

# UNPLUGGED TEACHING IDEAS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES



## CREATE A GOOD CITIZEN POSTER

Have students brain storm ideas about the questions below:

- How can you help people at home?
- What can you do to take turns in school?
- How can you show respect for people in the community?

Then have them make posters that show ways to be a good citizen at home, in school, or in the community.

## WRITE A BOOK ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

What is your weather like? Is your community near water or mountains? Is it on flat lands? Have students draw pictures or people in places in the community. Showing the clothing they wear, food they eat, homes they live in, and things they do to have fun. Write a sentence under each picture explaining how location or weather shape the way people in the community live. Create a class book of students work.

## INTERVIEW A HISTORICAL FIGURE

Have students choose a person they have recently studied and pretend they are a reporter living during the time period. Have students ask the historical figure questions about the events surrounding the event that made the person famous.

[Source](#)

## BE A HISTORIAN

A historian studies and writes about the past. Historians study what others have written about a particular subject and use source material to build a new interpretation or follow new insights.

- Whose knowledge is this?
- Where did this knowledge base come from?
- Whom might this knowledge (or perspective) benefit?
- What perspectives are missing?
- What conclusions can be drawn from the evidence?

Examples:

- For one week, have your students journal every day about what they are seeing in the world around them. This might be what they see in the news, hear from friends and family, or anything else that they experience in their daily life.
- Have students consider: What major announcements happened day from both the local, state and national governments? What unique talents do you have as a student to record your thoughts about what happened

today? (drawing, poetry, notes, photos, etc). What changes can you as a student jot down to show the difference in how you and others around you are living your daily lives now as opposed to one month ago? (Change over time).

- After your week of journaling use your notes and journal entry to help you create a timeline for the things you have observed over the past 5 days. Discuss your timeline with family and friends.

## MONEY MATTERS

An economist studies the production and distribution of resources, goods, and services by collecting and analyzing data, researching trends, and evaluating economic issues. Economists also interpret and forecast market trends.

- How will societies, governments, business, and people use an allocate resources?
- How does data support trends, patterns or forecast warnings for the economy, society, etc.?
- What impact will economic decisions have on societies, governments, business, and people?
- What policies or laws are needed to solve economic problems?

Examples:

- Create a list of everything that they would like to spend money on and in their list identify the following:
- [What things are needs and what are wants.](#)
- What things are goods and what are services.
- Ask the student to determine how much all of the items on the list cost. (Family members can support younger students by helping them figure out the cost of items.)
- Give the student a [budget](#). This budget should preferably cover the cost of most/all of the needs, but not enough to cover the cost of everything on the list. (Older students can look at careers and hour wages to determine what type of income they can expect in different careers with a 40 hr work week.)
- Have students decide what their budget looks like and how they plan to save/invest for the future based on what their needs and wants are now.

[Source](#)