



Countdown to the NYS Social Studies Test *Tips for Preparing Students*

- Review the skills and content analysis to determine what skills and content are most frequently assessed on the state test.
- Assess student mastery of those skills and content (quizzes, “game shows”, mini projects, student presentations, oral review, homework assignments, etc.)
- Identify areas of need; group students according to need.
- Deliver mini-lessons to address areas of need (small group and/or whole class).
- Establish study groups with students of mixed ability in order to foster peer coaching.
- Integrate a review of content and skills into other subject areas. Analyze charts and graphs in math; read social studies content during the literacy block (read-aloud, independent reading, guided reading, shared reading); practice essay development during writer’s workshop.
- Familiarize students with the format of the test; give practice questions (multiple choice, constructed response questions, document-based questions). Teachers may use past exams (available from the New York State Education Department <http://www.nysedregents.org/testing/scostei/socstudies5.html> <http://www.nysedregents.org/testing/scostei/socstudies8.html>) and teacher-made and/or published materials.