

Elements of Best Practices	What the teacher is doing...	What the students are doing...	How I decided on this best practice
<p>1. Social studies teaching should involve exploration of open ended questions that challenge students' thinking.</p> <p>Teacher need to provide opportunity for students to work collaboratively in small groups to problem solve, think through ideas, and challenge what they think with a balance of student led learning and teacher interactions to allow students to question their thinking and expand their knowledge.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Posing a question, idea, timeframe. 2. Building on prior knowledge to extend learning. 3. Making learning active. 4. Redirecting misconceptions- leading to sources to help clarify or engaging to help understanding. 5. Reflecting student ideas back to what people may have thought at that time. 6. "Coaching" strategies for learning about an idea. 7. Using learning log entries to identify/check understanding. 8. Allow students to make a personal connection to the content. 9. Support students in their reasoning- allow for differences of opinions. 10. Model for students how to make sure their work is thoroughly researched and complete. 11. Encourage students to think beyond the current topic- research arts, sciences, etc. to incorporate into their 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organizing previous knowledge. 2. Determining how to extend knowledge- where to research and find more information. 3. Asking questions about the time period. 4. Using resources and reasoning to justify their work. 5. Use multiple sources. 6. Ask questions and research to build upon prior knowledge. 7. Be willing to take on a challenge- take depth not breadth. 	<p>This practice is the common practice in my math class. Students are given a question they may not know the answer to, then they problem solve as a team, applying their previous knowledge to come to a conclusion about the stated question. This style of teaching really allows the lessons and learning to be student centered. The students tend to (at least in math) take responsibility for their learning and ownership for their work. Students are able to learn skills to problem solve and research for the future. It takes the idea of "memorizing facts" out of the learning equation for social studies. All three sources state that students should be working collaboratively to best problem solve, prepare for the real world, and learn to communicate ideas to each other.</p>

	<p>learning.</p> <p>12. Proper closure of the lesson.</p>		
<p>2. Social studies should involve a full variety of cultures found in America.</p> <p>Students should study their own cultures and the cultures of others. This best practice is designed to breakdown “the melting pot of America” into a better understanding of the parts that make up the whole.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building on prior knowledge. 2. Allowing students to make personal connections. 3. Providing opportunities for students to make their own (new connections) 4. Make all cultures feel equally important. 5. Make all students feel equitable within the classroom. 6. Integrate varied resources. 7. Encourage students to think beyond the current topic- research arts, sciences, etc. to incorporate into their learning. 8. Extinguish racial/cultural biased. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accept cultural differences. 2. Participate in discussions and use prior knowledge to add to classroom discussions. 3. Find out own personal background, if possible. 4. Ask questions to find out more information. 5. Use resources to justify their findings. 	<p>When reading the ideas from SSBP, the statement about minority children being cut off from their own culture, really hit home. Working in both an inner-city school district and an affluent, diverse school district makes this statement so true. Based off of an array of factors that influence the reasoning behind this statement, it still rings true. Based off of students’ prior knowledge and experiences, student can see cultures as superior or inferior to others, especially their own. When taught properly, it allows the opportunity to extinguish biased towards other cultures based off of prior knowledge and experiences, it allows students the opportunity to experience/research cultures different from theirs and build respect for other cultures and other people.</p>