



THE INITIATIVE ON
IMPROVING K-12 EDUCATION
STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Bartholomew's World Teaching Latin with Medieval Texts

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Philosophy/Religious Studies

About Bartholomew's World

"Bartholomew's World" (BW) introduces Latin and medieval science using primary source texts from the writings of great Western scholastics, such as Thomas Aquinas and Roger Bacon, and some of their most influential Islamic predecessors. An encyclopedia in three books, BW taps into the popular interest in literature based on medieval myths about wizards (*Harry Potter*) and dwarfs (*Lord of the Rings*). As a resource for exploring the medieval world, BW introduces young people to the Western intellectual tradition and, at the same time, strengthens their skills in Latin and English. BW offers real improvement in K-12 education by presenting teaching materials designed jointly by the world's foremost scholarly experts and a group of experienced teachers.

Education Challenge

--Many Classical Latin teachers have no background in medieval history. We have worked to create materials that provide them with the tools they need to teach these primary source texts with confidence.

--Enrollment in Latin has been increasing since the 1980s but chiefly in schools that served privileged populations. Our Latin clubs reach out to underserved students in charter schools and public schools where Latin is not available.

Project Goals

*Make BW accessible and interesting for students of world history and students with no Latin.

*Provide teachers and students with background material that contextualizes BW's primary source texts.

*Introduce BW to linguistically and culturally diverse students.

*Expand network of teachers using BW.



Students from the Latin with Bart club of Envision Academy, Oakland, CA, sporting their club t-shirts (sponsored by Stanford Classics).

Project Design

Add Features for Non-Latinists

- New lessons specifically for world history students.
- New etymology exercises for students with no experience in Latin.
- Games and puzzles.

Contextualize the Medieval World

- Introduction to scholastic science & the medieval literary, mythic, and religious traditions of our culture; special units on geography and music.
- Lesson plans that integrate primary texts into cohesive teaching blocks.

Outreach via "Latin with Bart" Clubs

- "Latin with Bart" clubs hosted in charter/public schools.
- Latin materials for use with biology classes (with special thanks to Prof. Rodolfo Dirzo).

Network with Teachers

- Visits and conferences with west coast teachers .
- Summer internship for a local teacher designed to improve outreach.
- Presentations at Latin conferences.

Results and/or Plans for 2009

More Accessible Materials

- 3 lessons for world history students
- 3 Teacher's Guide lesson plans that integrate primary texts, learning objectives, and student assessments
- 8 vocabulary worksheets for biology students
- 25 etymology exercises for non-Latinists
- Interactive timeline
- Image index
- Latin with Bart club website with games, puzzles, and plans for club meetings based on the Oxford Latin Course
- General introductions: discussions of religious traditions, the social world, geography, and the liturgy; guides to the natural world and music (summer 2009)

Outreach and Networking

- 4 Latin clubs at high schools throughout the Bay Area
- Teacher intern to be hosted summer 2009: networking with teachers, presenting BW at summer conferences and institutes

Impact and Future Directions

Latin/World History Curricula

- Complements the Classical curriculum by showing Latin's endurance.
- Enhances world history teaching by providing primary source texts.

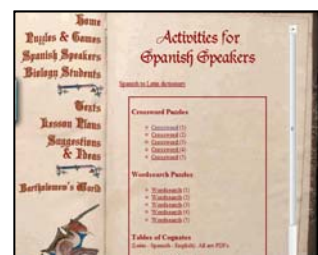
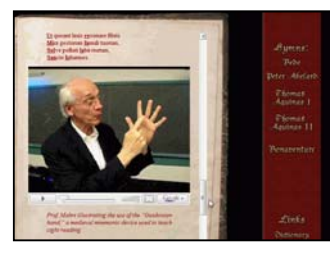
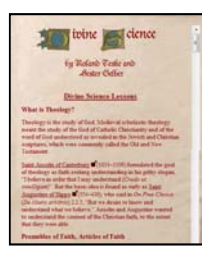
Latin with Bart students

- Report greater confidence and better results on standardized language tests.
- Have access to materials and teaching resources previously available only to privileged peers.

BW's Future Directions

- Expand graphics and add more paleography exercises and samples
- Add printable Teachers' Guide
- Add Student's Sourcebook
- Extend outreach nationwide.

Sample Website Enhancements



Screenshots of the new interactive timeline, image index with slideshow, Introduction to Divine Science, lesson on the liturgy, and Latin with Bart club website.