

Social studies Insights



This is taken from Edu-COVID series. This is a series sent monthly via O.R.B.I.T.S. newsletter to provide a framework for post COVID schools.

This document is updated monthly as per Edu-COVID monthly editions.

Social science



- Social studies, incorporating social sciences and humanities, is based on general knowledge. So the more platforms and resources used, the better.
- Social studies need to be in every other discipline, mainly in language arts. Incorporating information about history and geography is powerful in language and literature classes.
- **Inquiry sessions** during synchronous learning is essential. Arranging these sessions through driving questions, that facilitate arguments and reasoning. These are also called “testable” questions. These are categorized as “Driving or compelling questions” and “supporting questions” that would drag the thinking process into different directions.
- For this to happen, a variety of sources is essential. One source, such as a textbook, is not enough.

Social Studies



One of the most effective ways to teach social studies is through project-based learning. Conducting those PBL steps, starting from the driving question, can trigger long and deep discussions.

To make it more engaging with higher levels, teachers can start a Facebook [Private Group](#) (Privacy ensured) and the teacher invites learners. Such live sessions are very effective because they trigger curiosity and encourage social interaction. Such activities, though, may need approval from the administration and notification to inform parents about the timing of such LIVE sessions. Few learners might use this as an excuse to be on Facebook during their free time, on the pretense of social studies LIVE session.

Social Studies



Google Earth tours are great tools that a social studies class can use to bring vividness to information, instead of only speaking about the information.

Utilizing the observations from those tours can endorse **academic vocabulary**. Learners can engage as whole class or in breakout rooms to synthesize the information and compose their own writing, blending geography and history.

Exchanging those writings will multiply the experiences, as the social studies class becomes a **mastermind of geography, history, and other social disciplines**.

Posting those compositions on school social media or virtual bulletin board is tremendously rewarding and encouraging.

Social Studies



Fun can play an integral part in adding excitement, curiosity, and even humor to social studies, especially that some social studies classes are conducted through lecture-form only, leaving learners dull and lacking sense of discovery.

One way to add fun to social studies classes is by creating riddles. **Riddles** are usually explicit and witty. This provides opportunities to search for information, vocabulary, and funny ways of putting them together.

These riddles can be collected to be presented at a class or school scale event, in-person or virtual, respectively.

Having a stress-free environment influences learning as it makes it easy, equitable, exciting, and above all, long-lasting.

Social Studies



Finding ways to engage learners is essential in all subjects. However, a subject, like social studies, that is mainly about history, geography, and other cultures, may not be appealing to many learners.

Placards are exciting in the way they give the learners an opportunity to collect, organize, and share information, instead of rote learning. Finding the right titles and designs for their placards allows for more creativity and proactivity.

Teachers can arrange many events based on these placards, in-person or virtual.

Learners can even make their own museum structures or maps, in which they display them.

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is treating people
with respect and
transparency.”



- Arne Sorenson