

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 useful in identifying and teaching factors that contribute to cooperation
 - B. This method provides a way to connect the subjects to enhance context and meaning for the student
 - 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 are practical people. To a teacher looking to take advantage of this fact for social studies endeavors, this means that students will likely be most motivated to learn about a social studies issue if they:

- 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. Believe that it will in some way relate to their life
 - D. Are taught in a way that incorporates innovative technology
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3. One of the goals of social studies is to impart a sense of personal perspective in a student's worldview. What's a good example of a didactic tool to help a student understand where they are in respect to the passage of time?

- A. Timelines
 - 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 that civically competent young adults might prioritize?

- A. Running for local government**
 - B. Maintaining their home safely and well**
 - C. Voting in local and national elections**
 - D. Appreciating the many diverse cultures that make up today's world**
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6. In the subject of home economics, students receive practical tools to manage their lives as adults (cooking, budgeting, DIYing). 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 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 and elicit responses from the students**
 - 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. One way to engage students in social studies learning is to take time at the end of each lesson to make a direct connection between the topic of the lesson and:

- A. A primary source document that students are familiar with**
 - B. An event going on today in the news**
 - C. A relevant article from an expert in the field**
 - D. 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 as a writer or a director to start**
- 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 aren't sure what your first priority is as a teacher is. 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 bond
 - 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 or take notes in the margin of a digital textbook
 - B. Enabling students to visualize, communicate, and engage with 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
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12. Several of your students are members of a non-fiction book club that started in your classroom. As the teacher, you're involved in the club, but you're unsure about how involved you should be. For the best outcome for your students, what role should you play in the group?

- A. You serve as a guide if the conversation gets stuck, but stand aside to allow for student-led discovery and discussion
 - B. You are in the role of a learner, as you listen to the students' interpretation of the book
 - C. You position yourself as the figure-head of the conversation, asking questions of your students to guide the discussion in the most productive way
 - D. You present pertinent information about the book and author, but let the students make sense of the content
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13. What is one of the best and most engaging ways to help students take on the perspective of another person?

- 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 role-playing

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, it is important to prioritize books that:

- A. Develop literacy preferences and peak the students' interests**
 - B. Meet specific academic needs and allow students to make connections**
 - C. Represent different genres, focuses, and skill levels**
 - D. Incorporate diversity and allow for accessibility**
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16. You're trying to teach your students about a dense civic subject, and you're 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. Natural phenomena such as the Sahara Desert and the Great Pacific Garbage Patch are examples of:

- A. How the world affects communities over time**
 - B. How humanity has had an effect on the world we live in**
 - C. How individuals, events, and ideas interact**
 - D. How natural disasters have influenced humans over time**
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18. Why is it a good idea, academically, to encourage your students' participation on student activities boards or school event planning committees?

- A. These venues provide practical, fun context for your students to practice a wide range of sociology skills**
- B. Students are able to create lasting experiences rather than simple activities**
- C. Planning and collaborating helps students feel more engaged in their environment**

and overall learning

D. Participating in such activities builds confidence and increases accountability

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

20. Educational experts note that an effective social studies education needs to be:

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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