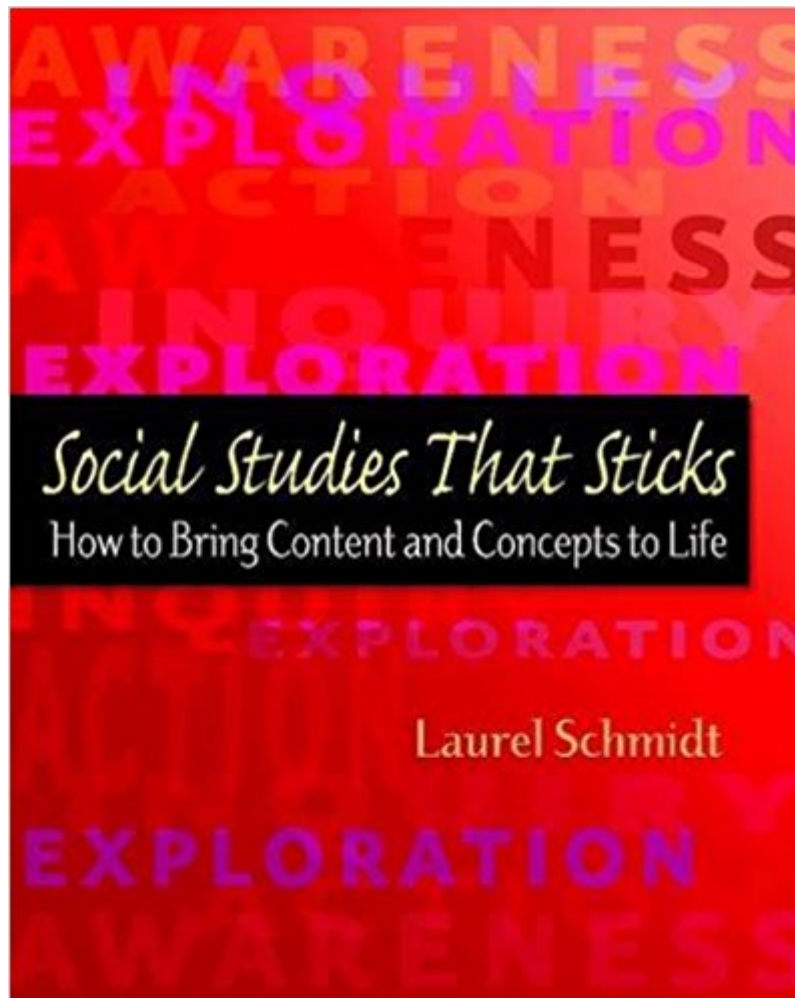




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# Social Studies That Sticks: How To Bring Content And Concepts To Life



## Synopsis

The announcement that “It’s social studies time” often elicits dread from students who mistakenly view the subject as a near-death experience. And who can blame them when this fascinating subject has been stripped of the heartbreak, adventure, conflict, treachery, strategic brilliance, and spectacular foibles - in short, the humanity - that it’s supposed to explain? Student apathy and rock-bottom test scores scream that it’s time for a change - for unforgettable, not regrettable, social studies. It’s time for Social Studies That Sticks. In Social Studies That Sticks Laurel Schmidt introduces a brain-compatible approach to integrated, standards-based instruction, using the four elements of the human learning cycle: awareness, exploration, inquiry, and action. This dynamic approach brings content and concepts to life, while sharpening skills in questioning, thinking, reading, writing, and the visual and performing arts. It promotes academic achievement, models the habits of active citizenship, tunes students’ ethical antennae to social problems, and teaches tools students can use to advocate for change. Social Studies That Sticks is a comprehensive, passionate, and user-friendly guide that: identifies essential social studies themes, standards, and skills models maximum use of primary source documents, eye-witness narratives, biographies, and historical fiction describes how artifacts, objects, art, photography, and architecture can be tools for inquiry and learning explores the community of a social studies classroom tackles matters of cultural perspective, point of view, bias, and propaganda transforms current events into historical investigations maps vital steps for social-justice projects provides guidelines for essays, presentations, oral histories, personal narratives, and original historic writing outlines dozens of authentic assessments introduces the Learning Ledger for student self-assessment pinpoints archival material, hundreds of books and websites, and historical resources for research and classroom use. Whether you use Laurel Schmidt’s ideas to supplement your existing curriculum or you’re ready to make your current textbook ancient history, Social Studies That Sticks will transform social studies time into lessons about history and humanity that last a lifetime.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 13 years

Grade Level: 3 - 8

## Customer Reviews

Laurel Schmidt is the author of three Heiemann titles: *Social Studies That Sticks* (2007), *Classroom Confidential* (2004), and *Gardening in the Minefield: A Survival Guide for School Administrators* (2002). Laurel has worked for thirty years in education as a teacher, principal, curriculum development specialist, consultant, lecturer, and writer. Currently she is the Director of Pupil Services for the Santa Monica-Malibu School District and an adjunct professor at Antioch University. She is also the author of *Seven Times Smarter: 50 Ways to Develop the Multiple Intelligences in Your Child* (Three Rivers Press, 2001). You can email Laurel at [schmidt@smmusd.org](mailto:schmidt@smmusd.org) and visit her website at [www.laurelschmidt.com](http://www.laurelschmidt.com).

This book was well-organized and truly funny. (Something I was really not expecting!) I know that I will be a much stronger teacher after reading this text. It has encouraged me to see the world in a different way and to embrace how history connects with the present. I can't wait to try out the ideas in this book with my students and to truly make them our own! I can't possibly recommend this book enough.

This text is so accessible! Schmidt's writing style emphasizes her point that we need to put the 'social' back into social studies. There are ideas that can be used across content areas and grade levels. Definitely would recommend!

So many good ideas in this book! If only most classrooms were allowed to teach social studies or actually did.

Great condition, awesome book!

Great book!! It has a bunch of great ideas to actually use in the classroom.

I love this book. I first became aware of Social Studies that Sticks when I was teaching a social studies methods course to future teachers. Now that I teach STEM courses, I find myself going to this book again and again for engaging, age-appropriate, real-life tasks students can become involved in to make the world a better place. Future teachers find it eye-opening to learn that even young children can learn to confront, not avoid, issues. Thank you Laurel Schmidt!

This book outlines how to make social studies jump off the pages of the textbook (or not even use a textbook at all!) This book was a great source of activities and ideas using primary source documents and "making objects talk." Overall, an easy read and a plethora of good ideas.

In these days of cram for the exam and then forget, Laurel Schmidt brings a much needed and essential perspective to the art of teaching in general and Social Studies in particular. Yes, teaching is an art. Some are naturally talented and some must develop their talent -- but all need sophisticated and easy to understand coaching to realize their potential. This is the book that delivers that. If you're a teacher or thinking of becoming one, I urge you to read this book. As someone wrote, "Teaching is not filling a bucket, it's lighting a fire." A passion for learning will serve every student well in his or her life. This book contains the formula for combustion.

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