

2010

Saskatchewan Curriculum

Social Studies

2



Social Studies 2

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Introduction

Social studies is a Required Area of Study in Saskatchewan's Core Curriculum. The provincial requirement for social studies is 150 minutes per week at this grade level (*Core Curriculum: Principles, Time Allocations, and Credit Policy*).

Social studies education can be defined as the study of people and their relationships with their social, physical, and technological environments. The study of those relationships becomes most relevant when students are encouraged to make connections to their own lives as they explore and apply knowledge, skills, thinking processes, and values.

The social studies program provides opportunity for students to develop a sense of themselves as active participants in their world (personal, local, national, and global). The program encourages students to use the understandings developed to explore and clarify values, discuss issues, question and investigate the world, solve problems, make decisions, and interact with others. Social studies provides students with opportunities to make connections between their own and others' lives, communities, cultures, and environments, and to take action in relevant and meaningful ways that give students a sense of accomplishment and a belief that they can make a difference.

This curriculum includes the following information to support social studies education in Saskatchewan schools:

- Core Curriculum
- Broad Areas of Learning
- Cross-curricular Competencies
- K - 12 Aim and Goals for Social Studies and Social Sciences education
- Teaching Social Studies
- Outcomes and Indicators for this grade level
- Assessment and Evaluation
- Connections to Other Areas of Study
- Glossary.

Support materials available online will include:

- instructional support materials
- assessment and evaluation support materials
- listing of recommended resources.

Core Curriculum

Core Curriculum is intended to provide all Saskatchewan students with an education that will serve them well regardless of their choices after leaving school. Through its various components and initiatives, Core Curriculum supports the achievement of the Goals of Education for Saskatchewan. For current information regarding Core Curriculum, please refer to *Core Curriculum: Principles, Time Allocations, and Credit Policy* found on the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education website, <http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/>.

For additional information related to the various components and initiatives of Core Curriculum, please refer to the following policy and foundation documents (also available on the Ministry website):

- *Understanding the Common Essential Learnings: A Handbook for Teachers* (1988)
- *Objectives for the Common Essential Learnings (CEs)* (1998)
- *Renewed Objectives for the Common Essential Learnings of Critical and Creative Thinking (CCT) and Personal and Social Development (PSD)* (2008)
- *The Adaptive Dimension in Core Curriculum* (1992)
- *Policy and Procedures for Locally-developed Courses of Study* (2010)
- *Connections: Policy and Guidelines for School Libraries in Saskatchewan* (2008)
- *Diverse Voices: Selecting Equitable Resources for Indian and Métis Education* (2005)
- *Gender Equity: Policies and Guidelines for Implementation* (1991)
- *Instructional Approaches: A Framework for Professional Practice* (1991)
- *Multicultural Education and Heritage Language Education Policies* (1994)
- *Physical Education: Safety Guidelines for Policy Development* (1998)
- *Classroom Curriculum Connections: A Teacher's Handbook for Personal-Professional Growth* (2001).

The Broad Areas of Learning and Cross-curricular Competencies connect the specificity of the areas of study and the daily classroom activity with the broader philosophy of Core Curriculum and the Goals of Education for Saskatchewan.

Broad Areas of Learning

There are three Broad Areas of Learning that reflect Saskatchewan's K-12 Goals of Education. Social studies contributes to the K-12 Goals of Education through helping students achieve knowledge, skills, and attitudes related to these Broad Areas of Learning.

Lifelong Learners

Students engaged in constructing and applying social studies knowledge naturally build a positive disposition towards learning. Throughout their study of social studies, students bring a natural curiosity about their world. This curiosity provides the motivation to discover and explore their personal interests more deeply. Positive values and attitudes about learning involve curiosity and interest with respect to social studies questions, and a sense of wonder regarding the human and natural environments. A spirit of inquiry and the enjoyment of the pursuit of knowledge are integral to social studies education. As students engage in the learning process, they enhance their appreciation of the significance and relevance of questions and issues related to social studies.

Sense of Self, Community, and Place

Diversity is a fundamental aspect of human interaction. Living together as members of society requires understanding and appreciation of human diversity and diverse perspectives. Diverse perspectives are reflected throughout social studies curricula and enable students to develop an awareness of differing understandings and worldviews. As students think critically about contemporary and historical ideas, events, and issues from diverse perspectives, students gain a richer understanding of themselves and of the complexity of cultures, communities, and societies. This understanding enables students to interact with others with sensitivity and open-mindedness, and to respect their own and others' ways of seeing the world. As students consider diverse perspectives in their choices, decisions, and actions, they will be better able to live with others in a pluralistic society (WNCP, 2002, p. 19).

