



Social Studies That Sticks: How to Bring Content and Concepts to Life

Laurel Schmidt

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The announcement that “It's social studies time” often elicits dread from students who mistakenly view the subject as a near-death experience. And who can blame them when this fascinating subject has been stripped of the heartbreak, adventure, conflict, treachery, strategic brilliance, and spectacular foibles - in short, the humanity - that it's supposed to explain? Student apathy and rock-bottom test scores scream that it's time for a change - for unforgettable, not regrettable, social studies. It's time for *Social Studies That Sticks*.

In *Social Studies That Sticks* Laurel Schmidt introduces a brain-compatible approach to integrated, standards-based instruction, using the four elements of the human learning cycle: awareness, exploration, inquiry, and action. This dynamic approach brings content and concepts to life, while sharpening skills in questioning, thinking, reading, writing, and the visual and performing arts. It promotes academic achievement, models the habits of active citizenship, tunes students' ethical antennae to social problems, and teaches tools students can use to advocate for change.

Social Studies That Sticks is a comprehensive, passionate, and user-friendly guide that:

- identifies essential social studies themes, standards, and skills
- models maximum use of primary source documents, eye-witness narratives, biographies, and historical fiction
- describes how artifacts, objects, art, photography, and architecture can be tools for inquiry and learning
- explores the community of a social studies classroom
- tackles matters of cultural perspective, point of view, bias, and propaganda
- transforms current events into historical investigations
- maps vital steps for social-justice projects
- provides guidelines for essays, presentations, oral histories, personal narratives, and original historic writing
- outlines dozens of authentic assessments
- introduces the Learning Ledger for student self-assessment
- pinpoints archival material, hundreds of books and websites, and historical resources for research and classroom use.

Whether you use Laurel Schmidt's ideas to supplement your existing curriculum or you're ready to make your current textbook ancient history, *Social Studies That Sticks* will transform social studies time into lessons about history and humanity that last a lifetime.

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