

This activity is designed to help you think about the process of learning and understanding in social studies. Follow the prompts and write in your responses.

1. Think of a concept that you learned in social studies and now understand well.

Write your response in the box below.

Compare your answer:

Others said:

- elections
- geography
- presidents
- wars
- cultural traditions

2. Now think about what made your learning effective. How did you develop your understanding?

Write in your response below.

Compare your answer:

Others said:

- volunteering for campaigns
- using maps
- reinforcement through
current events/news
- exposure to other cultures

3. What do you notice from methods of learning that might be applied in your teaching?

Write in your response below.

4. Now that you've identified how you developed an understanding, think about how you demonstrate it. How do you know when you really understand something?

Write in your response below.

Compare your answer:

Others said:

- being able to explain it
- initiating or organizing related events
- making connections
- doing something regularly
- taking a leadership position

5. What do you notice from these performances of understanding that might be applied in your teaching?

Write in your response below.

Conclusion:

What did you learn in this activity? Most people said that they understood something better when they had opportunities to apply what they knew, and when they were challenged to demonstrate or explain their knowledge in different settings. Take what you learned from this activity and think about how you can apply new teaching strategies to enhance students' understanding of social studies.