Engaged Citizens

The development of values and attitudes, knowledge and understanding, and skills and processes that support active and responsible citizenship is fundamental to social studies education. As active and responsible citizens, students engage in discussions and take action as members of communities – locally, nationally, and globally. The concept of citizenship provides a foundation that enables students to understand and become committed to democratic ideals.

Related to the following Goals of Education:

- *Basic Skills*
- *Lifelong Learning*
- *Positive Lifestyle*

Related to the following Goals of Education:

- *Understanding and Relating to Others*
- *Self-concept Development*
- *Spiritual Development*

Related to the following Goals of Education:

- *Career and Consumer Decisions*
- *Membership in Society*
- *Growing with Change*

Citizenship involves the ability and willingness to contribute to collective well-being through personal and collective decisions and actions. Students will explore historical and contemporary issues and ideas related to citizenship to develop an understanding of citizenship in the local, national, and global contexts. Students will engage in discussion, negotiation, consensus building, and conflict resolution. As students interact and explore diverse perspectives, they will build the competencies required for active and responsible citizenship in the Canadian context.

Values and attitudes that support active and responsible citizenship are central to social studies learning. These include respect for democratic ideals such as justice and equality, and appreciation of the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of citizenship. Active citizenship also involves willingness to engage in discussion, negotiation, debate, and action regarding Canadian and global social issues. Students will examine the contribution individuals can make to the economic, environmental, and social sustainability of communities.

Cross-curricular Competencies

The Cross-curricular Competencies are four interrelated areas containing understandings, values, skills, and processes which are considered important for learning in all areas of study. These competencies reflect the Common Essential Learnings and are intended to be addressed in each area of study at each grade level.

Developing Thinking

Learners construct knowledge to make sense of the world around them. In social studies, students develop understanding by building on what is already known and use processes such as thinking contextually, thinking creatively, and thinking critically for initiating and engaging in inquiry and other projects. This curriculum is inquiry-based and students use their thinking skills to explore a range of questions, topics, issues, and themes in a variety of contexts. Thinking contextually, creatively, and critically enables students to make observations and decisions and to solve problems. These skills involve making connections among concepts and applying a variety of cognitive tools. Creative thinking emphasizes divergent thinking, the generation of ideas and possibilities, and the exploration of diverse approaches to questions. Critical thinking involves the use of criteria and evidence to make reasoned judgements. These judgements include distinguishing fact from opinion, evaluating information and ideas, identifying perspectives and bias, and considering the consequences of decisions and actions.

K-12 Goals for Developing Thinking:

- *thinking and learning contextually*
- *thinking and learning creatively*
- *thinking and learning critically*

Developing Identity and Interdependence

A strong sense of identity is a necessary foundation for interpersonal relationships, and contributes to students' abilities to participate in their communities as active and responsible citizens. Identities are shaped by many factors including culture, language, ethnic heritage, spiritual beliefs, socio-economic situation, gender identity, personal characteristics, time, and place. Identity formation is an ongoing process that involves observation, reflection, and interaction with others. Individuals affirm who they are by becoming aware of what distinguishes themselves from others, as well as what connects them to others. Social studies learning provides opportunities for students to develop self-awareness, and to enrich their personal identities and self-esteem. Focusing on identity and interdependence strengthens students' understanding of who they are as individuals and as social beings. As students reflect on and express who they are, they build upon their identities as contributing members of interdependent groups and communities.

An appreciation of the dependence of human beings upon nature and respect for the natural environment are also important values in social studies. An attitude of stewardship for the land implies a willingness to adapt one's lifestyle in order to contribute to the well-being of the environment. An awareness of the impact of human societies and activities on the environment enables students to make decisions that reflect concern for present and future quality of life.

Developing Literacies

Multiple literacies involve a continuum of interrelated skills, strategies, and knowledge that contribute to the development of an individual's ability to participate in a variety of roles and situations in the school, home, and community. Literacies provide a variety of ways, including the use of language and technology, to interpret the world and express understanding of it through words, numbers, images, sounds, movements, or other representations. In social studies, development of literacies related to the various social science disciplines (e.g., cultural literacy, economic literacy, geographic literacy, historical literacy) complements development of literacies in other areas of study.

