

Anthropology in K-12 Education

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National Academies Seminar

Teaching the Social and Behavioral Sciences in K-12 Education: Past, Present, Future



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The American Anthropological Association

- DC-based
- 10,000 members
 - 20% are outside the US
 - 25% employed outside academy in private, govt, and non-profit sectors
- 22 journals in our publishing portfolio
- Research conferences
- Professional development support
- Education Initiative



Why teach anthropology in K-12?



- Good for students
- Good for anthropology
- Good for the social and behavioral sciences in general

Current public awareness?

- In our field, the public imagination is shaped by stereotypes in popular culture
 - the swashbuckler (Indiana Jones)
 - the crime solver (CSI / Bones)
 - the fascination with the exotic (*Euphoria*)
- Level of awareness is generally quite low
- ["What is Anthropology?" Video](#)

What does the teaching of Anthropology in K-12 look like?



- IB comes the closest, but it is not for every institution or for every student
- Our focus has been in the “informal learning” environments, especially museums, which serve as a supplemental classroom resource

Practical teaching issues

- Alignment with curriculum objectives
 - biology
 - social studies
 - world history
 - literature
- Qualified teachers
- Grade-appropriate learning materials



Potential for integrating into science education

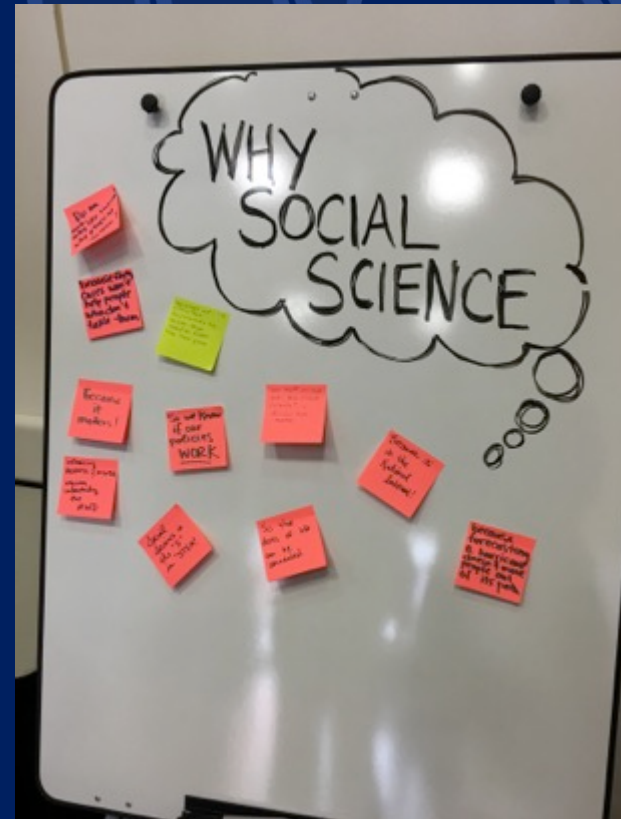


C3 core concepts

- What It Means to be Human: Unity and Diversity
- Methods and Ethics of Inquiry
- Becoming a Person: Processes, Practices, and Consequences
- Global and Local: Societies, Environments, and Globalization

Potential for integrating into science education

- Our Public Education Initiative, which began with the Race Project, is now expanding to include the “World on the Move: 100,000 years of human mobility.”
- Anthropology Day activities
- Compile best practices in International Baccalaureate and high school programs
- Expand our Anthropology Guide to include anthropologists in other institutions
- Planning an award to recognize excellence in teaching anthropology in secondary schools



Thank You!

Comments?

Questions?

Ideas?

Concerns?



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Advancing Knowledge, Solving Human Problems