The 10 Themes of Social Studies

What is Social Studies?

When you hear the term 'Social Studies,' what is the first thing that pops into your mind? Is it, oh no – History? Is it why we are studying something that has nothing to do with me? Or do you not know exactly what Social Studies is?



You probably have studied History during Social Studies class. But did you know that History is only one of several subjects under the subject of Social Studies? Social Studies deals with all sorts of relationships. For example, one field of Social Studies is geography, which is the study of how people relate to the places they live in. If you live in the desert, your life is far different than if you live in a rainforest. Geography explains how people survive in various climates and why they choose to live where they do.



Another field you probably have studied is Civics. Civics is the study of our rights and responsibilities as citizens. You probably already know in the United States there are three branches of government; legislative, executive, and judicial branches. We elect people to represent our ideas and manage government services like education, healthcare, or streets, for example. You may have heard your teacher say you have specific responsibilities as a citizen. For instance, you should

obey all of the laws or work to keep parks clean or assist others who are in need.

Here is a list of some of the fields covered under Social Studies. Do you know what each one does? With your teacher, complete the chart.

Field	Definition
Economics	
Political Science	
Sociology	
Sociology Anthropology	
Law	
Environmental Science	
Archaeology	
Psychology	



Teaching The Ten Themes Of Social Studies Middle School

Xiaolong Qi

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