# Aligning Elementary Instruction to the NYS K-12 Social Studies Framework

#### **Pelham Public Schools**



### We All Have Issues ...

- 1. What is an issue or event that has impacted your life in the last two weeks?
- 2. What is one question that kids ask about the world around them in your grade?

## Timing is everything...

# Is every issue a social studies issue?



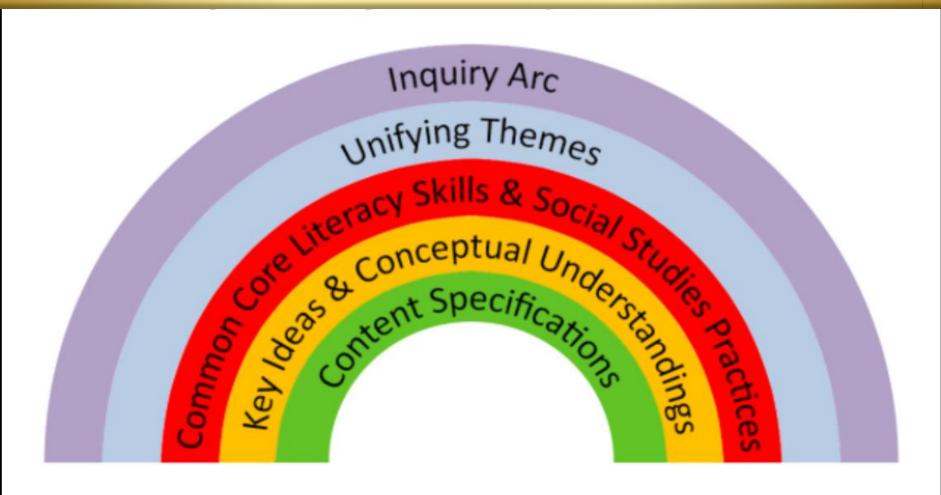
# Agenda

- I. What have we accomplished? What is so different about Social Studies instruction now?
- II. What is Inquiry-Based Social Studies Instruction?
- III.Where do we go from here?

## 20th Century Social Studies



## 21st Century Social Studies



## Individual Development and Cultural Identity (Theme)

- ◆1.1 Language, beliefs, customs, and traditions help shape the identity and culture of a family and a community. (Key idea)
- ♦ 1.1a Families are a basic unit of all societies, and different people define family differently (Conc. Understanding)
  - ◆ Students will listen to stories about different families and will identify characteristics that are the same and different. (Content)

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# The New Social Studies Paradigm

◆ In content-rich subjects, it has traditionally been "facts first, thinking later"

... and it hasn't worked.

\* \* \* \* \*

◆ Through an Inquiry Arc, we now start with "thinking with a purpose"

... answering a compelling question.

### NYS Social Studies Framework 3 Instructional Shifts

- 1. Focus on Conceptual Understanding.
- 2. Foster Student Inquiry, Collaboration, and Informed Action.

3. Integrate Content and Skills Purposefully.

# Instructional Shift #1: Focus on Conceptual Understanding

**From** To **Concepts and Facts Content Knowledge Depth within Breadth of Topics Topics Transfer and** Recall **Connections** 

#### Instructional Shift #2:

# Foster Student Inquiry, Collaboration, and Informed Action

#### **From**

Teacher as Disseminator

Students Learn Facts from Textbook

**Students Retell Interpretations** 

#### To

Teacher as Facilitator of Investigation

Students Investigate the Social Sciences Using Multiple Sources

Students Construct
Interpretations and
Communicate Conclusions

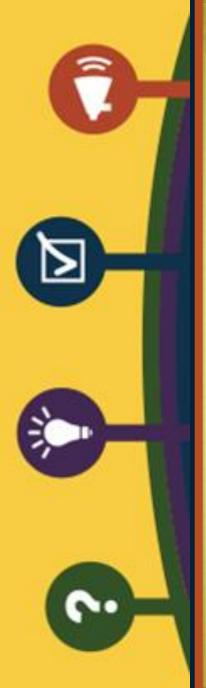
# Instructional Shift #3: Integrate Content and Skills Purposefully

FROM a Social Studies Classroom Where	TO a Social Studies Classroom Where
Students experience an additional nonfiction reading class or textbook focused instruction	Students learn to read, discuss, and write like social scientists
Students develop literacy skills and social studies practices separately	Students develop disciplinary literacy skills and social science practices in tandem
Students learn content knowledge in isolation	Students integrate and apply concepts, skills, and content knowledge





Published by the National Council for the Social Studies in September 2013, this work was reviewed and elements of it were added to the NYS K-12 Framework.