Developing Social Responsibility

Social studies supports students in participating actively and responsibly in a changing pluralistic society. Important values and attitudes in social studies relate to self, others, community, environment, and citizenship. Positive values and attitudes concerning self involve a sense of personal worth and efficacy. The belief that one can contribute to collective well-being and make a positive difference

K-12 Goals for Developing Identity and Interdependence:

- *understanding, valuing, and caring for oneself*
- *understanding, valuing, and caring for others*
- *understanding and valuing social, economic, and environmental interdependence and sustainability*

K-12 Goals for Developing Literacies:

- *constructing knowledge related to various literacies*
- *exploring and interpreting the world through various literacies*
- *expressing understanding and communicating meaning using various literacies*

K-12 Goals for Developing Social Responsibility:

- *using moral reasoning*
- *engaging in communitarian thinking and dialogue*
- *taking action*

in society begins with self-esteem and is supported by a sense of connectedness to others. This belief supports the development of values such as respect, integrity, responsibility, and commitment.

Attitudes with respect to others are grounded in respect for the value and dignity of all human beings. This is reflected in a concern for quality of life and a willingness to understand and respect diversity in individuals, groups, cultures, communities, and societies. Appreciating human diversity implies a critical consideration of one's own and others' perspectives. Such a consideration involves acknowledging the limitations of personal perspectives in understanding the world, and enables students to identify and speak out against intolerance, prejudice, racism, and other forms of discrimination. Social studies helps students become informed, active, and responsible members of communities. Positive values and attitudes regarding community involve a sense of belonging and membership. A sense of belonging enables students to make choices that are motivated by concern for collective well-being. Values such as respect, a sense of personal and collective responsibility, and an appreciation of human interdependence within local, national, and global communities are fundamental to social studies education.

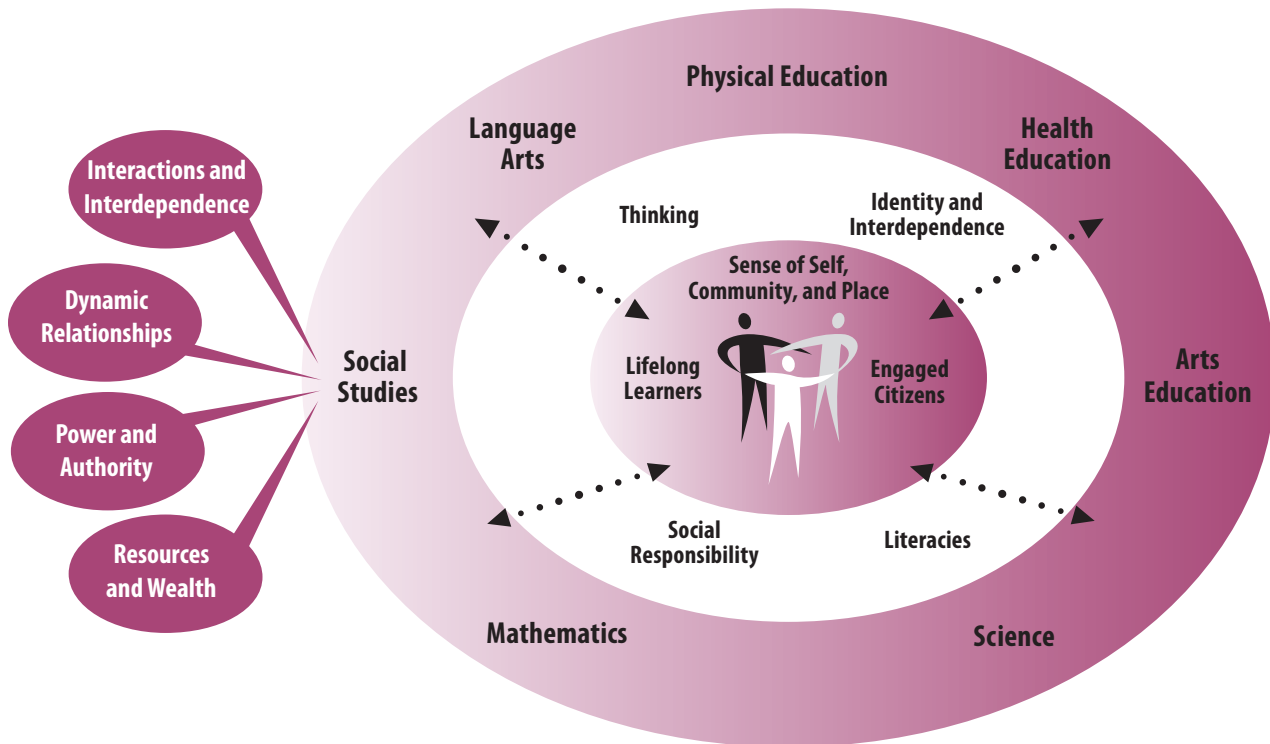
Aim and Goals of Social Studies and the Social Sciences

