

“Thinking Chronologically” Delaware’s New Model Social Studies Unit, Grades 4-5 Spring 2010 Launch

Delaware’s Department of Education is putting the finishing touches on a new Model Unit Curriculum Unit for Grades 4-5, entitled “Thinking Chronologically.” Written by Kimberley Statham of the Caesar Rodney School District and the Department of Education, with help from Samuel Heed, the Foundation’s Senior Historian and Director of Education, the Model Unit focuses on the historic transatlantic voyages of the *Kalmar Nyckel*, the extraordinary life of Peter Minuit, first Governor of New Sweden and a founding father of Delaware, and the colonial history of 17th-century Delaware. In addition, the Unit asks students in grades 4-5 to act as historians for the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation, tasking them with helping other American students “understand the contributions of Sweden in regard to the colonization of Delaware and the establishment of an American culture.”

“Thinking Chronologically” has been designed explicitly to meet two Delaware Content Standards for Social Studies Grade Levels 4-5:

- **History Standard One 4-5a: Students will study historical events and persons within a given time-frame in order to create a chronology and identify cause-and-effects factors; and,**
- **History Standard Two 4-5b: Students will examine historical materials relating to a particular region, society, or theme; chronologically arrange them; and analyze change over time.**

“Kim Statham has done a superb job with this Unit,” says Sam Heed. “This represents a tremendous opportunity for the Foundation, and it has been exciting to help build this curriculum from the ground up. We’ve received tremendous support from the Department of Education and from a host of community stakeholders who care about history and educating young people. Dusty Shockley, Social Studies Coordinator for the Department of Education, and Fran O’Malley from the University of Delaware’s Center for Teacher Education have been critical to the success of this project. We have a lot of people to thank.”