## C3 Inquiry Arc

- Dimension 1: Developing Questions and Planning Inquiries
- Dimension 2: Applying Disciplinary Tools and Concepts (Civics, Economics, Geography, and History)
- Dimension 3: Evaluating Sources and Using Evidence
- Dimension 4: Communicating Conclusions and Taking Informed Action

Please try one inquiry exercise or unit this year.

## Compelling Questions

#### 1. Intellectually Meaty (Rigorous)

- Reflects an enduring issue, concern, or debate in the field.
- Demands the use of multiple disciplinary lenses and perspectives.

#### 2. Kid Friendly (Relevant to Students)

- Reflects a quality or condition that we know children care about.
- Honors and respects children's intellectual efforts.

\*\*\*\*\* Set up the opening and summative task for an inquiry.

## What Do Kids Really Care About?

#### Compelling ... or Not So Compelling?

- ♦ Where are we?
- ♦ What were the causes of the Industrial Revolution?
- ♦ Why is Albany the capital of New York?
- ◆ Can Canada and the US be friends forever?
- ♦ Who won the Cold War?
- ♦ Who are our community helpers?
- ♦ What's the deal with hair?

## Try Your Own Compelling Question

- ✓ Choose a grade level and Key Idea from the Framework
- ✓ Develop a Compelling Question

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Inquiry resources that you have:

- C3 website
- NYSED Engage website
- PNW BOCES

http://www.c3teachers.org/newyork/

http://www.c3teachers.org/inquiries/
call-for-change/

#### The NY Toolkit Project

#### Part I: Conceptual Foundations of the Inquiry Design Model (IDM)

- 1. Inquiry begins with a question.
- Inquiry topics and outcomes should be grounded in standards.
- Content knowledge and disciplinary skills are integrated within an investigation.
- Students are active learners within an inquiry.
- The purpose of assessment is for learning.
- Disciplinary sources are the building blocks of inquiry.
- Students need opportunities to practice citizenship.
- Social Studies shares in the responsibility for literacy.
- Inquiries cannot be all inclusive.
- Inquiries are best mediated by skilled teachers.

Part II: Grade-Level Inquiries

84 Inquiries (14 Annotated)

**IDM Inquiry Templates** 

Description of the IDM Blueprint

Part III: Professional Learning Resources

**IDM Power Point Presentations** 

**IDM Workshop Handouts** 

IDM in Practice: Video Vignettes

## Why "Inquiries" Over "Units"...

- Inquiries are not fully-developed content units or modules.
- Inquiries enable pedagogical coherence.
- An inquiry need not necessarily cover an entire Key Idea.
- A Key Idea (e.g., Native Americans in New York) may necessitate several inquiries.
- Teacher expertise is key.

# A Blueprint to Inquiry

#### Questions

- Compelling
- Supporting

#### **Tasks**

- Staging
- Formative
- Summative
- Additional

#### Sources

- Spark curiosity
- Build knowledge
- Evidence





Toolkit Element	Purpose
Compelling question	Frames the unit of study
Staging the compelling question	Builds student interest
Supporting questions	Develop the key content
Formative performance tasks	Demonstrate emergent understandings
Featured sources	Provide opportunities to generate curiosity, build knowledge, and construct arguments
Summative performance task	Demonstrates evidence-based arguments
Extension activities	Provide options to the summative task
Taking informed action exercise	Offers opportunities for civic engagement

#### **Toolkit Assessments**

- **♦** Summative Performance Tasks
- ◆ Formative Performance Tasks
- ◆ Taking Informed Action

#### Summative Performance Task

Write an argument that addresses the Compelling Question using specific claims and relevant evidence from historical sources while acknowledging competing views.

## Try Your Own Summative Task

✓ Craft an argument-based Summative Performance Task around your Compelling Question.

### Social Studies Practices

- 1. Gathering, Using, and Interpreting Evidence
- 2. Chronological Reasoning and Causation
- 3. Comparison and Contextualization
- 4. Geographic Reasoning
- 5. Economics and Economics Systems
- 6. Civic Participation



## Taking Informed Action

- ◆ Understand the problem
- ◆ Assess options for action
- ◆ Apply and take action

#### What action can look like



Level of Public Exposure

Complexity of the Effort

## CQ: Does where you live matter?

- ◆ Understand: Brainstorm a list of opportunities and constraints in area neighborhoods and community.
- ◆ Assess: Discuss how individuals and communities can turn constraints into opportunities.
- ◆ Act: Arrange for a local official to visit the class to review the class conclusions and discuss possible community actions.

### Take Your Own Informed Action

- ✓ Construct a sequence of Taking Informed Action activities that enable students to show that they can:
  - ✓ Understand (an issue relevant to the inquiry)
  - ✓ Assess (options to address that issue)
  - ✓ Act (apply one or more of the options)