

The answer to how a teacher can teach social studies everyday is simple. Integration is the key. Like science, social studies is everywhere and in everything we do. Some of the easiest ways to integrate social studies are through reading and writing. There are so many trade books out there that have to do with social studies. I can turn a reading lesson into a social studies lesson as well. I can also have my students work on their writing by having them write a letter to someone in history or write about a historical event. I can also integrate social studies with math by looking at maps and geography. Learning about different scientist and the history of science topics can combine Science and social studies. I can also combine social studies with physical education. Through writing a thematic unit, I learned an assortment of ways that I can take a social studies topic and make up lessons of twelve different subjects to go along with that one topic. From this experience, I have learned there is always a way to combine social studies with any subject and I plan to take this knowledge and use it in my planning the days.

Each state gives specific state standards for each grade level and I plan to use those standards to help me plan out my units and lessons. I plan to have specific units throughout the year and I will use the state standards to help me in what things I will cover in each unit. I will also use the standards to help me find ways to teach social studies everyday whether through integration or teaching a specific social studies lesson. While I cannot cover ever standard equally, I will try to cover as many as I can throughout the year and I plan to use different ways to accomplish this.

In teaching social studies everyday I plan to use both informal and formal assessments. I will observe my students and have checklists to mark what they do or do

not do while working on an activity. Throughout the lessons and units I will mostly use informal assessments to make notes of what my students are doing and what is successful or not. For the end of the units and big lessons I will assess my students formally. Along with science, I will assess through tests, papers, projects, presentations, and other creative ways that fit the learning needs of my students. I want to make social studies fun and interesting for my students. In order to accomplish this I need to get them involved and find different and new ways to assess what they have learned besides just giving a test. I want them to be excited and proud of what they have learned and this will show in their final assessments.

It is very important to use technology throughout the classroom. There are many ways a teacher can use technology, especially when teaching social studies. Some ways I plan to use it are through videos, Internet, tape or cd players, and computers in general. The Internet can be a great way for students to research or learn about a particular social studies topic or person. Another way I will use the computers are to have my students type their papers or use power points to help them plan and give a presentation. I plan to show videos and play tapes or cds to help my students gain a better understanding about what they are learning.

I feel it is important for students to work together as well as individually when learning about different social studies topics. They need to work together to help each other learn and research about information as well as be able to learn and research on their own. In realizing this, I need to plan ahead when I will have the students work in groups, individually, or when I will give them the choice. I also need to plan how I will pick the groups for the specific lessons as well. Not only do I need to plan groups, I also

need to plan what supplies and materials I will use and how they will be passed out. I plan to have classroom chores and two students will have the job of helping the teacher pass out materials. Each week or every two weeks the jobs will change so every student has the chance to help pass out supplies and materials. I want my students to be interested and excited about what they are learning and in order to accomplish this I need to actual materials for my students to look at and hold. While I do not have a lot of materials, I plan to use other resources such as other educators and different places that offer free or cheap supplies for teachers to help me.

I will set examples of my colleagues by asking them to join my class as buddies for projects or lessons. There are so many great social studies lessons and ideas out there and what better way to get other classes and teachers involved then asking them to join. Another way I can set examples is by asking them for supplies or ideas as well as suggesting ideas and offering supplies to them. I want my colleagues to realize social studies is everywhere and it goes along with every subject there is. It is not about reading textbooks and taking tests. It is so much more than that. I hope to show this to my colleagues by having projects my class has done displayed for others to see as well as bulletin boards.

I now have a lot of ideas of how to teach social studies to make it fun and interesting for my students and I am actually excited about teaching it. There are so many ways to integrate social studies with so many subjects and ideas and I plan to remember this and take advantage of it. I will teach social studies everyday and I hope to be able to share my knowledge and ideas with colleagues to help them realize how important it is to teach social studies and encourage them to teach it everyday as well.