

Note: To see this lesson in action, refer to the Literacy & Learning, Social Studies Grade 5 video lesson.

## Lesson Plan for a 5th Grade Social Studies Class

### Cubing Strategy

**Topic:** The Civil War

**Objectives:** The student will *(to be completed by the classroom teacher)*

**Set Induction:** The teacher tells the students that they are going to be interviewing famous people from the Civil War days.

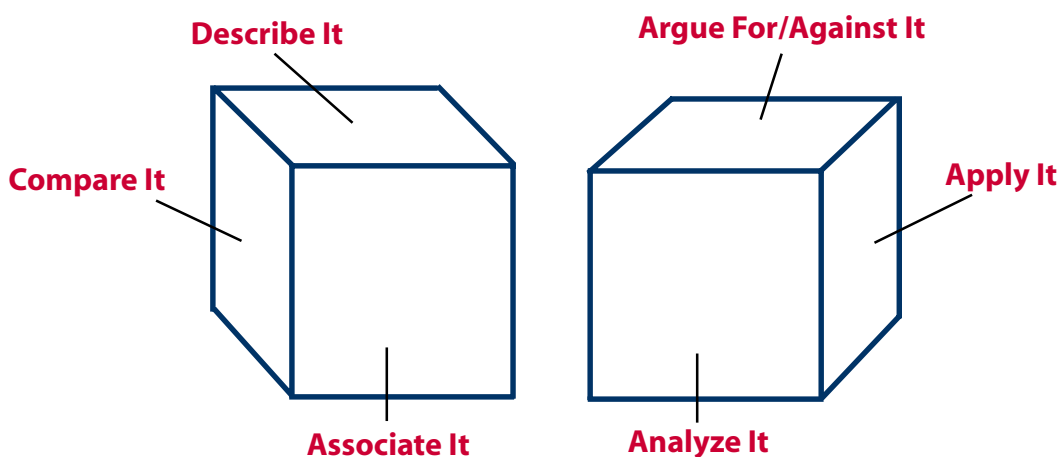
**Activities:**

1. The teacher explains that several of the students will be taking on the persona of famous people from the Civil War. Other students will be playing the part of an interviewer who will interview these Civil War personalities and others will become directors, set designers, etc. The information will come from the students' research projects. Students are placed in small groups and assignments are made.
2. The students are to create the set (backdrop) of the interview, write the scripts and cue cards, practice the interview, and then video the final project to be shown to the entire class.

**Closure:** Students present their videos to the class.

**Evaluation suggestions:** The final product can be assessed as well as the process for completing the assignment. Feedback from the students in the form of discussions and writing assignments with pre-assigned prompts will also help the teacher gain insight into the success of the activity.

**Other Applications:** The cubing strategy can be applied as an individual writing activity or, as in this example, a group activity. Students also may be given only one side of the cube to examine or students can "roll" the cube to receive their assignments.