The purpose of Kindergarten to Grade 12 Social Studies is to help students know and appreciate the past, understand the present, influence the future, and make connections between events and issues of the past, the present, and the future. Further, its purpose is to make students aware that, just as contemporary events have been shaped by actions taken by people in the past, they have the opportunity to shape the future. The ultimate aim is for students who have a sense of themselves as active participants and citizens in an inclusive, culturally diverse, interdependent world.

Goals are broad statements identifying what students are expected to know and be able to do upon completion of the learning in a particular area of study by the end of Grade 12. The four goals of K-12 Social Studies and Social Sciences education are to:

- examine the local, indigenous, and global interactions and interdependence of individuals, societies, cultures, and nations (IN).
- analyze the dynamic relationships of people with the land, environments, events, and ideas as they have affected the past, shape the present, and influence the future (DR).

- investigate the processes and structures of power and authority, and the implications for individuals, communities, and nations (PA).
- examine various worldviews about the use and distribution of resources and wealth in relation to the needs of individuals, communities, nations, and the natural environment, and contribute to sustainable development (RW).



The Interactions and Interdependence goal (IN) recognizes and encompasses the disciplines of anthropology, archaeology, philosophy, psychology, and sociology within the social studies and social sciences, while the Dynamic Relationships goal (DR) recognizes and encompasses the disciplines of geography and history. As well, the Power and Authority goal (PA) recognizes and encompasses the disciplines of political science and law, while the Resources and Wealth goal (RW) recognizes and encompasses the disciplines of economics and environmental studies.

Teaching Social Studies

The role of social studies education is to help students develop the values and attitudes, knowledge and understanding, and skills and processes necessary to become active and responsible citizens, engaged in the practice of democratic ideals and aware of their capacity to effect change. Social studies supports active and responsible citizenship by enabling students to:

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- understand their rights and responsibilities in order to participate fully in society
 - begin to understand the role of social, political, economic, and legal institutions as they relate to individual and collective well-being
 - begin to understand and appreciate the unique nature of Canada
 - begin to understand and honour the traditions, concepts, and symbols that are the expression of Canadian identities
 - thrive in their evolving cultural and Canadian identities with a sense of belonging to their communities, Canada, and the world
 - appreciate and respect diverse Canadian cultural perspectives, including Aboriginal and Francophone, and understand how these perspectives have shaped Canada
 - value the diversity, respect the dignity, and support the equality of all human beings
 - begin to develop a sense of social compassion, fairness, and justice
 - recognize, speak out, and take action against injustice as it occurs in their schools and communities
 - begin to consider and understand historic and contemporary issues, including controversial issues, from diverse perspectives
 - begin to understand geographic concepts and skills, and that humans exist in a dynamic relationship with the natural environment
 - begin to develop a consciousness and sense of stewardship for the land, as well as an understanding of the principles of sustainability
 - engage in problem solving and conflict resolution with an awareness of the ethical consequences of decision making
 - engage in active inquiry and critical and creative thinking
 - begin to conduct research ethically using diverse methods and sources, and organize, interpret, and present their findings
 - begin to use and manage information and communication technologies
 - develop effective communication skills
 - develop collaborative and cooperative skills.

(Adapted from WNCP, 2002, p. 7)

Grade Two – My Community

Grade 2 students explore the meaning of community, and focus upon their lives as members of various communities to which they belong. While identifying the characteristics common to communities, students will also begin to recognize diversity within their communities. Students will explore the history of their community, and those who contributed to its development over time. Treaty education focuses upon Treaty relationships in the local community, in both traditional and contemporary contexts. Grade 2 social studies students will also explore the influence of the natural environment on their communities, and begin to interpret basic features of maps and globes. As well, students in Grade 2 will explore the processes and individuals involved in decision making within their communities, and examine the roles, rights, and responsibilities of citizens within the community. Through the experience of Grade 2 social studies, students will begin to contribute to sustainability of their local and global community.

