



## Teaching Idea: Put on Your Social Studies Thinking Caps

Social Studies Thinking Caps are a great way to easily get students to think as a historian, geographer, political scientist, and economist.

### Ways to Introduce the Thinking Caps to Students

- Make a bulletin board or other display of the posters. Be sure that the font on the posters is large enough for students to see at a distance from the board. Reference the posters throughout class so students become familiar with them.
- Project a poster of the Thinking Caps onto the screen and discuss the posters with students before using them.
- Create handouts for students so they have a tangible copy in front of them.

### Preview

- Find photos that match your lesson or unit focus. Students should be assigned to one of the four Thinking Caps. Using the Thinking Caps, students should make predictions about the photo and the lesson or unit topic. Additionally, you could project the photos at the end of the lesson or unit and have students complete the same process again. You can use images from the textbook as a source, too!

### Ask and Answer

- Provide groups of 3-4 students with an image from the sample list below or another appropriate image.
- Distribute one copy of each of the Thinking Caps cards to each table.
- Have students read the cap cards aloud to each other and discuss which card they want to use to discuss the image.
- Have students answer 2-3 questions from their card using information they have already learned. Then, have students write 1-2 questions that could be asked from the point of view of a social scientist with their particular Thinking Cap.
- Allow groups to share with the class and make suggestions on how they might improve their questions or ask additional ones.

## **Write a Narrative**

- This is a great summative activity at the end of a teaching unit. This allows students to draw on information they have learned.
- Print one of the sample images linked below for each group of 3-4 students. Or, display the image on a classroom projector.
- Distribute one of the Thinking Cap cards to each table.
- Choose a person (or object) from the image. If there is no person, students may need to imagine what type of person would have been in the image.
- Have students identify which cap they received and review the questions on the Thinking Caps card as a group.
- Use the questions as a guide to collectively ask questions about the image from the point of view of their Thinking Cap (i.e. Economist, Geographer, Historian, or Political Scientist) in regard to the person in the image chosen earlier.
- Have students write a narrative essay that asks a reflective question based on the point of view of the person making a connection to the questions discussed using the Thinking Cap.

## **Modified Jigsaw**

- Have students work in a group with one cap to examine the photo. Then create new groups with each cap represented so that students can hear the different perspectives.

## **Enrichment**

- Assign students to one of the Thinking Caps, but do not provide the questions. Students will have to develop questions using that cap's perspective.

*Adapted from a presentation by Mindy Lewis and Shaun Owen with contributions from Hope Culpepper.*