

# Best of Best Social Studies Websites for Elementary Grades

## Special Thanks to Beth Dennis for sharing this Website

**Note:** This document is saved in the District Share folder, under Library Media Centers.

### *General Social Studies:*

**101 Great Sites for Social Studies Class:** "Finding Dulcinea- Librarian of the Internet" has a multitude of resources for all grades and disciplines. Look for their biographies as well.

<http://www.findingdulcinea.com/news/education/2010/march/101-Great-Sites-for-Social-Studies.html> for biographies: <http://www.sweetsearch.com/biographies>

**Mr. Nussbaum A Thousand Sites in One:** There are dozens of great links about history, geography, USA & states, and much more. Choose by topic or grade level.

<http://www.mrnussbaum.com/index.html>

### *Ancient Civilizations:*

**Ancient Civilizations:** Links galore from "Social Studies for Kids". Beware of ads.

<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/subjects/ancientcivilizations.htm>

**Just Curious- Ancient Civilizations:** Dozens of links selected by librarians.

<http://www.suffolk.lib.ny.us/youth/jcancient.html>

**Pyramid Cam:** This site provides both daytime and nighttime views at Egypt's pyramids. Archived images and movies are available as well. Note the time difference- these images are live. Be sure to check out the compare-size option.

<http://www.pyramidcam.com/>

### *Communities:*

**Build a Neighborhood:** Taken from Mr. Rogers Neighborhood, students can build a farm, a house, a construction site, or a make believe place.

<http://pbskids.org/rogers/buildBuild.html>

### ***Economics:***

**H.I.P. Pocket Change:** From the US Mint, 'History is in Your Pocket' is a great resource to introduce economics to students. The cartoon features talk about money, and there are numerous financial literacy options.

<http://www.usmint.gov/kids/>

**EconEdLink:** This collection of lesson plans pulled together by the National Council on Economic Education can be easily indexed by grade level, keyword, and type of resource.

<http://www.econedlink.org/lessons/economic-lesson-search.php>

### ***Exploration:***

**Who Goes There: European Exploration of the New World:** Search 'Why Explorers Explored the World', 'Explorer Timeline', and 'Games' on this site produced by students for students.

<http://library.thinkquest.org/J002678F/>

**European Explorers of the "New World" in the Age of Exploration:** Search a wealth of sites compiled by the Chenowith School District.

<http://www.chenowith.k12.or.us/tech/subject/social/explore.html>

**Explorers of the New World, A webQUEST of Discovery:** Take your students on this webquest, or just utilize the Resources listed at the bottom of the page.

<http://www.woodford.k12.ky.us/technology/trt/khogg/explorers%20webquest/Explorers.htm>

### ***US Government:***

**Ben's Guide to US Government:** Choose a grade level and a topic, and jump right in.

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/>

**Congress For Kids:** from website: "Congress for Kids gives you access to interactive, fun-filled experiences designed to help you learn about the foundation of our federal government and how its actions affect you. Although designed for students in grades fourth through high school, other students, teachers, parents, and interested citizens will find helpful, engaging activities, too."

<http://congressforkids.net/index.htm>

**The Democracy Project:** Learn about elections: start with "How Does Government Affect Me". Note the Educators' link on the bottom of the page.

<http://pbskids.org/democracy/govandme/>

## ***US History, including Native Americans, Slavery, & NYS:***

**America's Story from America's Library:** Besides state information, students can "Meet Amazing Americans" (great biographies), "Jump Back in Time", "Join America at Play", and "See, Hear and Sing".

[http://www.americaslibrary.gov/es/ny/es\\_ny\\_subj.html](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/es/ny/es_ny_subj.html)

**Authentic History Center:** From the website: "The Authentic History Center endeavors to tell the story of the United States primarily through popular culture. It was created to teach that the everyday objects in society have authentic historical value and reflect the social consciousness of the era that produced them. New interpretive sections are added when substantial resources have been collected. Until then, incomplete collections are presented as digital archives without comment for individual study. The site is a work in progress."