Principles of Early Learning

It is important that teachers incorporate the following principles about children and their early learning experiences into daily practice. The early learning principles are to inform and guide decision making in programs. The principles fall into the following four areas:

Image of Children

- Appreciate that children are active learners, drawing on their experiences to construct their own understandings of the world around them.
- Accept that children are competent co-learners with adults and learn best when they are valued, their physical needs are met, and they feel psychologically secure.
- Acknowledge that children demonstrate their various ways of knowing and learning through their multiple ways of communicating.

Holistic Development and Learning

- Integrate the dimensions of cognitive/metacognitive, social/emotional, spiritual, and physical well-being into learning experiences.
- Base daily practice in early childhood education on current knowledge and research about child development and learning.
- Recognize that children develop at different rates and that each child develops within different cognitive, social, physical, and spiritual dimensions.

Themes for Grades 1-9 Social Studies:

- *Grade 1 - My Family*
- *Grade 2 - My Community*
- *Grade 3 - Community Comparisons*
- *Grade 4 - Saskatchewan*
- *Grade 5 - Canada*
- *Grade 6 - Canada and Our Atlantic Neighbours*
- *Grade 7 - Canada and Our Pacific and Northern Neighbours*
- *Grade 8 - The Individual in Canadian Society*
- *Grade 9 - The Roots of Society.*

Relationships

- Respect the dignity, worth, and uniqueness of children in the context of family, culture, and society.
- Support children’s development with opportunities to practise newly acquired skills and to advance children’s growth beyond their current level of knowledge, skills, and abilities.
- Engage parents, families, and community in program planning.

Environment

- Facilitate and guide play, exploration, and discovery as important processes in enhancing children’s holistic development.
- Promote the holistic nature of children’s learning in an environment that stimulates exploration, curiosity, and interactions with others.
- Encourage children’s independence, responsibility, and participation in the learning environment, family, and community.

Principles of Child Development and Learning

- All dimensions of development and learning – physical, spiritual, social and emotional, and cognitive – are important and they are closely interrelated. Children’s development and learning in one dimension influence and are influenced by what takes place in other dimensions.
- Early experiences have profound effects, both cumulative and delayed, on a child’s development and learning, and optimal periods exist for certain types of development and learning to occur.
- Children develop best when they have secure, consistent relationships with responsive adults and opportunities for positive relationships with peers.
- Always active in seeking to understand the world around them, children learn in a variety of ways; hence, a wide range of teaching strategies and interactions are effective in supporting differing ways of learning.
- Development and learning advance when children are (involved with and) challenged to achieve at a level just beyond their current mastery, and also when they have many opportunities to practise newly acquired skills (through scaffolding).

(Adapted from Copple & Bredekamp, 2009)

Teaching and Learning Principles

The following principles are fundamental beliefs intended to guide and support decisions related to teaching and learning – decisions about curriculum, classroom environment, resource selection, instruction, and assessment and evaluation. The following principles, based upon current research and knowledge about teaching and learning, are designed to guide instruction and learning in social studies.

Learning	Teaching
Students learn most effectively in environments that promote active learning through purposeful and challenging experiences.	Instructional strategies that facilitate active learning include exploration, inquiry, problem solving, decision making, discussion, debate, and reflection. Topics should be personally, as well as academically, meaningful.
Students learn and develop in different ways and at varying rates.	Instructional strategies that appeal to a variety of learning styles provide opportunities for interaction and collaboration, as well as for independent learning.
Students learn most effectively when they know and actively select and apply strategies to develop understanding.	Instruction should provide opportunities for students to learn a variety of strategies for understanding, generating, and applying new knowledge, skills, and attitudes.
Students learn most effectively when they find personal relevance in the concepts, knowledge, skills, and values being taught.	Instruction should clearly establish connections between what is taught and students' current lives and situations, supporting meaningful connections between students' prior knowledge and experiences and newly acquired knowledge and experiences.
Students learn to be effective citizens, locally and globally, when they see themselves as active participants in an interdependent world.	Instruction should provide opportunities to develop, value, and practise citizenship skills as students explore and reflect on issues, construct thoughtful points of view, and recommend and engage in appropriate actions based upon adequate knowledge and consideration.
Students develop a sound understanding of their abilities and needs when assessment and evaluation are integral components of the learning process.	Assessment and evaluation should be continuous, and consist of a variety of methods of collecting, sharing, and using data. Teachers should provide frequent opportunities for students to assess and evaluate their own learning and performance, and to set goals for further learning. Assessment and evaluation must address skills and processes, as well as content and products.
Students develop and clarify their own views and values, and come to understand and respect the views and values of others through opportunities to reflect on information and ideas from a variety of perspectives.	Instruction should use a variety of strategies to encourage students to examine, clarify, and reflect upon their values and viewpoints, as well as to consider and discuss several perspectives regarding a variety of concepts, issues, and topics. In addition, teachers should encourage students to celebrate their Canadian identity, while fostering multicultural and global perspectives that help students to respect and understand other people's cultures and viewpoints.
Students' language skills and abilities are integral to their learning, both independently and collaboratively.	Instruction should engage students in the language processes of listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing, and representing, and should provide support for students as they use these processes to develop concepts and clarify and extend their understanding of subject-specific material and vocabulary.
Students at this level display unique developmental characteristics as they are experiencing physical, emotional, moral, ethical, social, and intellectual growth and change.	Instruction is most successful with students if their characteristics are acknowledged and taken into consideration when planning or implementing learning situations and activities.

