

SNAPSHOT OF A SUCCESSFUL SECONDARY SOCIAL STUDIES CLASSROOM

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**COLUMBUS
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What should a social studies classroom look like?

On the walls:

- grade-level appropriate maps
- student-friendly learning targets/intentions for the year
- social studies vocabulary word wall
- quality student work displaying mastery of learning targets/intentions
- culturally relevant posters

On the board:

- today's learning target/intention and success criteria/ "I can" statements
- today's agenda and student tasks
- today's vocabulary terms

In the room:

- textbooks and reference materials
- desks arranged in clusters for group work or semicircle for discussion
- review games and manipulatives (e.g., learning chips, event cubes, desk maps)
- chromebooks and tech tools

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

Reading and discussing:

- current events articles connected to learning targets/intentions
- 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