

# TeachME Professional Development

## Teaching Social Studies Effectively

**1. Three teachers - a science teacher, a social studies teacher, and a language arts teacher - are planning to do a unit together about the Industrial Revolution. What is the primary benefit from a social studies point of view to taking a combined instructional approach?**

- A. This is useful in identifying and teaching factors that contribute to cooperation
  - B. This method provides a way to connect the subjects to enhance context and provide each student with a priceless perspective
  - C. This allows students to examine the interaction of human beings in different physical environments
  - D. This allows students to evaluate alternative uses of resources from different perspectives
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**2. Students exhibit practicality in their approach. What is a necessary motivating factor for today's practical child?**

- A. Can learn to examine the interaction of human beings and their physical environment
  - B. Know that it will teach them to be more open-minded and to have a greater world view
  - C. It provides perspective and a framework and can even help ignite further interest in other fields of study, as it can provide purpose
  - D. Are taught in a way that incorporates innovative technology
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**3. What is a specific skills that accompany students that are learning social studies effectively include?**

- A. Familiarity with basic timelines of historical events.
  - B. Imaginary countries.
  - C. Hand-made maps.
  - D. Video tours of museums.
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**4. Social studies is a wide-ranging topic. The National Council for the Social Studies recently worked to simplify and codify the topic by providing ten distinct themes or sub-topics that conflate to make up a comprehensive social studies education. Which of these is NOT one of the named sub-topics?**

- A. The Passage of Power
  - B. Ideal Civic Practices
  - C. The Connected Modern World
  - D. Exploring the Human Experience
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**5. One of the goals of an effective social studies education is to confer civic competence on future citizens. Which of the following is not necessarily an action a civically competent young adult might prioritize?**

- A. Running for local government
  - B. Maintaining their home safely and well
  - C. Voting in local and national elections
  - D. Managing their personal finances
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**6. What is NOT one of the practical tools that social studies bestows?**

- A. Knowledge and familiarity with world affairs
  - B. Context and perspective that will underly later decisions such as voting
  - C. Increased aptitude for social events
  - D. Strengthened communication and logical thinking skills
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**7. Which of the following is NOT one of the recommended tips to help students think logically as they work through social studies lessons?**

- A. Start the lesson with a question
  - B. Give students the information they need to solve problems
  - C. Establish a country to use as an example throughout your social studies endeavors
  - D. Ask students to respond to a complex prompt in 2-3 sentences so they learn to condense when necessary
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**8. What is one effective way to engage students in social studies learning at the end of a lesson?**

- A. Make a direct connection between the topic of the lesson and a primary source document that students are familiar with
  - B. Make a direct connection between the topic of the lesson and an event going on today in the news
  - C. Make a direct connection between the topic of the lesson and a relevant article from an expert in the field
  - D. Make a direct connection between the topic of the lesson and an object that can be observed in the students' environment
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**9. One of your students is more introverted, but you want to expose the student to the benefits of historical role play. What do you do?**

- A. Invite the child to participate by having them write dialogue, serve in a critical or directing capacity, or act in smaller roles
- B. Provide information to all students about the differences between introverts and extroverts, so that the introvert feels more comfortable and confident in class
- C. Allow the student to portray a famous introvert from history in the role play

D. Require participation in the role play, but allow the student to take part gradually and take breaks as needed

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**10. Your school just went fully remote, and you are not sure what your first priority is as a teacher. What's the first thing you should do prior to delving into the lesson that you've planned for the day?**

- A. Start with an ice-breaker to make everyone laugh and diffuse tension
  - B. Check in with your students' emotional and social needs to build a student-teacher trust
  - C. Begin with an engaging news story
  - D. Use a creative journal prompt to increase interest in the topic
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**11. While using technology to teach social studies, you decide to let your students use digital annotation. What does this practice most productively entail?**

- A. Using a tablet to draw pictures in the margin of a digital textbook
  - B. Enabling students to visualize classroom concepts and ideas
  - C. It allows students to receive real-time feedback on their digitally uploaded work
  - D. Collaboration between students via an online text notation program, offering an easy-to-incorporate discussion element
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**12. What is one effective strategy for keeping students engaged in social studies lessons, especially when topics vary from day to day?**

- A. Connecting lessons to pop culture, literature, or science topics students are already interested in
  - B. Focusing strictly on textbook content without outside references
  - C. Assigning more frequent quizzes to reinforce memorization
  - D. Limiting collaboration with other departments to avoid confusion
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**13. What is one of the best and most engaging ways to involve Language Arts with Social Studies to help students take on the perspective of a historical figure?**

- A. Bringing in a speaker to provide an external perspective
  - B. Providing your students with detailed case studies
  - C. Getting to know your students, and then telling them about different perspectives
  - D. Research, followed by historical role play
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**14. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, social studies is taught less today than it has been at any point over the last how many years?**

- A. 10
  - B. 20
  - C. 30
  - D. 40
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**15. When building a library to help your students integrate literacy and social studies, what is important to prioritize?**

- A. Develop literacy preferences and peak the students' interests
  - B. Meet specific academic needs and allow students to make connections
  - C. Selecting books of different genres, focuses, and skill levels
  - D. Incorporate diversity and allow for accessibility
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**16. You are trying to teach your students about a dense civic subject, and you are teaching a remote class. Which is the best method to engage as many students as possible with the tools that you have?**

- A. Find a primary source that you can bring to life with a tech tool—e.g., a scan of an old letter, or a video tour of a battleground
  - B. Give a heartfelt oral presentation while looking directly into the camera
  - C. Connect the new content to an old lesson and provide examples
  - D. Be prepared to spend as much time as needed to build knowledge and vocabulary that are vital to comprehension
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**17. According to the material, what are natural phenomena such as the Sahara Desert and the Great Pacific Garbage Patch examples of?**

- A. How the world affects communities over time
  - B. How the history of human beings and our global movements have produced direct effects upon the earth
  - C. How individuals, events, and ideas interact
  - D. How natural disasters have influenced humans over time
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**18. Which of the following is an example of how students can positively impact their communities from a distance?**

- A. Attending and participating in public meetings and community boards
  - B. Ignoring local issues until they are directly affected
  - C. Only discussing community topics with friends
  - D. Staying silent on political or community issues
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**19. Asking your students to create mock-up faux business plans, re-create famous social experiments, or manage natural disasters as an imaginary country are all examples of what type of educational strategy?**

- A. Intensive hands-on engagement
  - B. Collaborative crafting
  - C. Problem-focused design
  - D. Project-based learning
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**20. According to educational experts, what elements are essential for an effective social studies education?**

- A. Activity-based, interesting, in-depth, comprehensive, and intense
  - B. Value-based, challenging, active, integrative, and meaningful
  - C. Collaboration-based, creative, analytical, and overarching
  - D. Diversity-based, holistic, engaging, and systematic
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