

6-8th Grade Certificate Master List

Social Studies

GSir Isaac Newton Critical Thinking Award

Sir Isaac Newton is considered one of history's greatest scientists. His many accomplishments include the theory of gravity, the laws of motion, and the creation of the mathematics field known as calculus. Newton's critical approach to the study of science opened the door to a whole new world of scientific discovery.

Gaileo Galilei Analysis Award

During the 16th century, people did not carry out experiments to test their ideas about science. Galileo believed it was only through experimentation and research that something could be proved right or wrong. His methods today are the basis by which scientists and social scientists study, analyze, and learn about the world.

Kelli Jones Art History and Appreciation Award

African American art history scholar, Kelli Jones, is on a mission: to show that art history is truly a global history, not just a European one. She has helped put together exhibits that have introduced African and African American art to many different people. Her goal is to not only introduce people to different types of art, but to show the role of art in world history.

Walt Disney Creative Thinking Award

As a young man, Walt Disney had more than his share of failures. He lost one of his first jobs as a cartoonist for a Kansas City newspaper because he was not "creative" enough. Those failures simply made Disney work harder to achieve his dreams. In the end, he created an entertainment empire that brings joy to people all over the world.

Sarah Parcak Innovative Technology Archaeology Award

Through the use of satellite imagery, Sarah Parcak can identify potential archaeological sites in Egypt, Rome, and elsewhere in the former Roman Empire. She is one of many archaeologists that are changing the way archaeology studies sites and records artifacts through the use of digital technology.

Rekrei Cultural Preservation Award

Rekrei is a crowdfunded organization dedicated to the saving and documenting of cultural artifacts in endangered areas such as Iraq and Syria. The project collects photographs of monuments, museums, and artifacts damaged by natural disasters or human conflict. It then uses the data to create 3D representations to help preserve our global, cultural history.

Maya Lin Creativity Award

Maya Lin is one of the most innovative and creative artists in America. At the age of 21, while still an architecture student, Lin won a design competition for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. Although many people criticized her design, the memorial wall is one of the most visited sites in Washington.

Nell Irvin Painter History Award

Nell Irvin Painter's work has focused primarily on African American history, but she is also known for her work on topics in American history. Painter is also an accomplished artist and often combines historical topics with her art.

Fannie Lou Hamer Good Citizen Award

Fannie Lou Hamer was a civil rights activist that fought to expand African American civil rights. In 1964, she organized Freedom Summer to help African Americans register to vote in the South. Even as things improved, Fannie Lou Hamer continued to work to make sure African Americans everywhere enjoyed their civil rights throughout her life.

Grace Hopper Problem Solving Award

As one of the first female computer scientists, Grace Hopper believed that computer programs could be written in a language that was close to English instead of machine language. Her problem solving skills led to the development of the COBOL language. This new language would go on to be used in company, government, business and administrative computer programs.

Steve Jobs Creative Product Design Award

From the moment that Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak created their company Apple Computers, Jobs knew that it was going to be a great product. He was so confident in his friend's abilities, that he sold the idea of the Apple computer to investors. By 1984, Apple Computers was making a name in the computer industry. Today, Apple is recognized for its many innovative ideas and products, thanks to Steve Jobs's vision and belief in his company.

Maya Angelou Communication Award

Maya Angelou was an award-winning writer, civil rights activist, and teacher. Her autobiographical stories and poems became very popular with students and adults. Her ability to communicate through her writing and poetry made her one of the world's most respected poets and authors.

W.E.B. DuBois Activist and Journalist Award

During his life, W.E.B. DuBois was a noted civil rights activist, sociologist, historian, journalist and an editor. He was the first African-American to receive a PhD from Harvard. He helped found the NAACP to fight racial injustice. His writings focused on the state of American race relations and he helped lead the early crusade for civil rights.

Hatshepsut Design Award

One of the first female pharaohs of Egypt, Hatshepsut became know for her ambitious building programs. During her reign, an enormous memorial temple at Deir el-Bahri, is still considered one of the architectural wonders of ancient Egypt.

Madonna Thunderhawk Activist Award

As the leader of the American Indian Movement, Madonna Thunderhawk has dedicated her life to speaking out on behalf of Native Americans. She has worked as an organizer for civil rights events and helps with legal matters too. She also co-founded Women of All Red Nations (WARN) to call attention to Native American women's issues.

Honor Frost Archaeology Award

Honor Frost was the first to explore the use of underwater archaeology to learn about the past. Beginning in the 1960s, Frost used her skills as a diver to pioneer the excavation and reconstruction of submerged shipwrecks. She led a number of important expeditions in the Mediterranean that included the discovery of the lost palace of Alexander the Great. Her passion for her work helped emphasize the importance of all types of artifacts for historical and archaeological study.

Ken Burns History & Technology Award

The documentary films of Ken Burns have introduced Americans to many of the important events of American history. Using technology, photographs, music and film, Burns tells stories that help people learn about the past.