“Social issues can be one of the most interesting and important components of the social studies curriculum. They add vitality to the curriculum and help make it significant for both students and teachers.”

Banks & Banks, 1999, p. 196

Addressing Controversial Issues

The teaching of value-laden issues has generated much controversy. Some argue that, in a pluralistic society, there can be no broad consensus on values. People who adopt this assumption argue that social studies education has to be objective and value free in order to avoid offending certain points of view. A second position is to provide students with opportunities to clarify their personal values, contemplate the consequences of those values, and decide for themselves what they will or will not accept. A third position is to argue that there is some basic consensus on fundamental moral and ethical values in Canadian society and that these values can be taught in a meaningful way.

It is assumed in social studies that there are fundamental values on which there is agreement. It is also assumed that there are many disagreements and that students need to learn to deal with diverse beliefs. The social studies and social sciences curricula provide students with learning experiences that help identify some of the fundamental value positions of society and understand how these arose. In order to achieve the K-12 goals of social studies and social sciences curricula, students must be exposed to a variety of viewpoints and beliefs. This does not suggest, however, that any belief is as good as any other belief. Canadian society does not accept that premise, and that impression should not be given to students. Therefore, this curriculum makes no attempt to be value free.

Social studies provides students with opportunities to examine controversial issues. Contemplating these issues will provide students with the opportunity to apply concepts and higher order thinking skills in organizing, interpreting, and communicating information meaningfully. In this process, students can begin to understand the role of values as the basis for making inferences. It is, then, a natural progression to understanding that values provide us with evaluative criteria and we depend upon the traditions of Canadian society to provide us with guidelines. A short list of these criteria would include human dignity, basic rights, and responsibilities as defined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and respect and acceptance of individual differences.

When addressing values in the classroom, teachers should be aware of family and community standards. Teachers should also consult the *Renewed Objectives for the Common Essential Learnings of Critical and Creative Thinking (CCT) and Personal and Social Development (PSD)* for support in addressing controversial issues. Educational decisions related to values in the classroom should reflect these standards as well as those in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. If a controversy arises between positions taken by family and community and that of the Charter, students should be encouraged to engage in

dialectical thinking about the various positions before arriving at their personal value position.

Multicultural Content, Perspectives, and Resources

Multicultural education fosters understanding, acceptance, empathy, and constructive and harmonious relations among people of diverse cultures. It encourages learners of all ages to view cultures different from their own as sources of learning and enrichment.

While the first and most lasting influence on children and youth is that of the home environment, educators and educational institutions have a responsibility to prepare children to function in our culturally diverse society. The educational system must address a variety of issues with cultural diversity in mind: additional language programming, teaching and learning styles, curriculum and resource materials, teacher attitudes and expectations, student groupings, and assessment and evaluation. Sound teaching practices such as being aware of a student's social and psychological background, encouraging the development of self-esteem, and responding to individual needs are consistent with the philosophy underlying multicultural education.

Multicultural Education and Heritage Language Education Policies (Saskatchewan Education, 1994) identifies goals that provide a foundation for multicultural education in the classroom. These goals, exemplified below, include self-concept development, understanding and relating to others, spiritual development, and membership in society.

To demonstrate and promote cultural respect and understanding, teachers can:

- affirm each student as unique and important
- accept and respect the language that each student brings to the classroom
- become educated about the cultural backgrounds of their students
- determine if unexpected behaviours and actions reflect a student's culture
- respect students' knowledge about their own cultures
- build a classroom environment that encourages inclusion and validation of students' language usage and abilities, and varied cultural and ethnic backgrounds
- deal with racist incidents in a direct manner, if they occur
- view students of all cultures as having equal potential

"Multiculturalism is a recognition of the diversity of cultural differences which exist in a pluralistic society and an endorsement of a society in which individuals of all cultures are accepted and accorded respect."

