

Social Studies Minilessons: Understanding Media

Knowledge Recycling

GATHER old magazines and newspapers.
SELECT images to represent concepts from a recent chapter in your social studies text.
PASTE the photos on poster board.
ADD a caption below each image to explain how it illustrates a particular concept.

State Slide Show

VISIT the Web site for your state's Department of Tourism.
CHOOSE an interesting location.
RESEARCH the location.
PREPARE a PowerPoint presentation to advertise the location.
SHARE your presentation with the class.

Family Paths

LOCATE your city, town, or neighborhood on a wall map of the world.
ASK your parents where they were born, where their parents were born, and so on, as far back as possible through your ancestry.
MARK each generation with a thumbtack on the map and **CONNECT** them with thread.

English Minilessons: Understanding Media

Cruise the news.

SCAN a newspaper with a partner and choose an interesting story.
READ the story together.
WRITE down the main idea.
WRITE down at least three important details.
EXPLAIN the story to your class.

“What’s Missing” Haiku

VISIT www.Flickr.com/creativecommons on the Web.
PRINT out an interesting photo.
IMAGINE something that is not in the photo but could be.
WRITE a haiku about the missing thing.
SHARE your haiku with the class.

Interview a media star. *Do this activity with a partner.*

CHOOSE a famous author, musician, film star, or other public figure.
PREPARE a list of interview questions for that person.
RESEARCH answers to those questions, using the Internet, magazines, and newspapers.
ACT out the interview, with one of you playing the public figure and the other the interviewer.