<http://www.authentichistory.com/>

**Big Apple History:** This content-rich, interactive site provides a look at New York City throughout history. Navigation is done via a timeline to wealth of multimedia options. Check out the "Activites" link on the blimp at the top of the screen.

<http://pbskids.org/bigapplehistory/index-flash.html>

**Circle of Stories:** This site uses documentary film, photography, artwork, and music to help tell a number of Native American stories. Native Americans narrate five of the stories. Lesson plans included on this site.

<http://www.pbs.org/circleofstories/>

**Celebrate the Constitution:** A quiz, web-based scavenger hunt, news items, are among the activities available as students learn about the constitution.

[http://teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/indepth/constitution\\_day/](http://teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/indepth/constitution_day/)

**Colonial Williamsburg:** Begin your virtual exploration at the teacher's options, then explore the "Multimedia" section for free slideshows and videos. The "Electronic Field Trip" is great, but there is a fee for this option.

<http://www.history.org/history/teaching/ideaofamerica/index.cfm> (teacher)

<http://www.history.org/media/index.cfm> (multimedia)

**The Fifty States:** From FactMonster, fast facts on states, as well as a historical overview below the fast facts.

<http://www.factmonster.com/states.html>

**Great American Landmarks Adventure:** From the National Parks Service, this virtual trip takes students back in time via a time machine to cave paintings from about 1500 years ago through space exploration in 1969. The 43 pictures can be printed and colored by the time travelers. \*Note: If menu page won't load, go to 'credits', and then to 'step into adventure'.

<http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/pad/adventure/landmark.htm>

**Growth of a Nation:** Animated 10 minute movie describes the growth of America in terms of territory. The movie can be broken into three time periods or shown all at once. Note: you'll need to bypass ads for sale version.

<http://animatedatlas.com/movie2.html>

**The Henry Ford Museum:** Founded by Henry Ford to showcase the American Experience, the exhibits found here include such diversity as America's fight for freedom, toys from the past, heroes of the sky, and more.

<http://www.thehenryford.org/collections/online.aspx>

**History Wired:** Explore over 450 objects not on display by selection a topic from the homepage map on this experimental website from the Smithsonian Double click on the topic to reveal further info, pictures, & other multimedia selections.

<http://historywired.si.edu/>

**Immigration:** Information on past immigrants from 1920 & 1933 plus contemporary examples are brought to life via images, audio, and further investigation. An interactive tour of Ellis Island is linked to this site.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/immigration/index.htm>

**Jamestown Online Adventure:** This simulation gives students the opportunity to be the captain of the Jamestown Colony.

<http://historyglobe.com/jamestown/>

**Monticello:** Travel the grounds and main house via maps & 3D recreations, or take a narrated tour of the house, gardens and grounds, as well as a look at the domestic life in Jeffersonian times.

<http://explorer.monticello.org/index.html>

**Mystery State:** From the website: "Education World's *Mystery State* activity challenges students to use five clues to identify one of the 50 U.S. states or the District of Columbia. As students work the clues, they exercise geography skills, develop research abilities, and learn a little history too."

[http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/state/stateideas.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/state/stateideas.shtml)

**Pathways to Freedom:** This interactive site guides students through the Underground Railroad by taking on the identity of a Maryland slave as they navigate the route. Click "Classroom Resources" to access a wealth of materials.

<http://pathways.thinkport.org/following/>

**Smithsonian National Museum of American History:** Explore the Smithsonian Museum of National History from your classroom! Using the timeline, you can layer in bytime frame and then familiar objects.

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/timeline/index.cfm> (timeline)

<http://historyexplorer.americanhistory.si.edu/> (teacher site)

**Stately Knowledge:** From the Internet Public Library (IPL), students click on a state to get 'Brief Facts', 'Encyclopedias/Almanacs' for further research, state links, 'Did You Know', and 'State's Famous People' .

<http://www.ipl.org/div/stateknow/>

**The States:** The 50 states from history.com. Brief paragraphs about each state link to more information about the individual state.

<http://www.history.com/topics/states>

**Statue of Liberty Cam:** Wonderful pictures of this US landmark. Check out the archive options for pictures students can use for projects. Note: there are some ads that play prior to the live stream.

