



The Five Themes of Social Studies

The Social Studies Leadership Team of PISD decided that in order to promote understanding and retention of social studies concepts, district-wide, each grade level would integrate the following five themes into our instruction across the curriculum:.

1) Innovation 2) Reform 3) Conflict 4) Democracy and 5) Migration

Strategy: Implementation of the Five Themes of Social Studies

Research has shown that by integrating these themes across the curriculum, you will have exposed students to a great deal that they need to know and understand about social studies. Each grade level will meet to brainstorm ways in which these themes can be incorporated into their instruction “most appropriately” for their grade level. It was suggested by members of the committee to teach the overall meanings of these concepts at the first of the year as an introduction to social studies and refer to them throughout the year in all subjects as they apply. Many of them may apply at the same time, depending on what you are studying. As a district-wide effort, it was suggested that each teacher post these themes on the wall in their classroom. After their introduction and throughout the year, create opportunities to ask students to identify which of the five themes relate to topics that you are studying. Social studies is, of course, the best place to apply these themes, but they can equally be applied to characters in the stories read in language arts, as well as scientific discoveries and concepts in science classes, and current events in our classrooms, school, community, nation or globe.

NOTE: Attached you will find some sample signs depicting the 5 themes of social studies. They are bold and colorful enough to be seen, while at the same time, small enough that they will not take up too much space posted up in your classroom. They can be printed on card stock, cut out, and laminated. Keep in mind that it is very difficult to create signs appropriate for all levels PK-12, but these are an example of how simple the signs can be. Feel free to use these, change them to suit your grade level, or throw them out and create your own. These were created as a resource only to get you started with the 5 themes.



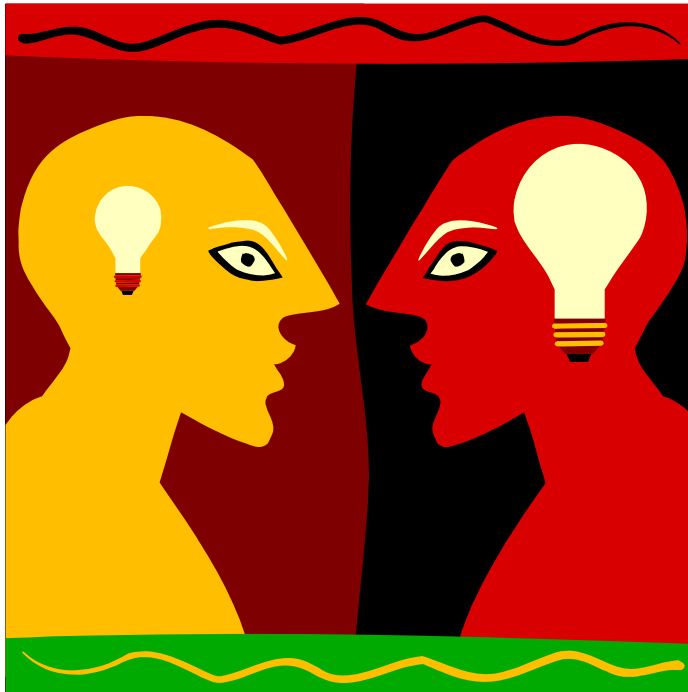
CONFLICT

- a battle, fight, or war



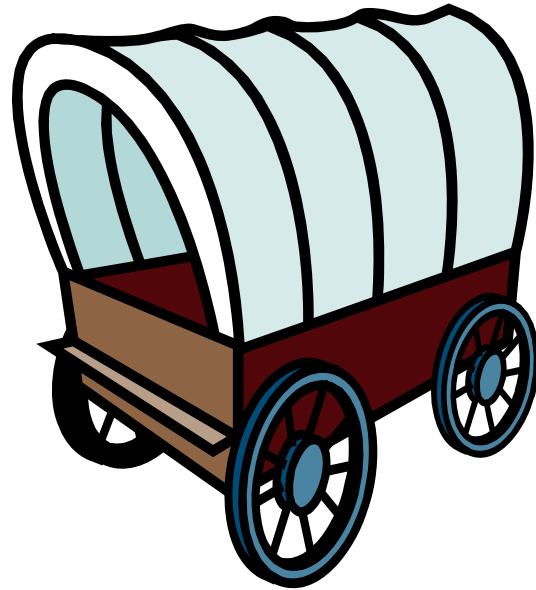
DEMOCRACY

- a government by the people



INNOVATION

- the introduction of something new



MIGRATION

- The movement of people from one country, place, or locality to another



REFORM

- to change for the better