



Smithsonian's History Explorer Podcast

Teacher Guide



Henry Fitz's Telescope Shop

with curator Steven Turner

Podcast Link: <http://amhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/HenryFitz.mp3>

Video Podcast Link: <http://amhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/HenryFitz.m4a>

Related Images: <http://amhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/HenryFitz.zip>

Discussion Questions

The following questions can be used for in-class discussion or short written responses from students after listening to the podcast.

- Why was Henry Fitz so important to the history of science and especially astronomy in the United States?
- What made Henry Fitz such a successful telescope maker?
- Why were Americans in the mid 1800's interested in astronomy?
- Who purchased and used the telescopes Henry Fitz produced? What were they using them for?
- If you could walk into an undisturbed room from any era (as Smithsonian curators encountered Fitz's shop) what would it be and why?

Related Resources—for continued instruction or resources for your students' research

National Museum of American History:

- Mobilizing Minds: Teaching Science and Math in the Era of Sputnik
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/mobilizing-minds/teaching-mathematics-and-science-home>
- Our Story: Exploring the Sky
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/ourstory/activities/telescope/>

Thinkfinity:

- Looking into Space – from Science Net Links
<http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/lessons.php?DocID=307>
- Objects in the Sky – from Science Net Links
<http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/lessons.php?BenchmarkID=4&DocID=155>
- Planets in Balance – from ArtsEdge
http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/educators/lessons/grade-6-8/Planets_in_Motion.aspx

National Standards—from the National Center for History in the Schools

- Era 6: The Development of the Industrial United States (1870-1900)
1A: The student understands the connections among industrialization, the advent of the modern corporation, and material well-being.

Have your students email their question, comments, and discoveries to thinkfinity@si.edu

Find this podcast and more at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/podcasts>



Name:

Date:

Period:

Topic:

Listen to the podcast. Take notes and answer the questions.

1. Why was Henry Fitz so important to the history of science and especially astronomy in the United States?
2. What made Henry Fitz such a successful telescope maker?
3. Why were Americans in the mid-1800's interested in astronomy?
4. Who purchased the telescopes Henry Fitz produced? What were the telescopes used for?
5. If you could walk into an undisturbed room from any era (as Smithsonian curators encountered Fitz's shop) what would it be and why?

Give it a try and email your question, comments, and discoveries to historyteachers@si.edu

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