



Elementary Social Studies Topics

Course Syllabus

Course Description

The social studies skills students learn in elementary school are foundational to success in later school years and to becoming productive citizens. What are the foundational social studies skills elementary students learn, what are some engaging strategies/lessons for teaching these skills, and what are some activity and project ideas for teaching social studies? This course will answer these questions and give you a more well-rounded view of social studies in elementary school. Topics to be covered include Civics, Culture, Geography, Economics, U.S. History, U.S. Government, National Symbols in the U.S., and U.S. Holidays!

This course enhances classroom teaching effectiveness and supports improved student outcomes by introducing new knowledge in foundational elementary social studies instruction, including civics, culture, geography, economics, U.S. history, and government, through developmentally appropriate and engaging strategies.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Explore best practices and strategies for teaching civics and developing lesson plans for elementary-aged students.
2. Explore different methods to celebrate cultural diversity in the classroom and review standards for social studies teachers that can be useful in creating lesson plans for elementary-aged students.
3. Explore best practices for teaching geography and consider ideas that can be used to create developmentally appropriate activities and lesson plans for elementary-aged students.
4. Explore strategies and best practices for teaching economics and discover how children's literature and board games can be used to develop an understanding of economics in elementary-aged students.
5. Explore strategies and best practices for teaching U.S. history and consider how effective social studies strategies can be used to develop activities for elementary-aged students.
6. Explore strategies and best practices for teaching the three branches of government and discover resources that help elementary-aged students develop an understanding of how the U.S. government operates.
7. Explore strategies and best practices for teaching elementary-aged students about United States symbols and discover methods used to illustrate the meaning of symbols and ceremonies in America.
8. Explore strategies and best practices for illustrating the significance of federal holidays and discover how to develop culturally responsive instruction for elementary-aged students.



Modules

- Module 1: Civics, Quiz 1
- Module 2: Culture, Quiz 2
- Module 3: Geography, Quiz 3
- Module 4: Economics, Quiz 4
- Module 5: U.S. History, Quiz 5
- Module 6: Government, Quiz 6
- Module 7: United States Symbols, Quiz 7
- Module 8: United States Holidays, Quiz 8

Grading:

Each quiz must be passed at an 80% or higher (three attempts allowed).

Format

This is a self-paced, asynchronous (no required live meetings) course. Throughout the PD course, you will find it helpful to take notes along the way to assist with the quizzes. Within each module, you will find reflection assessments that are not graded but will help in your journey through the course. There is an interactive forum in the course to help you connect with peers and instructors, share ideas, and collaborate on best practices throughout your learning journey.