Lesson Plan: Cubing

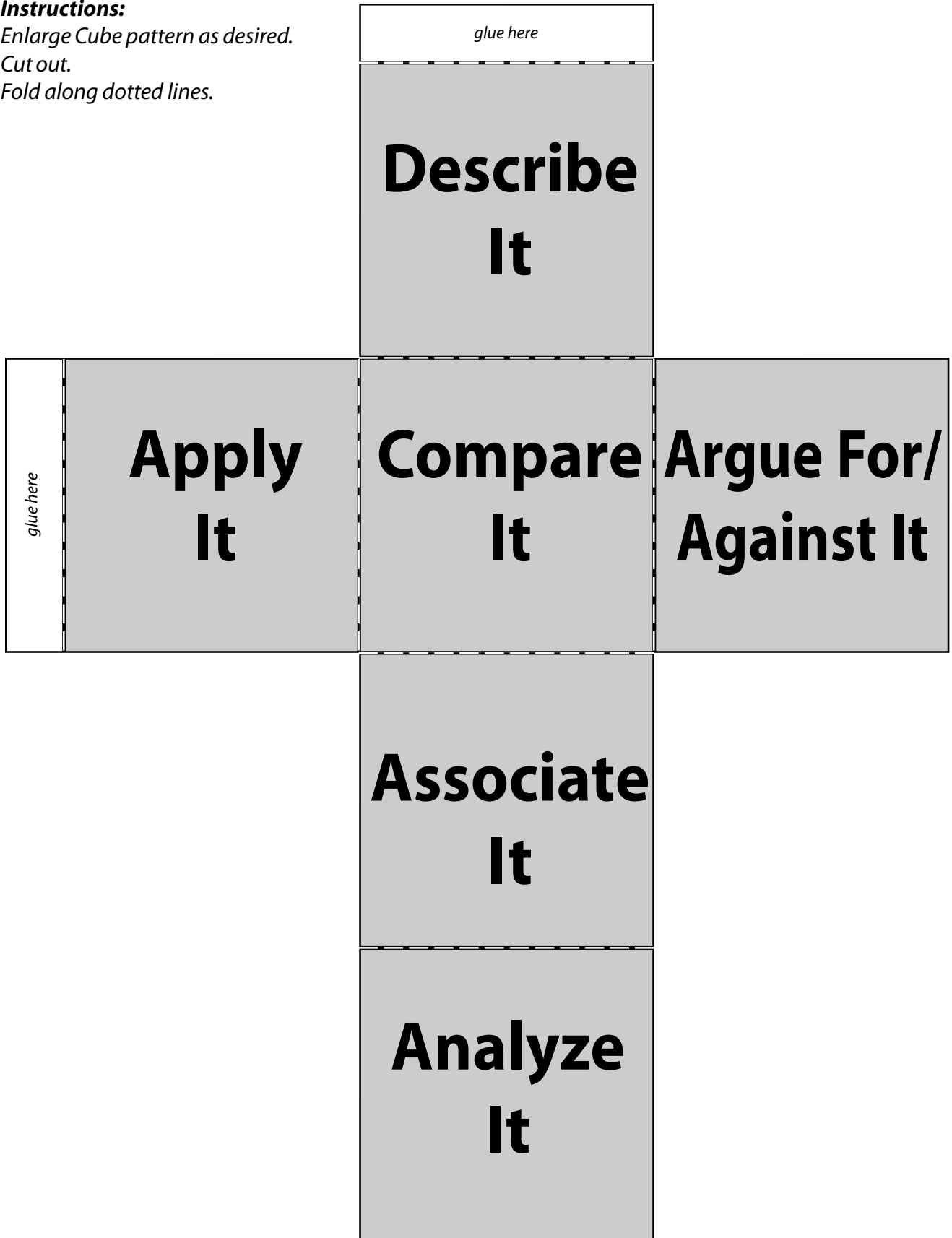
Cube Pattern

**Instructions:**

Enlarge Cube pattern as desired.

Cut out.

Fold along dotted lines.



# CUBING



*Designed by G. E. Tompkins, 1990*

**Description:** Cubing is a literacy strategy which uses a concrete visual of a cube with its six sides to serve as a starting point for consideration of the multiple dimensions of topics within subject areas.

**Application:** To introduce cubing, start with a familiar topic and model the process. Then, assign more complex topics once students have a grasp of how the process works. The students examine the topic using the prompts from the six sides of the cube.

★ **Describe it**

If applicable, include color, shape, size.  
*How would you describe the issue/topic?*

★ **Compare it**

What it is similar to or different from.  
*"It's sort of like \_\_\_\_\_."*

★ **Associate it**

What it makes you think of.  
*How does the topic connect to other issues/subjects?*

★ **Analyze it**

Tell how it is made or what it is composed of.  
*How would you break the problem/issue into smaller parts?*

★ **Apply it**

Tell how it can be used.  
*How does it help you understand other topics/issues?*

★ **Argue for/against it**

Take a stand and support it.  
*I am for this because \_\_\_\_\_.*  
*This works because \_\_\_\_\_.*  
*I agree because \_\_\_\_\_.*