, so I do this as much as I can.

Q: Are there any history books you would recommend?

HR: *The Fiery Trial* – Eric Foner

Ghost Wars – Steve Coll

Jihad – Ahmed Rashid

The Lost Executioner – Nic Dunlop

The New Jim Crow – Michelle Alexander

A Peace to End All Peace – David Fromkin

I like those books and writers a lot. I read a lot of books by journalists who are in the field. Robert Fisk is a favorite of mine. It's hard to recommend books to people, but I really like these.

Q: Why do you think it is important for people to know more about history?

HR: Because if you want to go anywhere, you have to know where you are. In order to do that, you have to know where "you" have been. Americans should really dig into their history. What some might think is new isn't at all... A sense of history will cut down on your time of not knowing what's happening in many situations, especially war. Like what's happening now in the Middle East and other places. The Fromkin book would be helpful. Rarely is anything new as much as it's the next chapter in an old story. Oil, weapons, war, it's an old story that keeps playing out.

