

SNAPSHOT OF A SUCCESSFUL SECONDARY SOCIAL STUDIES CLASSROOM

Office of Teaching &
Learning
Secondary Curriculum
Social Studies

www.ccssoh.us/socialstudies



What should a social studies classroom look like?

On the walls:

- grade-level appropriate maps (grades 6 and 7 – World; grade 8 – U.S.; grade 9 – World; grades 10-11 – U.S.)
- student-friendly learning targets/ “I can” statements for the year
- social studies vocabulary word wall
- quality student work displaying mastery of learning targets
- relevant multicultural posters

On the board:

- today’s learning target/ “I can” statement
- today’s agenda and student tasks
- today’s vocabulary terms

In the room:

- reference books
- news magazines and newspapers
- desks arranged in clusters for group work or semicircle for discussion
- review games and activities (e.g., Kagan learning chips, event cubes, etc.)
- technology tools and activities

What activities and assignments should students be doing in social studies?

Reading and discussing:

- current events articles connected to course content statements
- content-rich nonfiction secondary texts

Analyzing:

- credibility of primary sources: photographs, letters, diaries, documents
- maps and geospatial technology tools
- tables, charts, graphs, political cartoons
- vocabulary terms (tier 2 and tier 3)
- nonfiction texts for central ideas, supporting evidence, and inferences
- multiple perspectives on issues
- cause-and-effect relationships

Writing and creating:

- extended constructed responses
- evidence-based arguments and essays
- research papers and projects
- technology/multimedia presentations

Working in cooperative groups:

- on project-based learning
- to solve problems or historical inquiries