Blowing the Dust off of History: Bringing Social Studies Alive for All the Senses
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History is
- creative
- flavorful
- intriguing
- imaginative
- mysterious
- dramatic
- a story
- full of baggage
- interactive
History Is Flavorful: Smells of the New World

Eating in class is already an exciting event, and when it means trying something new, your students will be drooling to learn more. Incorporating food in history class can be as simple as a piece of chocolate or apple cider to having an all-out smorgasbord of historical food.
History Is Immersion: Colonial Day

Theme Days are an exciting culmination to a unit of study. This event will completely immerse your students in a historic time period or theme through different categories.
History Is Interactive:
American Revolutionary Tea & Exploration Simulation

Through simulations students discuss alternate endings, connect historical events, and understand the decision making process that has shaped our world.
History is a written and oral story that demands telling and discussion. Students need to listen to many points of view to understand an historical event. Through reading and writing students can immerse themselves in others’ perspectives while formulating their own.

Accused

I am called a witch.

I wonder what will happen to me.
I hear them say guilty.

I see a bias jury.

I want freedom to be myself.
I am called a witch.

I am blacklisted.
I wonder what will happen to me.

I hear them say red.

I see a closed door.

I want freedom to be myself.

I am blacklisted.
History Is Dramatic: Plays & Moviemaker

Students love drama and history is full of it! Using Readers’ Theatre, pre-written skits, and student-written plays students will get students excited and involved in history.
History Is Alive Today:
Skype with an Expert

History is not just about facts and dates, but an active, continuous process to learn more. Teaching students about history should involve experts in the fields which you are learning to show students this process and that history lives on.
Incorporating science and math lessons and activities into social studies lessons, helps students visualize a more complete picture of a civilization and understand the centuries of collaboration it has taken to achieve our modern society.
History Is Imaginative: Visual Imagery

Visual Imageries are a great way to make your students feel like they are a part of history. Students need to be able to relate and connect with history to understand it. Visual Imageries can make history both personal and interesting to your students through using their senses, imaginations, artistic skills, and of course sprinkling knowledge in as you go.
History Is Lyrical: 
Dance & Music

Get your students out of their seats and involved in history. Music and Dance are a wonderful way to immerse your students in a time period. It can also be analyzed to learn more information about a time period and the deeper meaning of the music or dance.
History Is Creative: Art

Through studying and creating art, students connect with the past and are able to see the story in forms other than written text.
History Is Full of Baggage: Travelling Trunks

Traveling Trunks contain materials about a certain time period that students can explore, touch, read, and sometimes taste.
Mystery adds a sense of excitement to learning. Providing a hook, simulation, or activity that has unanswered questions sets the stage for fun filled, further studies. Once students have developed their own questions they want answered about a topic, they are invested in the unit of study, making the learning process exciting for both the teacher and student.
History Is Exciting: Bells & Whistles

Teaching should inspire students to learn more. Through simple techniques, resources, and activities, students will discover that the past is intriguing and enjoyable to study.

History is a mighty dramos, enacted upon the theatre of times, with suns for lamps and eternity for a background.

~Thomas Carlyle