Saskatchewan Education, 1994, p. 1

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- become informed about a variety of cultures and inform their students
 - help students to understand that individual identities are shaped by many factors, one of which is cultural background
 - give students opportunities to select and respond to resources listened to, read, and viewed
 - encourage students to read, view, and listen to a variety of resources and media representative of cultural groups with which students do and do not identify
 - encourage students to take risks when expressing themselves in spoken and written forms
 - use interpreters for second language speakers (e.g., parents, community members)
 - use a variety of instructional and assessment strategies to accommodate students' cultural learning preferences and backgrounds
 - develop students' collaborative and cooperative skills and attitudes through group work, problem-solving discussions, and consensus activities
 - encourage students to talk and write about their experiences and places where students have lived or travelled
 - provide opportunities for students to tell their stories orally, in writing, or through other representations
 - choose resources and media selections that represent a diversity of cultures and cultural perspectives
 - discuss stereotypical beliefs and cultural biases in resources and media.

The inclusion of multicultural content, perspectives, and resources in social studies helps students to develop multicultural perspectives that prepare students to live more enriched and compassionate lives while contributing harmoniously to a pluralistic society.

Portrayal of Persons with Disabilities

Persons with disabilities have often been depicted inaccurately in print, media, and other classroom resources. Stereotypical depictions have served to give readers, listeners, and viewers inappropriate information and have engendered attitudes ranging from feelings of pity or revulsion to expectations of superhuman powers of intellect. It is critical that social studies teachers use materials that portray persons with disabilities realistically and fairly.

Wherever possible, ability rather than disability should be emphasized. Instructional materials should convey respect for the individuality of

"It is important to be aware that literature, the media, and other resources frequently portray people with disabilities in a stereotypical way."

Heim, 1994, p. 140

all persons, including those with disabilities. When evaluating material for use in the social studies classroom, the teacher should consider the following:

- Accurate and up-to-date information should be used in the resource to describe the disability. The best approach is one where aspects of the disability are revealed, not as the main focus of the text, but through the unfolding of the documentary or story.
- Stereotypes frequently found in media portrayals of people with disabilities include: pitiable and pathetic, objects of violence, or burdens who are incapable of fully participating in everyday life. Materials that include characters or people with disabilities should provide an insight into the feelings and thoughts of the individuals with disabilities. The characters or people should not be used to provoke certain feelings and thoughts in the reader, listener, or viewer (e.g., pity).

Worldview in Social Studies and Social Sciences Curricula

A worldview is a description of reality providing natural and believable knowledge which is generally accepted by the members of a cultural group, because it meets their needs, creates order and coherence, and provides a basis for predictions. A worldview acts as a template providing people with a set of beliefs about the reality in which people find themselves. Critical attributes include:

- spiritual beliefs defining the meaning and purpose of existence
- moral beliefs about people's rights and obligations
- social beliefs about the organization of individuals into a society
- intellectual beliefs about determining truth and beauty
- economic beliefs about creating and distributing wealth
- political beliefs about making and enforcing decisions within society.

Societal belief systems play an important role in guiding human behaviour. Individuals in societies use beliefs to guide behaviour because they provide authority, stability, and predictability regarding issues that are important and/or controversial. Each society has fundamental belief systems from which people draw the core of their personal beliefs and behaviours. These collective belief systems are the basis for a society's worldview. Compatible worldviews are necessary for the orderly functioning of a society because they determine:

- what things are worth working for (purposes)
- what things are worth believing (values)

"Worldview is a comprehensive view or philosophy of life, the world and the universe. Worldview can be described as a philosophy or view of life that shapes how we interact and respond to the world around us. Our own worldview influences, shapes and interprets what we experience, and provides us with a sense of vision for the future."

Office of the Treaty Commissioner, 2008, p. 60

"Inquiry is a philosophical stance rather than a set of strategies, activities, or a particular teaching method. As such, inquiry promotes intentional and thoughtful learning for teachers and children."

Mills & Donnelly, 2001, p. xvii

- those ideas that are acceptable (based on values)
- those things considered beautiful, pleasurable, fun, tragic, and/or comic (aesthetics)
- those things that are worth enforcing (rules and laws).

