

Moby Dick or Moby Jane:

Government Resources to Stimulate Critical Thinking

Prehistoric Librarian



↑
BEFORE



AFTER →

You have been transformed into a *Homo floresiensis*, which became extinct just 17,000 years ago. Get your own free Smithsonian iPhone MEanderthal app at: <http://humanorigins.si.edu/MEanderthal>



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Critical Thinking

...the awakening of the intellect to the study of itself

- Critical thinking is the intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action. In its exemplary form, it is ***based on universal intellectual values that transcend subject matter divisions***: clarity, accuracy, precision, consistency, relevance, sound evidence, good reasons, depth, breadth, and fairness.

-- [Center for Critical Thinking](#)

One government resource for all these topics:



- *Famous women athletes*
- *Sexuality in the U.S. – early 20th Century*
- *Birth of the cinema*
- *Early 20th century women's wear*
- *Vaudeville theatre*





Thomas Edison's film:

- Trapeze Disrobing Act
 - *Smithsonian March 2006*
 - p. 102 "Kinetograph Department of the Edison Manufacturing Company – the world's first movie company – was formed in 1894."
 - p. 106 "trapeze artist and pioneering "strongwoman" Charmion removes her clothes while suspending herself high above the ground."
 - *Before the Nickelodeon* by Charles Musser (1991) p. 179: "Although her (Charmion's) striptease was performed for the camera and the cine viewers, the two male spectators inside the mise-en-scene authorized the film spectator's voyeurism. Such pictures were so "hot" that the Victorian males' repressive psychic mechanisms had to be allayed if these patrons were to find intended pleasure rather than unpleasure in their voyeurism. Produced for burlesque houses and "smokers," these films were made by male filmmakers for male spectators."

One government resource for all these topics



- *Comediennes*
- *Political comedy*
- *Women's suffrage*
- *Women presidential candidates*
- *Human sexuality – late 19th Century*
- *Nineteenth Century fashion*
- *First Ladies of the United States*



Advanced Comp. WR 414

- “I am studying political comedy because I want to know why shows such as “The Daily Show with John Stewart” and the “Colbert Report” help audiences understand politics through comedy.”
- I definitely like the idea of focusing on female comediennes (Chelsea Handler, Wanda Sykes and???), and asking questions like why they tend to push the limits, and is it getting worse (meaning more indecent) or has it always been this way and just location and availability are changing?”

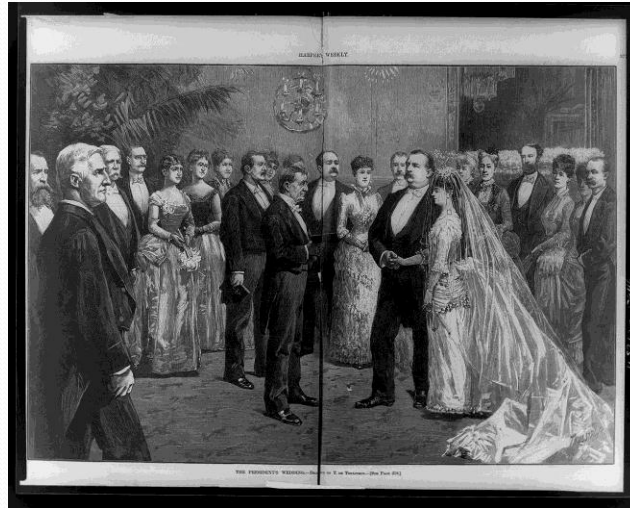


Historical Political Comedy

- Belva Lockwood – woman who ran for President in 1888 spoofed by [Laura Burt](#) – American Memory Library of Congress.
- Topic connects to following library resources:
 - *Women for president: media bias in eight campaigns* by Erika Falk
 - *A to Z of women in world history* by Erika A. Kuhlman
 - *Woman who would be president* by Jill Norgren
 - *American Historical Review* 113 no.1 (2008)



Grover Cleveland's Wedding



from Library of Congress American Memory website

Frankie and the Bustle

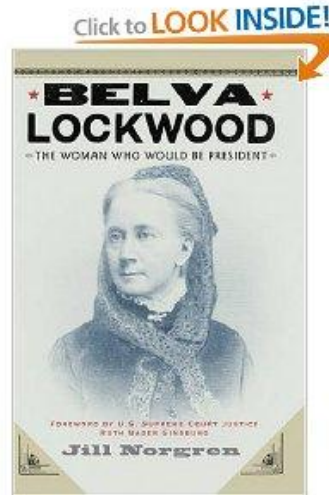
“There is also a great story of how Frances Cleveland unwittingly expedited the demise of the bustle dress in either the late 1880's or mid-1890's (she was First Lady from June 1886 to March 1889 ... and from March 1893 to March 1897.) ... She was enormously popular and her clothing style was copied by many other women. Two reporters in Washington during the summer apparently were hard-pressed for a breaking-news story and completely made up the claim that Mrs. Cleveland didn't like the bustle and would no longer wear it when the forthcoming social season began that fall. The story moved fast - and women by the thousands apparently abandoned the bustle too.” – *from* [National First Ladies Library](#)



Portrait of Belva Lockwood



from [Library of Congress American Memory](#)



from [Amazon.com](#)

Belva Lockwood Skit

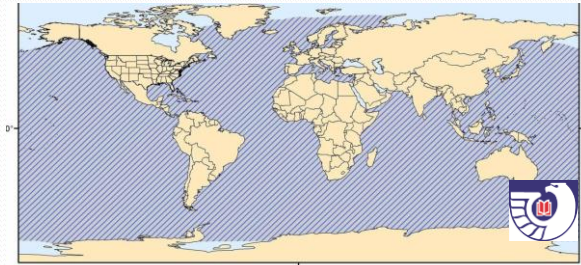
- Belva Lockwood ran for President in 1884 and 1888.
- Women did not have the vote.
- Grover Cleveland was President in 1888.
- There was a surplus (unlike current deficit).
- Cleveland's wife Frances (Frankie) was a beautiful, vivacious woman who had great influence on fashion.
- Men often courted mistresses at the "ballet."
- Dr. Mary Walker was a suffragette known for her habit of wearing pants.
- Victorian era gentlemen wore "stand up" collars.

Moby Dick or Moby Jane

- Encouraging critical thinking – English 300

from LibGuide at Hannon Library <http://libguides.sou.edu/eng300>

Sperm Whale Range Map



NOAA

NMFS, Office of Protected Resources
March 2009

Government Apps

- In fall of 2012 Southern Oregon University's Hannon Library started a pilot program using iPads for instruction.
- ***iPads in the government stacks:*** a project taking students into the stack area to a long table where we look at paper documents, access apps using iPads and go into the stacks for documents searches.
- A few suggested Apps from USA.gov Mobile Apps Gallery <http://apps.usa.gov/>
- Link to Hannon Library's Gov Apps page at: <http://libguides.sou.edu/content.php?pid=343417&sid=2935978>

Bring the Museum to Students

- Smithsonian Channel –



- [Silence of the Lambs](#) to [Shakespeare](#)



- Vantage Point: The Contemporary Native Art Collection



- MEanderthal



Thank you!

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