

Tips and Resources for a High School Geography Class

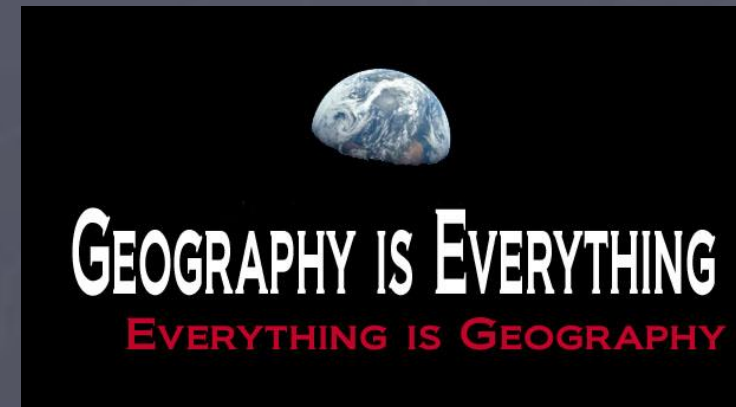
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Where is it?



The Purpose of a Geography Class

- Social Studies courses are a method for teaching critical thinking, and analysis by examining global topics
- Opening students to new ideas
- Getting students to examine deeper to find patterns and meaning





Objectives:

- Provide suggestions for how to format a geography class, units, and individual lessons
- Address particular points of emphasis involved with teaching geography in a secondary setting
- Suggest resources, and their applications, for participants to use in their own classrooms

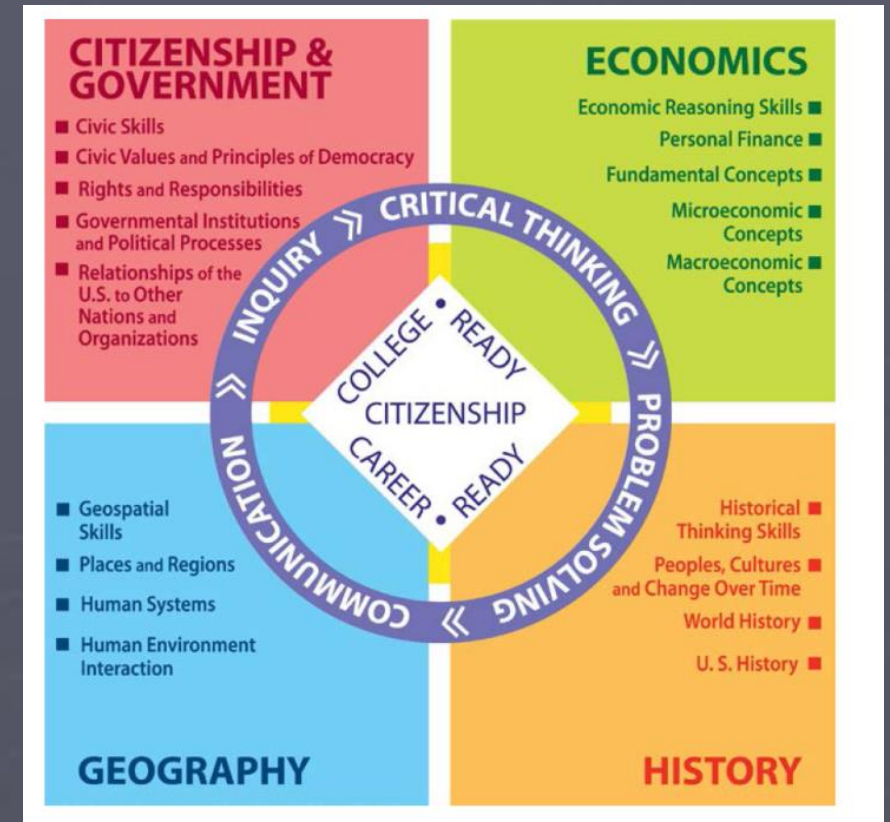
Setting up a Geography Class: General Teaching Advice

- Plan to be flexible
- **Teach to your strengths**
- Don't expect to be perfect the first time you teach a class...or ever
- Honesty is clutch
- Have backups and build up your "bag of tricks"
- Beg, Borrow, Steal
- Kids should be the exhausted ones at the end of the day...not you
- Build in time for yourself!
- Push for higher level thinking
- NETWORK! – Conferences, FB, E-mail



Setting up a Geography Class: General Geography Advice

- When in doubt check the standards
- Don't ever assume kids know, or don't know, anything about the world
- Geography should not be memorizing places and coloring maps
 - GIS Should not be just clicking
- Have a plan, but don't be tied to it
- Real world examples are clutch
- Don't be afraid to try something new
- Everyday Fun Stuff



Points of Emphasis

- Scale

- Getting students to learn the impact on different levels
 - Ex. The impact of Ebola locally, on a national scale, impacts on the continent, and the world as a whole

- Inquiry

- Getting students to ask geographic questions and answer them with geographic data
 - Ex. Why did the Arab Spring impact the countries that it did and not spread beyond the Middle East?

- Application

- Help students gain a better understanding of their community, country, and world through looking at real world examples
 - Ex. Explaining the Ukrainian Crisis, or why so many Somalis go to the Twin Cities

Tips for Mapwork

- Have a clear and defined purpose
- Integrate technology when possible
- The more you can get in the better!
- Start large scale and work to smaller scales
- Include discussion of what makes a “good” map



Get Yourself Trained in GIS&T

- Emphasis on incorporating technology into the classroom
 - Included in State Standards
- Geospatial technologies allow a whole other realm of inquiry to take place
 - Can be used in any class
 - [Esri Geoinquiries](#)



Tips for Models



- Make it clear that models are almost never perfectly applicable
 - Based on observable trends
 - Meant to be a guide to “test”
- Find Real World Examples to Test the Models against
 - Great time to incorporate GIS analysis

Areas of Caution – Be Prepared

- American Exceptionalism
- Climate Change/Global Warming
- Cultural Relativism
- Development
- Evolution and Continental Drift
- “First World” and “Third World” Countries
- Genocide
- Islam/Muslims
- Israel
- Political Affiliations
- Race/Gender/Sexuality
- Religions
- Stereotypes
- Territorial Disputes

HELP! I've finished my lesson, but there is still time left in class

- Games
- Formative Checks for Understanding
 - Exit Tickets
 - Summarize
 - Quiz
 - Quick write
- Current Events
- Interesting Maps
- Geographic Film
- Learn a region of the world



Whatever you do, own it!

Yenixib!

SEK MES

Flodně štěstí

Good luck!

Veilglock!

Молуң
Азгымың!

Srečno! 祝你好运

๗๗

ขอเชิญ

Viel Glück
R. Uts a Samma

UTS a Samma
Buena suerte
Sok szerencsét

Chúc may mắn

시험 잘봐!!!!

АЗ ХАРГАСТ
ХҮСНИ!

Со среќа

Lykke til!

Mult success

Powodzenia

執生

موفق باشید
بد قسمتی از توابع

Veal success!

Boa sorte! Yişansla
☆

Zorte on!

Срето! Buono
Fortuna

BONNE CHANCE