

How do you make connections? This activity is designed to help you connect teaching goals with strategies that enhance students' understanding of social studies applications. Select a teaching goal, review the tip, then brainstorm and list strategies you would use to help students make connections. When you're done, compare your answer to other teachers' sample answers.

## Your Answers

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### **Create a Democratic Classroom**

TIP: Use classroom activities that model effective citizenship in a democratic society.

### **Encourage Student Involvement**

TIP: Teach students things they can do even as young citizens in a democratic society.

### **Bring Real-World Scenarios into the Classroom**

TIP: Use real-world resources to teach social studies concepts, integrate disciplines, and stress project-based learning in the classroom.

### **Extend the Classroom into the Community**

TIP: Extend social studies learning beyond the classroom by teaching concepts in a community context.

## Sample Answers

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### Create a Democratic Classroom

- Enlist students in decision making about classroom policies, criteria for assignments, and presentation feedback.
- Students work in groups to share information and responsibilities.
- Students role-play as citizens and leaders to study community issues and local government.

### Encourage Student Involvement

- Students write letters to the editor, mayor, senator, or other community leaders.
- Inform students about election issues, stage debates, interview candidates, or hold a mock election.
- Students brainstorm ideas for proposing a bill, then send ideas to their state representative.
- Profile students who have made a difference in their communities.

### Bring Real-World Scenarios into the Classroom

- Use newspapers or online news sources to teach current events and help students weigh issues. Then have students publish their own newspaper and/or opinion page.
- Create a floor map/blueprint of the community, where students construct cardboard buildings and represent businesspeople.
- Invite community leaders, businesspeople, and other guest speakers to the classroom.

### Extend the Classroom into the Community

- Students participate in service-learning projects in the school or community.
- Take a field trip to study local history, state government, or geography.
- Collect cultural artifacts as a class and build a time capsule.