

Response to Readings: Saturday, May 6, 2006

Eating Smoke: Fire in Urban America

Core theme: The Country and the City

Historian Mark Tebeau explores the growth of American cities by looking at fire, fire fighting, and fire prevention in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Reading Assignment:

Mark Tebeau, *Eating Smoke: Fire in Urban America, 1800-1950* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003).

All: "Introduction" and "Conclusion"

Middle School Teachers: Part I: Smoke
 Part II: Fire

High School Teachers: Part III: Water
 Part IV: Paper

Writing Assignment

After completing the readings, answer the following question in 1-2 pages. Answers must be typed, double-spaced.

How did the efforts of firefighters and underwriters to control fire give shape to American cities in the period you read about—and can you suggest a specific example in your community to which you could use as an example of one of these effects for your students?