<http://earthcam.com/usa/newyork/statueofliberty/>

**Tenement Museum:** Learn about immigration while exploring the tenements of New York City.

<http://www.thirteen.org/tenement/>

**Themed Resources from LOC:** Explore various themes in US history using primary documents from the American Memory collection of the Library of Congress.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/themes/>

**Virtual Jamestown:** Students can explore an Indian long house, the fort, and much more. Note: works best in Internet Explorer.

<http://www.virtualjamestown.org/>

**We the People:** A primary source set of materials with which to teach the Constitution.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/constitution/>

**Within These Walls...:** Explore history via the stories of the 5 families who have lived in this house, beginning in 1757 and ending in 1945.

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/house/home.asp>

**You Be the Historian:** Students think like a historian as they work through eight clues to see what can be learned about the Springer household. From the Smithsonian Institute.

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/Kids/springer/>

## ***World Geography and History:***

**Arounder:** Explore Europe, North and South America, as well as Mars and the Moon via these excellent QuickTime Virtual Reality tours with global panoramic views. From the website:

"**AROUNDER** gives travelers a vivid sense of what a city has to offer: historical cathedrals and works of art, museums featuring famous artists, local cafes and stores, breathtaking mountain-top views, quiet parks and gardens. Each issue contains a series of interesting panoramas giving you a full immersive view of the cities. Navigation is easy with Google maps of the city and surrounding area. Every issue also links to local merchants with virtual tours of hotels, restaurants, spas and stores."

<http://www.arounder.com/>

**Geo Games:** from the website: "GeoGames is a Flash game that lets you drag-and-drop onto the Planet Earth. You can rotate your planet, test your geography skills, and print a copy when you are done! There's a timer, so you can track your scores." *Great for the SmartBoard!*

<http://reachtheworld.org/geogames/index.html>

**Geography Games:** From Sheppard Software, this is a great set of web-based games for all areas of the world.

<http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/Geography.htm>

**Global Trek:** Students can plan their own trip to a foreign country, learning about the place in the process. Students keep a journal and the trip is crafted with writing options for each step of the way. Journals are stored for a school year and then erased in July.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/globaltrek/index.htm>

**The Great Wall of China:** Experience walking and exploring the Great Wall, complete with numerous detail options highlighted along the way. Look for red hot spots in the panorama and click them to travel to the next panorama. Press and hold your mouse on the panorama and move left, right, up or down. **Note:** music option available.

[http://www.thebeijingguide.com/great\\_wall\\_of\\_china/index.html](http://www.thebeijingguide.com/great_wall_of_china/index.html)

**Journey Into the Amazon Rainforest:** This PBS site includes a wide range of features on the Amazon Rainforest, including plants, animals, layers, and more. The "Play Amazon Explorer" activity tests students' knowledge after they have explored the website.

<http://www.pbs.org/journeyintoamazonia/index.html>

**Kids' Castle:** Roam through this virtual castle by simply clicking on one of the parts, and learn about the history and purpose of that structure. **Note:** There are a number of additional activities embedded in the tour.

<http://kidsonthenet.com/castle/view.html>

**Map Puzzles:** Students learn geography via this treasure trove of online US & World map puzzles. <http://www.yourchildlearns.com/map-puzzles.htm>

**National Anthems:** From the website: "This website has been created to give some background on over 400 anthems past and present, as well as anthems of other entities. You will find background on the history of the anthem, a music file (in MP3 or MIDI format), lyrics (usually with an English translation as well), and for some, sheet music. The main goal of this site is to offer the most comprehensive source on anthem information on the Internet."

<http://nationalanthems.info/index.html>

**National Geographic Kids:** Options include "Countries", "People & Places", "Photos", geography games and more.

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/>

**Pyramids:** Explore the insides of an Egyptian pyramid via QuickTime. Information on the excavation and building of the pyramids is also available, as is information on hieroglyphs.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/pyramid/explore/>

### ***Webcams & Videos:***

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**Tour Betsy Ross's Home:** Explore the home of Betsy Ross, both as it existed in early American history and as the area is today. <http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/house/intro.html>

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