Resources for Teaching and Learning
Social Studies
Different Resources

- Libraries
  - Schools and Public
- Textbooks
- Curriculum guides
- Community Resources
- Guest speakers
- Field trips

- Computer Resources
  - Virtual Field Trips
  - Exploring Museums Online
  - Joining Civic Discussions
  - Computer Simulations
- Newspapers
- Map and globe collections
Reasons for Using Different Resources

- Not all children learn the same way.
  - Different media appeal to the different home cultures and different learner personalities

- Teaching strategies that stress inquiry and problem solving require extensive resources.

- The reading range varies among learners.

- Each medium had particular strengths and limitations.
Reasons for Using Different Resources

- The impact of a message is stronger if more than one sensory system is involved.
- The use of a variety of media is engaging and motivating.
- Different sources provide different viewpoints.
- There may be discrepancies or inaccuracies that go undetected when a single source is used.
Primary and Secondary Sources

- Historians use a wide variety of sources to answer questions about the past. In their research, history scholars use both primary sources and secondary sources.
- Primary sources are actual records that have survived from the past, such as letters, photographs, articles of clothing. Secondary sources are accounts of the past created by people writing about events sometime after they happened.
- A history textbook is basically a secondary source. Someone wrote most of a textbook long after historical events took place.
- A textbook may also include some primary sources, such as direct quotes from people living in the past or excerpts from historical documents.
Primary and Secondary Sources

■ People living in the past left many clues about their lives.

■ These clues include both primary and secondary sources in the form of books, personal papers, government documents, letters, oral accounts, diaries, maps, photographs, reports, novels and short stories, artifacts, coins, stamps, and many other things.

■ Historians call all of these clues together the historical record.
Rationale for Using Primary Sources

- For years, historians and other educators have understood the value of primary sources in K-12 education.
- Primary sources expose students to multiple perspectives on great issues of the past and present. History, after all, deals with matters that were furiously debated by the participants.
- Interpretations of the past are furiously debated as well, among historians, policy makers, politicians, and ordinary citizens.
- By working with primary sources, students can become involved in these debates.
Questions to Answer Before Selecting Resources

- **Interest**
  - What kinds of resources are of particular interest to my students?

- **Reading Level**
  - How difficult is the reading level of the primary source compared to my students' abilities? What might help my students comprehend this material (a glossary of terms, for example)?

- **Length**
  - How long is the resource? Do I need to excerpt a portion of the source given my students' abilities and/or classroom time constraints? How do I ensure that the original meaning of the source is preserved in the excerpt?
Questions to Answer Before Selecting Resources

- **Points of View**
  - Are various points of view on a given topic, event, or issue fairly represented in the sources I have chosen to use? Have I achieved proper balance among the competing points of view?

- **Variety of Sources**
  - Have I included a variety of types of sources (e.g., published, unpublished, text, visual, and artifacts)?

- **Location**
  - Where can I or my students find the sources we need (the school or public library, the local history society, over the Internet)?
Sharing Resources

- Conduct a review of appropriate teaching resources that includes curriculum materials, books, journal articles and technology resources for teaching social studies.
- Write a paper using your own words that describes and summarizes each resource.
- Provide suggestions for how the resource could be used in teaching. Include a complete bibliographic citation using APA format (American Psychological Association) for each resource.
- Students will share the resources with peers and must provide peers with a clear and concise annotated review of the resources along with a complete bibliographic citation for all of the resources.
# Sharing Resources

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Summary

■ There are many different kinds of resources for teaching Social Studies.
■ Different resources were created for different reasons.
■ Teachers should use a wide range of instructional materials.