



Social Studies Newsletter

April 2020

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Inquire about Inquiry Webinar—[4/28, 5/26](#)



Tap into PBS—Our Arizona PBS stations along our state universities are offering [Arizona At-Home Learning](#) creating K-12 programming weekdays on the main PBS stations throughout Arizona. Pre-K to Grade 3 programming is from 5:00-6:30 am. Grades 4-8 have programming from 6:30 am—noon. Grades 9-12 programming airs from noon to 4:30 pm. Content covers a wide range of subject matter and does not require technology to access it.

Earth Day

With Earth Day on April 22nd, why not add something fun for students to do to investigate our planet. Here are some great resources for distance learning that engage kids. [Google Lit Trips](#) is a site that takes children’s literature, creates downloadable files that pops up place markers on the Earth where the action in the book took place. [Google Earth](#) also has some interesting activities for students of all ages and interests to practice their skills while at home researching the Earth. Last check out [National Geographic’s educational resources](#). These are also divided up by grade band with K-12 offerings and a wide scope of activities for students to get interested in and practice some social studies skills along with science and ELA.

A New Normal?

As we are all dealing with this new normal, trying to wrap our heads around what we have been asked to do as educators, we thought we would focus this month’s newsletter addressing our new normal with a few tips. Three things to think on...

1. Flexibility is key. There are no rules, no guidelines, or directions in times like these. Go with the flow and be adaptable. As you work with your students whether with new content or enrichment, you will need to be adaptable and recognize not everyone is in the same situation—what used to take a day or two could take students a week. Be flexible.
2. Less is more. This is an overwhelming time for everyone. As you create lessons and work with kids, keep it simple and small. Continue to make learning fun for them to alleviate the seriousness of the world in which our students are living. Get them investigating anything social studies related even if it may not be the exact unit you were planning. Learning is still learning. Think quality over quantity.
3. Deep breaths. This applies to all of us. This too shall pass. No one is perfect, nor does anyone expect you to be perfect. This is new to everyone. Do your best, remember your students needs, and also remember your own mental and physical health needs. Just breathe.

Read a Book

Local author Adena Astrowsky has terrific book chronically her grandmother’s experience through the rise of the Nazis, WWII, and the aftermath. The best part is it also pairs perfectly with our 8th grade standards. Check it out [here](#).

Plan A Trip

Museums and tourist places are closed to the public. However many have put exhibits and virtual tours online for free to use. Find one that pairs well with your content, have student explore the collections, hikes and trails, or whatever they choose. Pair the experience with some sort of reflection. They can even take a picture to demonstrate they did it. It doesn’t have to be graded, but they were able to learn something. Here are some museums and tourist places that pair well with Arizona’s standards.

- [Ellis Island](#)
- [Colonial Williamsburg](#)
- [Smithsonian Museum of Natural History](#)
- [Yellowstone National Park](#)
- [The Louvre](#)
- [National Gallery of Art](#)
- [NASA](#)
- [Sistine Chapel](#)
- [12 Museums from Travel and Leisure](#)

ADE Covid-19 Resources

[Vetted resources for all subjects](#)

Content Specialist Office Hours — Contact us [via email](#) to request a Zoom dial in for weekly meetings to touch base and resources.

Mondays 10:30-11:30

Other Ideas

Pick a hero—Have students research an individual and reflect about their impact on the world or their community.

Raid the pantry—Have students go into their pantries, find an item, research the origin, explain cultural connections, economic impacts, ties to other items, etc. Then have them do something fun with their reflection.

Free Amazing Resources