



Social Studies Distance Learning, 6-12

A digital version of this document can be found at <https://sde.ok.gov/covid19-instruction-support>.

This document is designed to support Oklahoma teachers and districts as they provide distance learning opportunities for students. Distance learning aims to provide students with continued learning opportunities at home and may or may not include technology.

Questions to Consider while Planning for Continued Learning

- 1. What are reasonable goals for student learning in your context? What experiences should be prioritized?** Plan with the following in mind:
 - District and school guidance and directives including expectations for learning time at home (e.g., **Social Studies 40-60 minutes, 2 times a week**)
 - Students' access to technology/internet/phones
 - Students' and your other responsibilities to family, work outside of school, etc.
 - Students' current understandings and background knowledge
- 2. How will students be introduced to the topic? Examples include:** a video of the teacher or someone else introducing the topic, asking an essential question to investigate, identifying an issue that is meaningful to the student, reading a primary source or article
- 3. In what ways can students collect information that pertains to the issue? Examples include:** place information on graphic organizers, use strategies that help students get information from a primary source, journaling, charts and graphs, digital representations such as a video, Prezi, PowerPoint, infographic
- 4. In what ways can students be prompted to have productive discussions with their peers or family members about the topic? Examples include:** explaining the issue or topic to a family member and ask for their ideas, calling another student in the class to discuss, participating in an online discussion board, or participating in a live chat with the teacher and/or other students through Zoom, Facebook Live, phone conference, Microsoft Teams or Skype
- 5. In what ways can students document their thinking and progress? Examples include:** respond to questions posed by the teacher or shared questions posed by the class, show information gathered from primary sources on graphic organizers, short written responses, digital representations of learning such as a video, Prezi, PowerPoint, infographic or online discussion boards
- 6. In what ways can students share artifacts of their learning? Examples include:** respond to questions via email, Google Suite for Education including classroom, discussion boards, social media or other methods like phone calls for students who lack technology



7. **How will students receive feedback during their learning? Examples include:** email, Google classroom or other platform, discussion boards, or other methods like phone calls for students who lack technology

8. **How does some of the work connect to literacy skills and how might you collaborate with the students' English Language Arts teacher on some topics, investigations or projects? Examples include:** assigned articles or primary sources serve as informational text readings and developing explanations supports technical writing

For specific guidance related to **Special Education** and **English Language Learner** instruction, visit [Special Education](#) and [English Language Learners](#).

Considerations for Universal Design can be made to ensure all activities are accessible for all learners. Learn more about [Universal Design for Learning](#).

Practical Advice

- As you begin the new journey of assisting your students through distance learning, identify personal support structures at home and within your school family. As teachers continue to support students, it is vital to find ways to connect with family, friends and other teachers.
- Also identify: what key concepts should be the focus, what skills should be practiced and what experiences should be prioritized.
- Play to your strengths.
- When something doesn't work, give yourself permission to move on to the next idea.
- If you have multiple courses for which you have to plan, consider assigning similar assignments in structure and make adjustments to the topic.
- Focus on enrichment activities that reinforce concepts and practices learned earlier in the school year, rather than feeling that you have to only address new content.
- Take advantage of opportunities for investigations of topics and issues both inside the home and within the community at large.
- Encourage students to journal and write about their experiences during this time. These will become primary sources of this time for future generations.
- Allow students to pursue relevant interests that connect to learning goals.
- Remember that a rich investigation or project can provide students with opportunities to develop and demonstrate many learning goals.

Example Activities

The following examples are meant to provide a sample structure for activities designed with the guidance provided in this document in mind. For other examples check out these [Middle School and High School Example Activities](#). If you have additional ideas for investigations, please consider adding them in this [Community Survey](#).



Middle School Example Activity	High School Example Activity
<p>Have students make observations and develop a map of how the pandemic is affecting the world right now:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Record where it is having the most impact.● Develop reasons why it is worse in different places and discuss these.● Develop a written emergency plan for their family.● Devise a plan for the state or nation to enact.	<p>Have students write a personal autobiography from birth to now.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● When finished, share it with a parent or older sibling.● Ask them to evaluate it and share their memories● Revise the autobiography from their input.

Instructional Resources

- [C3teachers](#) - Tasks for students using the social studies practices with primary sources included. (You can join for free.)
- [Oklahoma Council for the Social Studies](#) - Primary sources, Oklahoma Moment videos, presentations and lessons for students, Oklahoma text for students in third grade
- [DCPS Instructional Plan](#) - Example of an instructional plan for social studies using the social studies practices.
- [OKAGE](#) - Free geography lessons and resources. (You will have to register to access the lessons, but it is free.)
- [Oklahoma Council on Economic Education](#) - Offers free lesson plans that follow the 14 Oklahoma Academic Standards for Personal Financial Literacy.
- [Reading Like a Historian](#) - Each lesson revolves around a central historical question and features a set of primary documents designed for groups of students with a range of reading skills. (You will have to register to access the materials, but it is free.)

Technology Resources

For technology resources that include platforms and ways to connect with students, stay organized and more go to [free digital tools for instruction](#).

Stay Connected to Community

You aren't alone. There are tens of thousands of other teachers around the state and nation who are collaborating and sharing strategies, resources and ideas for distance learning for students while at home. Sign-up for the [Social Studies or Financial Literacy Newsletters](#) and join some of the following communities and collaborate with others.



Social Media Connections	OSDE Hosted Virtual Meetings
<p>Join Twitter discussions happening at Oklahoma Council for the Social Studies</p> <p>Join Facebook Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Oklahoma Council for the Social Studies● Oklahoma Council for History Education● Oklahoma Alliance for Geographic Education● Oklahoma Council on Economic Education● #OKSS● #OKSS elementary	<p>Join OSDE staff and social studies teachers around the state for weekly virtual meetings to gain resources, strategies and advice for distance learning.</p> <p>Social Studies Virtual Meeting Every Wednesday 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>Connect via Zoom:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Link: https://zoom.us/j/358962236● Meeting ID: 358-962-236● Phone: (346) 248 7799

Contact Information for OSDE Social Studies Staff

We are here to help in any way we can. Feel free to email any of the following people at OSDE if you have questions or need support.

- **Brenda Beymer-Chapman**, Director of Social Studies Education, Brenda.Chapman@sde.ok.gov, Twitter - [Brenda Beymer-Chapman](#)
- **Todd Gragg**, Director of Financial & Business Education, Todd.Gragg@sde.ok.gov, Twitter - [Todd Gragg](#)