Use Inquiry to Build Engagement in Social Studies

Resources tiny.url/InquirySS
HELLO!

Debra Neighbors, Learning Liaison at Bear Creek Elementary
Elementary & middle school teacher and instructional coach in Texas and California
@dvneighborsedu

Specialized training:
UCBerkeley History Social Studies Project (teacher facilitator)
Teaching American History Project
Activity

What did Ms. Neighbors do on her vacation?
Why did we do this activity?

➢ **Academic**
  ➔ Looking at primary sources for evidence
  ➔ Using evidence to construct argument
  ➔ Use writing to share learning

➢ **Community**
  ➔ Working together
  ➔ Get to know me
Activity

WHAT IS HISTORY?

Social Studies Weekly
What is History.org
Big History Project
Definition of History
“History is not just a collection of facts, but rather a rigorously constructed set of arguments."

TeachingHistory.org
INQUIRY

➢ Introduces students to the "doing' of history
➢ Use evidence to investigate historical questions
➢ Learn that interpretations of the past can change based on the available historical evidence.
Questioning
The Heart of Inquiry
Essential Question
What enduring understanding do you want your students to have about a broad topic?

i.e. unit, era, civilization

Focus Question
What learning is most important when studying an event, person, artifact, etc?

Provides evidence to help answer the broader essential question
ASKING GOOD QUESTIONS

➢ Use a question that requires that students use historical evidence to answer it.

➢ Common formats for historical questions are:
  → causal questions: "What caused x?"
  → explanatory questions: "Why did x happen?"
  → evaluating questions: "Was x a success?"
Activity

Work in Egypt
Tomb of Menna at Thebes, 18th Dynasty.
1. Read the excerpt from the *Satire on the Trades*. In this text, a father named Dua-Khety, talks to his son, Pepy, about why being a scribe is the best profession in the world. He emphasizes how the life of a scribe is so much better than living with the difficulties other professionals encounter.

2. As you read, identify the hardships Dua-Khety associates with trades other than a scribe. *Circle words and phrases you don’t understand or have questions about.*
Primary Sources
PRIMARY SOURCES

➢ Use documents and sources your students can read and access
➢ Consider using short excerpts or modifying difficult language in documents, especially if you are working with struggling readers. Article

→ Elementary: See here for an original version of John Smith’s "A True Relation." See here for an adapted version appropriate for an elementary school classroom.
→ Middle: See here for a transcribed version of "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" by Fredrick Douglass, and here for an adapted version of the document for use in a middle school classroom.
Favorite Strategies for Understanding Difficult Texts

Deconstruction - Text Chunking

Cause and Effect
My Favorite Resources

**Library of Congress**
Digital collection of primary sources (written, visual, audio) sortable by state & grade. Also offers classroom materials and professional development.

**Teaching History**
K-12 history teachers access resources and materials to improve U.S. history education in the classroom. Teaching strategies, resources, & research

**UCBerkeley History-Social Studies Project**
Offers lesson plans, teaching resources, and more.

**Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection**
UT site with world’s largest online collection of maps, which includes all types of maps from historical to contemporary.

**National Archives**
Docs Teach

**The British Museum**
(online collection)

**History Matters**

**World History for Us All**

**RUSA Primary Sources for Historical Research**

**Europeana**
THANKS!

Any questions?

You can find me at @dvneighboredu & debra.neighbors@gcisd.net
Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

➢ Presentation template by SlidesCarnival
➢ Maps in slides 2, 6 and 9 from David Rumsey Map Collection
➢ Photographs by Unsplash