

Social Studies Websites for Grades 1-8

From the Bureau of Education & Research (BER)

Compiled by Beth Dennis, updated March 2020

General Social Studies:

101 Great Sites for Social Studies Class: "Finding Dulcinea- Librarian of the Internet" has a multitude of resources for all grades and disciplines. Look for their biographies as well.

<http://www.findingdulcinea.com/news/education/2010/march/101-Great-Sites-for-Social-Studies.html>

for biographies: <http://www.sweetsearch.com/biographies>

History Wired: Explore over 450 objects not on display by selection a topic from the homepage map on this website from the Smithsonian. <http://historywired.si.edu/>

KnowItAll.org Here you'll find a variety of topic specific multi-media resources.
<https://www.knowitall.org/subject/social-studies>

Mr. Nussbaum A Thousand Sites in One: There are dozens of great links about history, geography, USA & states, and much more. Choose by topic or grade level. Also has links for Science & Language Arts. <http://www.mrnussbaum.com/index.html>

Ancient Civilizations:

Ancient Civilizations: Links galore from "Social Studies for Kids". Beware of ads.
<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/subjects/ancientcivilizations.htm>

Pyramids: Explore the insides of an Egyptian pyramid via QuickTime. Information on the excavation and building of the pyramids is also available, as is information on hieroglyphs.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/pyramid/explore/>

Economics:

H.I.P. Pocket Change: From the US Mint, 'History is in Your Pocket' is a great resource to introduce economics to students. The cartoon features talk about money, and there are numerous financial literacy options.

<http://www.usmint.gov/kids/>

EconEdLink: This collection of lesson plans pulled together by the National Council on Economic Education can be easily indexed by grade level, keyword, and type of resource.

<http://www.econedlink.org/lessons/economic-lesson-search.php>

US Government:

Ben's Guide to US Government: Choose a grade level and a topic, and jump right in.

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/>

The Democracy Project: Learn about elections: start with "How Does Government Affect Me". Note the Educators' link on the bottom of the page.

<http://pbskids.org/democracy/govandme/>

US History, including Native Americans, Slavery, & NYS:

America's Story from America's Library: Besides state information, students can "Meet Amazing Americans" (great biographies), "Jump Back in Time", "Join America at Play", and "See, Hear and Sing".

http://www.americaslibrary.gov/es/ny/es_ny_subj.html

Authentic History Center: From the website: "The Authentic History Center endeavors to tell the story of the United States primarily through popular culture. It was created to teach that the everyday objects in society have authentic historical value and reflect the social consciousness of the era that produced them. New interpretive sections are added when substantial resources have been collected. Until then, incomplete collections are presented as digital archives without comment for individual study. The site is a work in progress."

<http://www.authentichistory.com/>

Circle of Stories: This site uses documentary film, photography, artwork, and music to help tell a number of Native American stories. Native Americans narrate five of the stories. Lesson plans included on this site.

<http://www.pbs.org/circleofstories/>

Colonial Williamsburg: Teacher resources

<https://www.colonialwilliamsburg.org/learn/teachers/> (teacher)

The Fifty States: From FactMonster, fast facts on states, as well as a historical overview below the fast facts. Grades 1-8

<http://www.factmonster.com/states.html>

The Henry Ford Museum: Founded by Henry Ford to showcase the American Experience, the exhibits found here include such diversity as America's fight for freedom, toys from the past, heroes of the sky, and more.

<http://www.thehenryford.org/collections/online.aspx>

History Wired: Explore over 450 objects not on display by selection a topic from the homepage map on this experimental website from the Smithsonian Double click on the topic to reveal further info, pictures, & other multimedia selections.

<http://historywired.si.edu/>

Immigration: Information on past immigrants from 1920 & 1933 plus contemporary examples are brought to life via images, audio, and further investigation. An interactive tour of Ellis Island is linked to this site.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/immigration/index.htm>

Jamestown Online Adventure: This simulation gives students the opportunity to be the captain of the Jamestown Colony.

<http://historyglobe.com/jamestown/>

Monticello: Travel the grounds and main house via maps & 3D recreations, or take a narrated tour of the house, gardens and grounds, as well as a look at the domestic life in Jeffersonian times.

