Integrated Curriculum - Literacy in the Content Areas

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Integrated curriculum - A collective term for those forms of curriculum in which student learning activities are built, less with concern for delineating disciplinary boundaries around kinds of learning, and more with the notion of helping students recognize or create their own learning. (Gehrke, 1998).

Integrated curriculum provides teachers with a chance to “teach what is now neglected, create a richer set of understandings, and to help students learn to apply skills and knowledge across curricular bounds” (Shanahan, 1997).

Benefits of integrated curriculum:
• Increase exposure to non-fiction texts in the classroom
• Increase students’ reading comprehension
• Increase students’ engagement in learning and reading
• Increase students’ attitude positively toward reading
• Include neglected areas of science and social studies in instruction
• Increases science and social studies content instruction throughout the day while practicing reading and writing skills

Considerations:
• Finding materials
• Planning time
• Adjusting teaching style

Project ideas:
• Posters
• Pamphlets
• Writing - stories, historical nonfiction, reports
• Podcasting
• Models and dioramas
• Class books
Additional resources/references for integrated curriculum: