

Renzulli Personal Success Plan

Social Studies Starters



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My Interests

My Heroes and Helpers

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My Interests tab: direct students to click:

- “See More”, then
- Select “History & Social Studies” from the drop-down menu (if History & Social Studies is already one of your students’ top interests, they can just click it from their interest menu).

Direct students to the “Links to State Historical Societies in the United States”. You can have students explore your home state’s historical society – or assign a different state to each student in order to find out more about the history of different regions of the United States.

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My Heroes and Helpers tab: Give students access to powerful resources for learning about some of history’s biggest heroes. Direct students to click:

- “Find Your Heroes”, then
 - “Click here to view a list of famous people who are widely admired as heroes”.
- OR
- “What is a Role Model?”, then
 - “Heroism in Action”, then
 - The “Heroism” button, then
 - “Heroes of the 20th Century”.

In either place, students will find a roster of important historical figures, from a variety of cultural and national backgrounds. Use these resources and the PSP “Find Your Heroes” tool to encourage students to find out more about these heroes and how they can inspire kids today. Also consider having the students create biographical projects about their heroes from history. You can narrow their work to heroes from select time periods, or professions, or other traits.

On the same tab, direct students to click:

- “Find Your Heroes”, then
- “Click here to browse websites describing people – both famous and maybe not so famous – whose interests and talents span many areas.”, then
- “Women of the Century”.

Direct students to explore this wonderful resource about important modern women. Have them investigate the “Decade by Decade” activity, and then create their own timelines on posters, plotting the accomplishments of women throughout the past century.

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My Goals tab: direct students to click:

- “Academic and Personal Goals”, then
- “Students.gov: Student Gateway to the U.S. Government”, then
- The links under the heading “Your Government, Online”.

Here your students will find links for contacting every government officer and agency. Using the links under “Voting & Democracy”, have students identify their Representative and Senators, write a letter to their congresspersons about an issue related to their goals, and send the letter using the contact information provided.