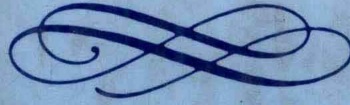


**ROBERTA WOOLEVER
KATHRYN P. SCOTT**



**ACTIVE
LEARNING
IN SOCIAL
STUDIES**

PROMOTING COGNITIVE
AND SOCIAL GROWTH

Active Learning in Social Studies Promoting Cognitive and Social Growth

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Excerpt, p. 9: From Morrisett, Irving. “The needs of the future and the constraints of the past.” In H.D. Mehlinger and O.L. Davis, Jr. (eds). *The Social Studies: Eightieth Yearbook of the National Society for the Study of Education. Part 2* (1981), pp. 48–49. Reprinted with permission of the National Society for the Study of Education.

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Table 3.4: “Dimensions of Effective Schooling,” p. 8 in *Educational Researcher*, 12 (No. 4), 1983. Copyright 1983 American Educational Association, Washington, DC. Reprinted with permission.

(Acknowledgments continue on page 465)

Preface

This text is designed for use in an introductory course in methods for teaching social studies in the elementary and middle grades (K–8). Although the text was developed primarily for preservice teachers, the treatment of the subject is of sufficient scope and depth to be of value to most inservice teachers as well as graduate students of social studies education.

The content and organization reflect the idea that teachers are *decision makers*. The text is divided into three sections. The first section deals with the foundations for decision making. Chapter 1 reviews current research on the status of social studies—what is taught, how it is taught, and how pupils respond to it. This is followed by a discussion of five different views on what social studies education *should* be. The reader is encouraged to develop her or his preferred perspective on the ideal nature of social studies education. Chapter 2 includes a brief history of social studies education so that the reader can become aware of how, when, and for what reasons current practices developed. Chapter 3 reviews current relevant information on child development and educational psychology for the student who has no background in either of these fundamental areas. Again, the emphasis is on the development of an understanding of the foundations of social studies education so that the teacher can become an informed decision maker about what and how to teach.

The second section describes the content area of social studies education. Chapter 4 provides an in-depth discussion of the importance of developing skills in making informed decisions—as individuals or group members—for children in a democracy. Chapters 5 and 6 explore the nature of science, in general, and

social science, in particular; this follows from the need to acquire objective social science information (facts, concepts, and generalizations) as part of the rational decision-making process.

The third section is concerned with the decisions that teachers must make while they are planning instruction. Chapter 7 includes a discussion of how textbooks can be used most effectively. The emphasis, however, is on a method for developing teacher-made units of instruction. Chapter 8 deals with how to select and write knowledge objectives for a unit; Chapter 9 is concerned with how to make decisions regarding unit skill objectives and unit attitude and value objectives. A total of 29 “Unit Assignments” provide the teacher with an opportunity to put into practice what has been learned; these include such applications as writing objectives (knowledge, skill, and attitude) for a selected unit topic, developing an initiating activity, and writing a number of daily lesson plans that incorporate a variety of learning objectives and teaching strategies. These “Unit Assignments” begin in Chapter 7.

The final section also provides the teacher with a wide choice of strategies for teaching and evaluating, as well as a basis for deciding which to incorporate in a given situation. Chapter 10 introduces an approach to planning daily lessons based on the work of Madeline Hunter. This chapter also provides detailed information on how to use a *variety* of teacher-directed teaching strategies from lectures, to field trips, to artistic expression. Chapter 11 continues the presentation of a variety of teaching strategies but with a focus on student-centered or individualized instruction. This chapter includes information on learning style, the 4MAT system, mastery learning, cooperative learning, computer activities, and learning centers. Chapter 12 concentrates on strategies for teaching higher-level processes, including creative thinking, critical thinking, decision making, and metacognition. This chapter also extensively treats questioning strategies based on models of language use and thinking developed by Tough, Bloom, and Guilford.

Chapter 13 focuses on strategies for teaching knowledge, especially concepts and generalizations. Extensive coverage of models developed by Klausmeier and Taba is provided, including strategies for both reception and discovery learning. Chapter 14 is concerned with strategies for teaching cognitive skills, including map and globe skills, reading skills, computer skills, and thinking skills. Chapter 15 continues with strategies for teaching skills with an emphasis on valuing and social participation skills. This chapter also includes a discussion of strategies for teaching an ethic of care and other prosocial behaviors. Chapter 16 includes techniques for promoting educational equity while combatting racism, sexism, and ethnocentrism. Mainstreaming to assure equal opportunity for special students is also included as a major topic. Finally, Chapter 17 provides an array of evaluative techniques to determine if learning objectives have been reached.

Many people have contributed to the development of this book. Our greatest debt of gratitude is due to the preservice and inservice teachers in our university classes over the past decade at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Florida State University. They have served to maintain our

belief in the quality and dedication of those in the teaching profession. They have also been instrumental in motivating us to keep up with current classroom practice as well as research, and at the same time have acted as sounding boards and field-testers for the methods advocated in this text.

In addition to learning from our students on campus, we have also gained valuable information and insights from practicing teachers. We especially wish to acknowledge the contribution of teachers and administrators in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools in North Carolina and the Leon County Schools in Tallahassee, Florida. In particular, we thank the pupils and teachers at the Developmental Research School of Florida State University for allowing us to take the photographs used at the beginning of Chapters 2–5, 7–10, 12, and 14–16. A special acknowledgment is also due to the teachers and principal, Ms. Barbara Lawler, of Seawell Elementary School in Chapel Hill for a decade of collaboration in training preservice teachers to be effective decision makers in the classroom.

Looking back to our most influential social studies teacher, we acknowledge our debt to Professor James A. Banks at the University of Washington, Seattle. As graduate students, we came to accept Professor Banks' view of the ultimate purpose of social studies education, while from the start we all shared a commitment to working with teachers to promote educational equity for all of the nation's children. The strength of the authors' commitment to a common view of the ideal nature of social studies education, which took form in graduate school, has continued over the years since graduation and the miles that separate Chapel Hill and Tallahassee and has resulted in the collaboration that produced this text.

The completion of this text was facilitated by a sabbatical leave granted to Kathryn Scott by Florida State University and the provision of an office and library support from The University of Maryland at College Park. The quality of the final manuscript was enhanced by the thoughtful comments and suggestions of the following reviewers: Jim Betres, Rhode Island College; John Herlihy, State University of New York at Geneseo; and V. Phillips Weaver, The University of Maryland at College Park.

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Finally, we take this opportunity to express publicly our gratitude for the understanding and support of our husbands—David Christiansen and Wesley Collins—and our children—Laura, Daniel, Jennifer, Darcy, and Blair. They have come to know the reality of life in a society in which women can be wives and mothers as well as contribute fully to their chosen profession. They have given much to facilitate our work.

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