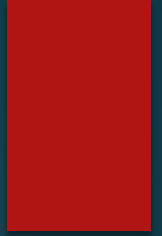


The Social Studies: Nature and Goals



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- ▶ The social studies is that part of the elementary and high school curriculum which has the primary responsibility for helping students to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values needed to participate in the civic life of their local communities, the nation, and the world. While the other curriculum areas also help students to attain some skills needed to participate in a democratic society, the social studies is the only area that has the development of civic competencies and the skills as its primary goal.

The goals of the social studies

- ▶ The major goal of the social studies is to prepare citizens who can make reflective decisions and participate successfully in the civic life of their communities, nation, and the world.
- ▶ Goals in four categories contribute to this major goal: (1) knowledge, (2) skills, (3) attitudes and values, and (4) citizen action.

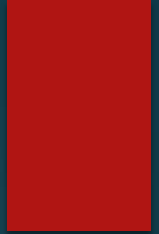
Knowledge

- ▶ Students must master knowledge in order to make reflective decisions and to participate effectively in their communities.
- ▶ Knowledge in the social studies curriculum is usually drawn from the social science discipline and from history. However, it may also be drawn from the humanities, as well as from other sources if it is needed by the citizen actor to make decisions and to take actions.
- ▶ Philosophy is frequently drawn upon in the social studies to help students identify and clarify their values. To make reflective decisions, citizen actors must use higher levels of knowledge, such as concepts, generalizations, and theories.

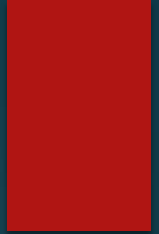
Skills

- ▶ Skill goals are very important in the social studies.
- ▶ They can be categories as follows:
 - ▶ Thinking skills
 - ▶ Social science inquiry skills
 - ▶ Academic or study skills
 - ▶ Group skills

Attitudes and values goals



Citizen action goals



Decision-making: the heart of the social studies

