

ABSTRACT

THE USAGE OF CREATIVE THINKING ACTIVITIES IN THE SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES OF THE 7TH GRADE

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In this scientifically proved study, the effect of creative thinking activities on students' attitudes towards Social Studies lesson in 7th grade and their success levels were analyzed. The search has been run in 2014-2015 educational year in 75. Yıl Vali Muharrem Göktaoğlu Secondary School within 13 weeks. The population of the study consists of the 7th grade students in Aydın, Efeler province. The sample is the early riser group of 7th graders in 75. Yıl Vali Muharrem Göktaoğlu Secondary School. In the study 7/A class is considered as the set control group, 7/C as the 2nd control group and 7/B class as an experimental group. The study has been applied on 74 students in total. The study is limited to the 2nd and 3rd units, "Ülkemizde Nüfus" (the Population of Our Country,) and "Türk Tarihinde Yolculuk" (Voyages in Turkish History) of the 7th grade. We used creative thinking activities to coordinate the subjects during 13 weeks. In addition, some creative thinking development methods were used during those weeks. A pre-test was applied in order to assess the success levels of pupils and a post-test was also applied. In addition to these, 3 weeks later "delayed post-test" was applied in order to identify the persistence of their knowledge. For the assignment of students' attitudes towards Social Studies lesson, pretest and post-test applications were practised. At the end of the study, the data were analyzed by Kruskal-Wallis ve Wilcoxon tests.

It is obviously stated that the success level of students in Social Studies lesson was increased sensibly when supported by creative thinking activities. However, it is hard to find these improvements in "delayed post-test". Surprisingly students' attitudes toward the lesson was developed substantially. Nevertheless, there is no difference between control and experimental groups in delayed posttest, which means recalling the subjects, even with creative thinking activities or conventional methods do not differ.

KEYWORDS: Social Studies, Creative Thinking Activities, Creativity.