



How to Help Your Child in Social Studies

Top 10 List

1. READ! Read newspapers, news magazines, biographies, non-fiction, historical fiction, and primary sources- speeches, documents, letters, songs etc. from a particular time period.
2. Read and interpret charts, graphs, and maps.
3. Take your child to a museum or a historic site. Many museums and sites have family days or special hours at reduced rates or free.
4. Encourage your child to write by keeping a journal and reflections of what they have read or observed.
5. Try to have dinner together to discuss the events of the day and ask your child about what they are studying in school.
6. For a birthday or holiday, buy your child a book, biography, map or globe.
7. Have your child read a map and help plan a route on a trip.
8. Encourage your child to respect people and other viewpoints. Celebrate your heritage and learn about other cultures as well.
9. Encourage your child to participate in academic contests such as The History Fair (Grades 6-12); U.I.L. Middle and High School; and numerous essay contests.
10. Watch educational T.V. Programs together such as K.M.B.H. Public Television; or the History Channel programs.

Community Resources: Museums Help Teach Social Studies

Here are ten ideas about teaching social studies through museums and historic sites.

1. Museums are a significant TEKS teaching resource.
2. Museums and historic sites inspire students.
3. There are many types of museums.
4. Museums offer students informal opportunities to learn-and can help you to design rich experiences for your students/children.
5. Museums and historic sites have good curriculum support materials.
6. Virtual Trips to a museum or historic site are almost as good as real trips.
7. A successful museum trip involves the Three P's: preparation, participation, and post- visit reflection.
8. You and your students/children can make a museum together.
9. Museum educators and curators are both resources and role models.
10. Texas has many excellent museums with unlimited learning opportunities.

Brownsville	Lower Valley	Upper Valley
<u>Children's Museum of Brownsville</u> <u>Historic Brownsville Museum</u> <u>Brownsville Museum of Fine Art</u> <u>Mitte Cultural District</u> <u>Stillman House & Heritage Museum</u> <u>Commemorative Air Force Museum</u> <u>Palo Alto Battlefield National Park</u>	<u>Harlingen Arts and Heritage Museum</u> <u>Iwo Jima Monument and Museum</u> <u>The Museums of San Benito</u> <u>Museums of Port Isabel</u>	<u>Museum of South Texas History</u> <u>Nuevo Santander Gallery</u> <u>International Museum of Art and Science</u> <u>The McAllen Heritage Center</u>