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San Bernardino County
Superintendent of Schools
Transforming lives through education



Friday, May 22
12:00pm

History Detectives 4th - 8th + grades

Andrew Jackson's Mouth – Thirty-five years ago a collector traded some duck decoys for an item inside an electric iron box. It was a mouth and chin carved out of wood. Articles and a letter at the bottom of the box say this mouth was part of a figurehead of President Andrew Jackson affixed to the bow of the U.S.S. Constitution until protestors vandalized the carving in the 1830s. Could this piece reunite two halves of a vandalized sculpture of President Andrew Jackson?

Barton Letter – Tucked into pages of an antique book, a contributor from Indiana may have found a letter written by Clara Barton, the founder of the American Red Cross, where she reports the death of a man named Israel Brown. The History Detectives take a look at the life of Clara Barton and ask an expert historian if this is really her writing.

Spybook – Does a Pennsylvania man have a notebook that once belonged to a World War I spy? He asks the History Detectives to look at his grandfather's writings. Inside are typed entries and handwritten notes, and even an outline to an assassination plot by Emma Goldman.

After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning

Question Box 1

Andrew Jackson's Mouth

- What does the owner of the mouth mean when she says, "I'd love to know the secret of this mouth, "but its lips are sealed."?
- How does the investigator describe the mouthpiece?
- What is written on the back of the mouth?
- How does the investigator use the newspaper articles and what does she discover?
- What are the two opposing perspectives of whether Andrew Jackson's likeness should be placed on the bow of the U.S.S. Constitution? Explain each position.
- How is the mouth proven to be the missing piece?

Clara Barton

- Who was Clara Barton?
- Why is she known as the "professional angel"?
- What was the purpose of her office?
- Who was Doris Atwater? What is her connection to Clara Barton?
- Who was Israel Brown?

Spybook

- Who is John H. Brady?
- Why does Bob, great grandson of John H. Brady believe the book he owns is a spybook?
- Why was the Wilson presidency considered a tumultuous time?
- Why was John H. Brady taking notes about Emma Goldman and her associates?
- What evidence does Gwendolyn discover that supports the idea that Brady was a spy?

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Question Box 2

- What attributes did Clara Barton possess that drove her to help others?
- Describe why you think Clara Barton got involved with the Red Cross in Europe?
- Why did she eventually start the American chapter?

Box 3 (Tasks)

Clara Barton

- Learn more about the American Red Cross and its founder, Clara Barton.
[About Clara Barton](#)
- Study the timeline of the Red Cross
[Significant dates in Red Cross history](#)
- Chart the changes over time from the start to the present.
- Research Andersonville Prison Camp. What was life in the camp like for a prisoner of war (POW)? What made Andersonville so awful?
- Andrew Jackson was the first president almost assassinated. What other presidents were almost assassinated? By whom and why?

Box 4 (Enrichment)

- Anarchists argued that the war was a war profit machine. Research the Nye Commission. Why was it convened? What did it argue? How does that make you think about other fringe groups?
- Explore contributions of young Americans to the Red Cross.
[Contributions of Young Americans](#)
- Create a list of ways that you and your friends can contribute to the Red Cross.
- Write a letter to your local Red Cross asking how you can help.

Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)

- Go to this link: <https://www.redcross.org> and learn about the American Red Cross.
- Look under the Training and Certifications tab and review the list of classes offered. List a couple that you might want to take one day.
- Look under the Volunteer Opportunities and find the “Opportunities for Young People” heading. Click on start an elementary, middle or high school club. Write down some of the steps required to start the club. Does it sound difficult? Can you think of a teacher at your school who might be interested in sponsoring a club? Do you know of any students that may be interested in being a member?