



Friday Focus

CARTER COUNTY SCHOOLS

Volume 2, Issue 16

January 17, 2014

Calendar of Events:

Jan 22 Heritage Academy

Jan 23 4-6 Writing Academy 12:30 pm

ACTC Science Fair Feb 7

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[Making Social Studies Come Alive](#)

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Social Studies Across the Curriculum

The sweep of the standards movement has changed instruction across all disciplines, but perhaps nowhere have the effects been felt more strongly than in the field of social studies. Driven by the need to raise students' reading and math scores, many schools have curtailed their social studies curricula to devote more time to test preparation. In such an environment, how can social studies subjects such as history, geography,

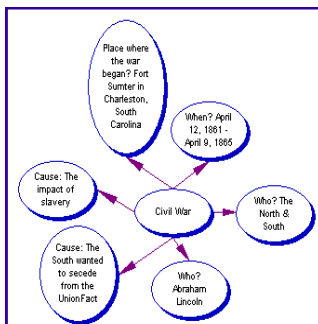
and economics continue to thrive?

The great news for teachers of any subject area is that students are flexible, and social studies curriculum can be integrated into practically any area of study. In order to ensure that our students are well-prepared for the rigorous demands of their upper level history classes, we must provide as many opportunities as possible to integrate social studies into our classrooms. Whether it's a reading passage, writing prompt, or math scenario, instruction can serve two purposes when we take the time to explore the standards being taught by our fellow teachers.

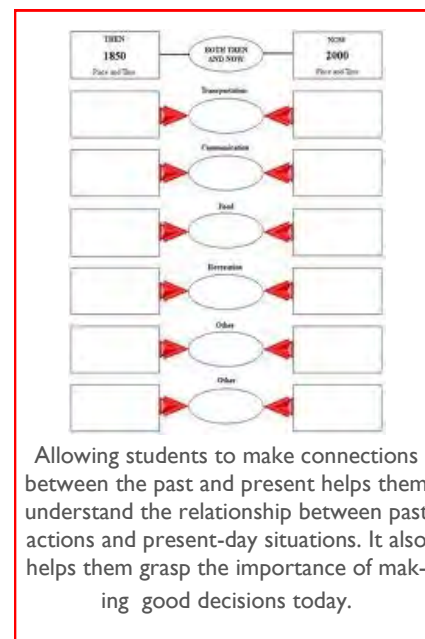
Included in this edition of the Friday Focus, you can find many links to sites that provide creative ways to teach social studies. Also, you

will find graphic organizers and reading strategies specifically designed for history lessons.

When students begin to grasp the stories behind the facts, dates, and important people in history, they will begin to store these critical pieces of information deep within their schema.



Graphic organizers can be used when reading content passages to help students recall important information.



Allowing students to make connections between the past and present helps them understand the relationship between past actions and present-day situations. It also helps them grasp the importance of making good decisions today.

Interactive Notebooks and How To Implement Them

An interactive notebook is a teaching strategy made popular by History Alive! Any type of binder or notebook can become a working portfolio of student work. There are many ways to use this interactive notebook. Here is one suggested way: One side (often the left side) is the teacher side. Here, students will record information they must know that is related to the topic being taught. This information is generally lower-level Bloom's Taxonomy-related assignments such as fill-in-the-blank notes or questions strips to be used during guided reading. When discussing the interactive notebook with your students, help them think of the left side as the "left is for learning" side. The other side is the student-side. On this side, the student processes the information in a variety of creative ways – mind maps, drawings, poetry, etc. The right side is the higher levels of Bloom's Taxonomy – a chance to interact and make sense of the material. Allow students to choose their method of responding to what they have learned. This is a simple way to differentiate and allow students to have a meaningful experience with their new knowledge. Other possible assignments include: maps, illustrated outlines, foldables, timelines, charts, comic strips, and concept maps. Many more ideas can be found online.

Be clear in your purpose for using an Interactive Notebook and determine the basics before introducing this teaching tool to your class. Consider these questions: What type of notebook will you use? (Binder, Composition book, Spiral) How many will you use? (For example: one for each semester or each nine weeks or each year) How will you add new handouts? (Glue, Tape, no handouts, handwritten notes only) How often and in what way will you assess the notebooks? How will you keep a record of what you've done for absent students and yourself for next year? What type of assignments will help your students process your material best? What information will you keep in these notebooks?