

Social Studies Skills

No More Worksheets: Building Social Studies Skills in the Secondary Classroom

Although very content-driven, our social studies TEKS require that students master specific higher-order thinking skills, such as analyzing information, evaluating sources, and exploring visuals. Students who are able to think critically, are better prepared to complete tasks and processing activities, and master state assessments. Come fill your teacher toolbox with scaffolded, interactive, and research-based strategies to help students apply critical thinking skills to organize and use information in your Social Studies classroom.

Primary Sources in Social Studies

Examine research based reading strategies that will help facilitate student learning in the Social Studies classroom. This session will use samples from middle school and high school content to explore how primary source documents, that are both specified and implied in the TEKS, can be seamlessly implemented into existing curriculum modules. Teachers will also brainstorm and collaborate on how to implement primary sources into their current curriculum.

Questioning Strategies for the Social Studies Classroom

Explore research based student questioning strategies that enhance cognitive interaction, increase depth of understanding, and support reasoning to generate new understandings. Examine types of questions and the correlation to different levels of thinking.

Skills-Based Instruction in Social Studies: Elementary Grades 3-5

Analyze the social studies skills strand stressed throughout the curriculum and essential to success on state assessments. Explore appropriate instructional strategies that move students from merely learning facts to analyzing, interpreting, synthesizing, and evaluation information, primary and secondary sources.

Think About It: Supporting Critical Thinking in Social Studies

Learn how to bolster students' literacy skills in the social studies classroom through close reading and writing strategies. Students who struggle with reading often have difficulty comprehending texts, especially in the content areas. Participants will learn how to explicitly teach students the processing skills needed to critically analyze complex texts and create dynamic scaffolds that support a text-rich learning environment. The session will focus on the exploration of informational text structures from primary and secondary sources, picture books, and non-fiction works, and how to support student's comprehension of the various texts students encounter in the social studies classroom and beyond.