

Best Practices for K-5 Social Studies

Social Studies Best Practices: What Can They Look Like?

Best Practice <i>Students learn best in social studies when...</i>	Possible Interpretations (This is not an exhaustive list.)
1. they are able to ask and answer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students should be provided the opportunity to ask questions as well as answer them. ● Instructors should provide students the opportunity to ask questions as well develop meaningful essential questions for the students to answer. <p><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What are rules? Why are rules necessary? ● Who are the leaders of community? What are the criteria for a good leader? ● What is the difference between land and water and other geographic features? ● What is chronological order? ● What is sequential order? ● How is your school day today different from your school day yesterday?
2. are able to apply disciplinary concepts and tools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use domain specific vocabulary ● Use globes, maps, charts, graphs, photographs, primary source artifacts, primary source documents, secondary sources ● Construct globes, maps, timelines, etc. ● Role play: mayor, principal, teacher, president, congressman, cartographer, shop owner, judge, attorney, a juror, etc.
3. content is organized on the basis of broad conceptual themes common to all social studies disciplines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Geography ● Change, Continuity, and Context (History) ● Civics ● Economics
4. are able to evaluate sources and use evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Compare and contrasts: maps, photos, globes, graphs, rules, roles and responsibilities, accounts of events, scarcity v. surplus, ● Classify/Categorize information: landforms, bodies of water, primary and

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	<p>secondary sources, goods and service, personal points of view with other perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● To provide justifications, problem solve, make predictions (e.g. How do we solve the problem scarcity with classroom supplies (scissors, crayons, paper, etc.)
<p>5. communication skill are an integral part of social studies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Students should be afforded the opportunity to speak and engage in discussions about civics, geography, history, economics.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Which school rules should be changed and why?○ What would happen without rules?○ Is it better to save using a “piggy bank” or having a bank account?● Students should be afforded the opportunity to write about civics, geography, history, and economics.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Write a list of rules for playing in your room.○ Why should we save our money?○ Describe the cultures in your neighborhood community.

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