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 incorportates 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 paticipation in the role play, buy 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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