# "First to Flip, First to Flush" Virtual History Program

**Grade Level**: 6th-8th
**Time of Year**: Fall, Spring
**Length:** 1 Class Period
**Location:** Classroom

**TEKS Connections:**
Grade 6 - Social Studies (113.18) - 1(B), 2(A), 6(A), 7(A), 18(A-C); Grade 6 - Science (112.18) - 6(A), 8(E), 9(A)
Grade 7 - Social Studies (113.19) - 11(A), 19(A,C,E)
Grade 8 - Social Studies (113.20) - 13(B), 27(A), 28(A-B)
**Required Resources:** Equipment to show the class online lecture videos, worksheets printed from The W.H. Stark House website, and supplies for hands-on activity.

**Overview:**
"First to Flip, First to Flush" is designed as an interactive, in-class history program for middle school students. It covers the development and implementation of technology in the late 19th and early 20th century. Specifically, the impact of electricity and indoor pluming on daily life, the standard of living, and art. It consists of 3 illustrated videos narrated by W.H. Stark House historians, Joshua Cole and Hannah Danielson, along with worksheets and a hands on activity.

**Summary of Content:**
1. The discovery of electricity and how it impacted the development of art and technology.
2. The development of indoor plumbing and how it impacted societal hygiene.
3. How these two core technologies were implemented at The W.H. Stark House and how that relates to the creating of the modern world through the development of infrastructure and cultural change.
4. Using the "Build Your Own Light Feature" activity, students will explore the challenges of creating something both functional and decorative. They will explore the interchange between art and innovation while crafting their own unique piece.

**Materials Needed:**
- Copies of A Bright Idea and The Beauty of Technology worksheets.
- Copies of the Build Your Own Light Feature worksheet.
- Paper lantern for each student.
- Pack of string lights for each student.
- Glue for class.
- Colored tissue paper for class.
- Markers for class.
- Sponge brushes for class.

**Procedures:**

2 minutes

**Watch the "First Floor Tour" Video**
- To access the video, go to https://whstarkhouse.org.
- Locate the drop down "Learn" tab on the top right corner of the page.
- Select "Virtual History" - "Middle School" - Scroll down to "Videos" - "First floor Tour."

3-5 minutes

**Discuss the Video**
- What was your overall impression of The W.H. Stark House?
- What was your favorite room or feature?
- Did you notice any technology in the House?

4 minutes

**Watch the "First to Flip, First to Flush - Plumbing" Video**
- To access the video, go to https://whstarkhouse.org.
- Locate the drop down "Learn" tab on the top right corner of the page.
- Select "Virtual History" -"Middle School" - Scroll down to "Videos" - "First to Flip First to Flush - Plumbing."

5-8 minutes

**Discuss the Video**
- Did you think of plumbing as technology before you saw the video and do you now?
- How did plumbing change the lives of people in the early 20th century?
- How does plumbing impact your everyday life?

4 minutes

**Watch the "First to Flip, First to Flush - Electricity" Video**
- To access the video, go to https://whstarkhouse.org.
- Locate the drop down "Learn" tab on the top right corner of the page.
- Select "Virtual History" - "Middle School" - Scroll down to "Videos" - "First to Flip First to Flush - Electricity."

3-5 minutes

**Discuss the Video**
- Did you think of electricity as technology before you watched the video and do you now?
- How did electricity change the lives of people in the early 20th century
- What would your life be like without electricity? Be specific.

25-30 minutes

**Worksheets & Activity**
- Pass out the A Bright Idea, Beauty of Technology, and Build Your Own Light Feature worksheets, along with the paper lanterns, string lights, and other supplies.
- Review the the information from the worksheets with your class before transitioning to the activity (this will help them frame what they are creating).
- Once students have created their light feature, they can take them home or perhaps use them to decorate the classroom!