

Social Studies Planning Project

Top 40 Big Ideas

1. Geography of United States – Students need to know where we are talking about throughout the year and they will need to understand why certain things happened in certain places because of the geography. The students will leave knowing the United States and will have a better understanding of the geographical reasoning behind events in certain places. Ex. Why it snows so much in the northwest.
2. Geography of North Carolina – Students need to be familiar with their own state, not just for educational purposes but also for life functionality. Students will be able to compare their location with the rest of the state and can have an educated discussion about various geographical events throughout the state.
3. Regions of North Carolina – This will develop a basis for understanding when discussing settlement. The students will be able to locate themselves on a map and understand why their area has certain things compared to others.
4. Regions of United States – It is important for students to understand the regional separations as a basis for upcoming lessons. The students will understand the separation of the regions and the reasoning behind the separations, which will help them understand the events that we discuss in the future.
5. Recognizing Primary Sources – Common core requires students to use primary and secondary sources...it's helpful if they know what they are. The students will use this skill throughout their lives.
6. Recognizing Secondary Sources – Same as primary sources.
7. Colonization – Colonization is an important aspect of American history that lays the foundation for the rest of the year. The students will need to know this to understand where our country came from.
8. Mercantilism – This concept fueled the idea behind colonialism, which created America in the first place. The students need to understand this concept in order to understand why England was so interested in expansion.
9. Proprietary Colonies – These were the beginning of the colonies that eventually became the beginning of America. Knowing about the colonies allows students to build a foundation for American history.
10. Settlement – This topic would cover the trials and tribulations of living in the New World. Students would gain an understanding of what the colonists went through that may have led to the beginnings of the revolution.
11. 13 Colonies – Obviously, this is important because it is the actual beginning of America. The students need this to understand American history to it's fullest and could even instill a sense of pride in them since NC was one of the original 13.
12. Revolutionary War – This war is one of the most important in American History. The students need to know what it took for America to become it's own country.
13. Taxation without Representation – This is one of the major causes of the revolution. Students need to understand the reasoning behind America's revolt against the monarch.

14. Loyalist vs. Patriots – These two parties helped shape the revolution. The students could use this to get a basic understanding of political parties, and show them that not everyone in America was for the revolution.
15. National Identity – This is a theme for a unit and could be used to teach students how important becoming our own nation was to the founding fathers. Students will be able to relate to the feeling of patriotism felt by the founding fathers.
16. Government Types (democracy, monarchy, etc) – This is imperative knowledge for understanding why countries have the government they do. Students will be able to compare and contrast various government types.
17. United States Constitution – This is the basis of our nation and affects every single person in the country. Students will gain a full understanding of their country's founding document and laws.
18. Branches of Government – This breaks down how the government works. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the three parts of government and why they exist.
19. Expansion of United States – Western expansion helped our country grow into the huge world power we are today. Students will learn why, how and when the states became part of the country.
20. Treatment of Native Americans – This is not covered as much but is vitally important to the history of our country and even our state. Students will become more familiar with the negative sides of our history that impacted the original settlers of America.
21. Suffrage – The students need to know what this is and how it affects them as citizens. The students, especially the minorities (women, African Americans, etc) will get a stronger appreciation of their right to vote and hopefully it will encourage them to want to vote when they are of age.
22. Economics – This is an important topic for well-rounded American citizens to understand. The students will understand the economic system of America and be able to apply these concepts to their own fiscal lives.
23. Civil War – This is another huge war in American history that changed the course of our country's path. The students need to know about this because it affected everything after it, all the way up until present time.
24. Succession – This concept is vital to the understanding of the Civil War. Students may not understand that the country was literally split into two separate countries during this time and understanding the concept of succession will aid in the full understanding of the events.
25. Slavery – This was the cause of the Civil War and such a huge debate in our history. Students will need to know why the Civil War started and why slavery came into effect in the first place in order to understand the issues of today such as racism and separation.
26. Sectionalism – This is an important idea to cover in order to understand the division between the North and the South. Students can use this to delve deeper into the issues of today's time.
27. Underground Railroad – This important establishment helped so many people and had so many great stories come out of the experiences of the "riders" of the

- railroad. Students need to appreciate the rebellion of slavery and form their own opinions about whether or not this was an appropriate establishment.
28. Civil Rights – This never ends and still continues today. Students need to understand civil rights beginnings and imagine an end to the whole ordeal.
 29. Great Depression – The Great Depression brought about tremendous changes in the American government and households. It will allow students to see the variation in economic history and the effects of economic downfalls.
 30. World War I – This war and its technological advances made a huge difference in not only America, but in the entire world. It will help students see who our allies are and why some countries are still not as friendly with the United States.
 31. World War II – This war also had so many technological advances that changed the world and the events of this war are so terribly engraved in everyone's thoughts that it is absolutely necessary to teach and explain. Students will get more information about the war and also understand that American soil was not completely untouched with the Japanese holding camps that we had set up that many students do not know about.
 32. Isolation vs. Neutrality – Knowing the difference and the consequences of each idea is important in understanding America's involvement and reluctance in joining WWII. Students need to create their own opinion of America's actions during this time and understanding these topics are necessary for doing so.
 33. Korea War – This is a forgotten war, but my grandpa fought in it and it was real so I feel like it needs to be covered. Students need to know about every war our country has been in and see the lasting affects of each one.
 34. Vietnam War – This war is semi-recent and there are still numerous people, including family members of students, that fought in it alive. Students will understand the cause and effect of this war and learn more about the war their family members fought in (if they have any veteran family members).
 35. Cold War – This war will allow students to see that all wars are not fought with violence. Students will gain a deeper understanding of different types of wars that have been fought.
 36. Space Race – Space is a favorite topic of mine and the space race changed American history. Students will (most likely) think this topic is more interesting than others and it will open up new ideas for career paths for some of them (i.e. aerospace engineers, astronauts, NASA employees, etc).
 37. Reconstruction – This period of time helped determine (somewhat) how our country is today. Students will get to know more about the decisions made after the Civil War and understand how those decisions got our country where it is today.
 38. New Deal – This combination of programs are being carried over to today and still affect everyone's lives. Students need to know where ideas such as Social Security and Welfare came from.
 39. Containment – This idea was part of the reasoning behind the Cold War. Students need to see that we have been actively fighting against communism for a long time and can relate this information to today's activities overseas.
 40. History of the County – This is important to build a sense of pride and belonging in the students. The students need to realize that big events, such as the Civil

