

Levitation in the Social Studies Curriculum

United States and New York

1.2 Important ideas, social and cultural values, beliefs, and traditions from New York State and United States history illustrate the connections and interactions of people and events across time and from a variety of perspectives.

- ❖ Harry Kellar, the American magician who stole the levitation illusion from Maskelyne, was born in Erie, PA, but moved to Buffalo when he was young and worked for many years here as a magician's assistant.
- ❖ *Levitation* introduces students to social and cultural conditions in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in both United States and London, England.

1.3 Study of the major social, political, cultural and religious developments in world history involves learning about the important roles and contributions of individuals and groups.

- ❖ Illustrations in *Levitation* give readers a feel of the social setting in the early twentieth century in the demonstrations of people's clothes and vocabulary and can then deduce conclusions about different demographics of audience members and performers.

World History

2.2. Establishing timeframes, exploring different periodizations, examining themes across time and within cultures, and focusing on important turning points in world history help organize the study of world cultures and civilizations.

- ❖ This graphic novel takes place right in the middle of the Progressive Era, an important time in history in which higher levels of social justice were attained, such as women's suffrage; and other important reforms were introduced, such as Prohibition and the Pure Food and Drug Act.

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- ❖ By presenting the time period of Progressivism, students can extrapolate the graphic novel to analyze the era and the roles and contributions of individuals and groups to social, political, economic, cultural, and religious practices and activities.