<http://explorer.monticello.org/index.html>

Mystery State: From the website: "Education World's *Mystery State* activity challenges students to use five clues to identify one of the 50 U.S. states or the District of Columbia. As students work the clues, they exercise geography skills, develop research abilities, and learn a little history too."

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/state/stateideas.shtml

Oregon Trail: Follow the Oregon Trail, stopping at key points along the trail.

<http://www.historyglobe.com/ot/otmap1.htm>

Pathways to Freedom: This interactive site guides students through the Underground Railroad by taking on the identity of a Maryland slave as they navigate the route. Click "Classroom Resources" to access a wealth of materials.

<http://pathways.thinkport.org/following/>

Smithsonian National Museum of American History: Explore the Smithsonian Museum of National History from your classroom!

<https://historyexplorer.si.edu/> (teacher resources)

Stately Knowledge: From the Internet Public Library (IPL), students click on a state to get 'Brief Facts', 'Encyclopedias/Almanacs' for further research, state links, 'Did You Know', and 'State's Famous People' .

<http://www.ipl.org/div/stateknow/>

The States: The 50 states from history.com. Each state has a link to more information about the individual state.

<https://www.history.com/topics/us-states>

Statue of Liberty Cam: Wonderful pictures of this US landmark. Check out the archive options for pictures students can use for projects. Note: there are some ads that play prior to the live stream.

<http://earthcam.com/usa/newyork/statueofliberty/>

Tenement Museum: Learn about immigration while exploring the tenements of New York City.

Note: this site is no longer maintained, but several items are still available to browse.

<http://www.thirteen.org/tenement/>

Themed Resources from LOC: Explore various themes in US history using primary documents from the American Memory collection of the Library of Congress.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/themes/>

Virtual Jamestown: Students can explore an Indian long house, the fort, and much more. Note: works best in Internet Explorer.

<http://www.virtualjamestown.org/>

We the People: A primary source set of materials with which to teach the Constitution.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/constitution/>

Within These Walls...: Explore history via the stories of the 5 families who have lived in this house, beginning in 1757 and ending in 1945.

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/house/home.asp>

World Geography and History:

Altapedia Online: Contains full color physical maps, political maps, key facts & stats on countries of the world.

<http://www.atlapedia.com/>

Geo Games: from the website: "GeoGames is a Flash game that lets you drag-and-drop onto the Planet Earth. You can rotate your planet, test your geography skills, and print a copy when you are done! There's a timer, so you can track your scores." Great for the SmartBoard!

<http://reachtheworld.org/geogames/index.html>

Geography Games: From Sheppard Software, this is a great set of web-based games for all areas of the world.<http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/Geography.htm>

Global Trek: Students can plan their own trip to a foreign country, learning about the place in the process. Students keep a journal and the trip is crafted with writing options for each step of the way. Journals are stored for a school year and then erased in July.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/globaltrek/index.htm>

Journey Into the Amazon Rainforest: This PBS site includes a wide range of features on the Amazon Rainforest, including plants, animals, layers, and more. The "Play Amazon Explorer" activity tests students' knowledge after they have explored the website.

<http://www.pbs.org/journeyintoamazonia/index.html>

Kids' Castle: Roam through this virtual castle by simply clicking on one of the parts, and learn about the history and purpose of that structure. **Note:** There are a number of additional activities embedded in the tour.<http://kidsonthenet.com/castle/view.html>

Map Puzzles: Students learn geography via this treasure trove of online US & World map puzzles. Grades 1-8 <http://www.yourchildlearns.com/map-puzzles.htm>

National Geographic Kids: Options include "Countries", "People & Places", "Photos", geography games and more.

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/>

Webcams & Videos:

Statue of Liberty Cam: Wonderful pictures of this US landmark. Check out the archive options for pictures students can use for projects. Note: there are some ads that play prior to the live stream. <http://earthcam.com/usa/newyork/statueofliberty/>

Virtual Travel: (also found under related topics)

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Great American Landmarks Adventure: Virtual field trips- ask your school librarian
<https://www.nps.gov/teachers/classrooms/ask-a-ranger-virtual-field-trip.htm>

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Tour Betsy Ross's Home: Explore the home of Betsy Ross, both as it existed in early American history and as the area is today.
<http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/house/intro.html>

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