War, happened right in their own backyards and by learning the history of their county, they will see that even their local area was important in the making of NC and US history.

Top 10 People

1. George Washington and the Founding Fathers – This man and his peers were the ones who led America into the Revolution. The students need to know who these people are and why they did what they did.
2. Abraham Lincoln – Again, another person whose actions changed the course of history. Beside the fact that he was a major president, students need to know how he affected slavery and they can use that knowledge to compare to recent Civil Rights.
3. Franklin D. Roosevelt – He was a major player in WW2 and created the New Deal that changed the financial situation of America. Students can use FDR's ideas and see how they relate to the financial situations of today.
4. Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. – MLK was a huge figure in Civil Rights and is still celebrated today. Students need to know why we have "Martin Luther King, Jr. Day" and why it is celebrated across the country.
5. Ronald Reagan – Arguably one of the best presidents this country has ever seen, Reagan was a very important figure in economics with his creation of "Reaganomics." When used in the discussion of economics, students need to see the different ideas that have been tossed around the country over time.
6. Wright Brothers – These two men were big for NC and the history of our state. Students can gain a sense of pride for NC when learning that our state was the state chosen to be home to the first test flight ever!
7. Robert E. Lee – As the confederate leader, Lee was a key player in the Civil War. Students will learn about how his choices affected the war.
8. Ulysses S. Grant – The union leader, and eventual president, made choices that determined the outcome of the Civil War. Students can see how choices made affect outcomes and not only see that in the Civil War, but in themselves.
9. Carnegie and Rockefeller – These two men (they go together...I couldn't choose just one!) were imperative to the industrial revolution and used their money for beneficial purposes. By teaching this, students can learn about the value of giving back and see that money comes with responsibility and choices.
10. Historical Figure from County (ex. Hinton Rowan Helper for Davie County) – This will obviously vary throughout the state, but every county has someone big that grew up or lived there and they have a story that needs to be told. Students may learn something new about someone they've heard of but didn't know lived right down the street. This will instill a sense of pride and interest in learning more about their county.

Where do your ideas come from? How did you generate these ideas? What is your process? *My ideas came from what I have been noticing my CT teaching and her plans as well as my opinions on the curriculum. I feel like some things that are not included in the curriculum are extremely important, such as the history of the respective counties,*

but other topics that are included are not as important. I simply went through the history of America in a timeline type system and wrote down everything I could think was important. From there, I narrowed it down to 40 major ideas and 10 people.

What overarching themes/overarching narrative of history do you see connecting your topics? And individuals? I see a lot of personal thought and connections throughout my ideas and my defensive for them. I think that it is important for students to relate to history and compare the past to what is going on today. I strongly believe in the saying "history will repeat itself," and I feel like that comes out strongly in my ideas.

Do you have sub-themes and how do these sub-themes connect? My subthemes are more like time periods. I have sections of the Civil War and Revolutionary War that have a couple of different ideas tied into them throughout the 40 as well as some people from the times in the 10 people. I think these themes connect through the events that happened in them and how I would want my students to think about the events. I want them to connect personally with the history and see how each decision made throughout our country and state's history has affected where we are today. I would use this as a lesson on morals as well. Students would see factually that their decisions affect their entire life and my hope is that they begin to put more thought into what they do and say.

How are your beliefs about history affecting your process? After reviewing my list, I see my political beliefs and my personal views coming out a lot. For instance, I am hardcore conservative when it comes to most things which means Reagan was one of my favorite presidents so naturally I think he is one of the top 10 people that need to be taught. I also see my personal views of appreciating where I come from coming out when I included the history of the respective counties and a key person from the counties. I think it is absolutely necessary to teach local history to instill that sense of belonging and pride in the students. I feel like it will get them more interested in history if they know that their county was a part of it. Knowing I was going to stay strong in my beliefs, I did include a lot of comments about letting the students make their own decisions based on the facts. I never want to persuade my students to think like I do. I want them to go through the same process I did when making my decisions about my beliefs by reading the facts and determining their own viewpoints.

What is the narrative that you see holding together your themes? The narrative I see is just straight facts. I don't want my students to be reading and learning a lot of fluff. I get so excited about history and the facts because, contrary to popular belief, the facts are interesting! There are so many plot twists and unexpected events that happened throughout history and that is something I see me covering in my classroom in order to get my students excited about history.