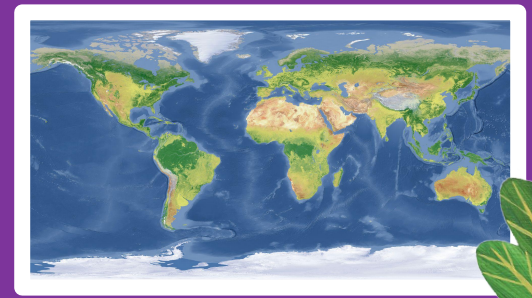


# ELL Tips for History & Social Studies Teachers

Learn how History and Social Studies teachers can support English language learners.



## Background Knowledge

ELLs bring valuable [background knowledge](#) to the classroom – which will vary by student. Find out what students know about the topics you are teaching at the start of a new unit.



## Key Concepts

Identify key concepts that students will need to learn. Look for topics you might [pre-teach](#), opportunities for [peer learning](#), and [tough topics](#) that require some extra preparation.



## Key Vocabulary

Teach [key vocabulary](#) such as:

- Academic words (**representative**)
- Words with multiple meanings (**branch, prime, court, sign, cabinet**)



## Academic Language

Work with an [ELL specialist](#) to identify and scaffold the academic [language demands](#) of your lesson (e.g., writing a summary, comparing two concepts, or presenting a project.)



## Hands-On Learning

Use [scaffolds](#) such as visuals, realia (real objects), graphic organizers, and anchor charts. In addition, teach students to read [timelines](#) and [maps](#) and invite speakers to your class.



## Students' Languages

Use [bilingual glossaries](#), as well as [cognates](#), which are related words in two languages, like the English-Spanish pair **map/mapa** or **independence/independencia**.

To see more great tips, visit the [online version](#) of this article!



Colorin Colorado is the nation's leading website serving educators and families of English language learners, based at PBS station WETA in Washington, DC. Major support provided by our founding partner, AFT.