Through social studies and social sciences curricula, students investigate the worldviews of various societies and cultures in their achievement of the K-12 goals and grade specific outcomes.

Inquiry in Social Studies

Inquiry learning provides students with opportunities to build knowledge, abilities, and inquiring habits of mind that lead to deeper understanding of their world and human experience. Inquiry is more than a simple instructional method. It is a philosophical approach to teaching and learning, grounded in constructivist research and methods, which engages students in investigations that lead to disciplinary and transdisciplinary understanding.

Inquiry builds on students' inherent sense of curiosity and wonder, drawing on their diverse backgrounds, interests, and experiences. The process provides opportunities for students to become active participants in a collaborative search for meaning and understanding. Students who are engaged in inquiry:

- construct knowledge and deep understanding rather than passively receiving it
- are directly involved and engaged in the discovery of new knowledge
- encounter alternative perspectives and differing ideas that transform prior knowledge and experience into deep understandings
- transfer new knowledge and skills to new circumstances
- take ownership and responsibility for their ongoing learning and mastery of curriculum content and skills.

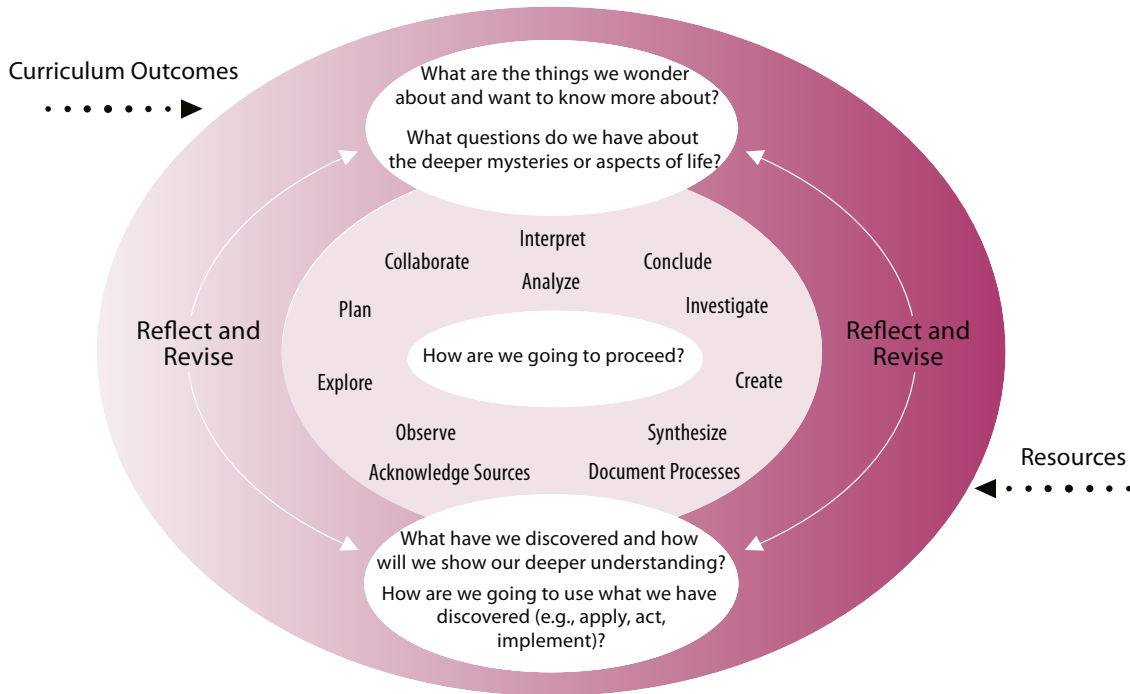
(Adapted from Kuhlthau & Todd, 2008, p. 1)

An important part of any inquiry process is student reflection on their learning and the documentation needed to assess the learning and make it visible. Student documentation of the inquiry process in social studies and the social sciences may take the form of works-in-progress, reflective writing, reports, notes, three-dimensional models, arts expressions, photographs, video footage, action plans, and various other representations.

Inquiry learning is not a step-by-step process, but rather a cyclical process, with various phases of the process being revisited and rethought as a result of students' discoveries, insights, and

construction of new knowledge. Experienced inquirers will move back and forth among various phases as new questions arise and as students become more comfortable with the process. The following graphic shows various phases of this cyclical inquiry process.

Constructing Understanding Through Inquiry



Inquiry focuses on the development of questions to initiate and guide the learning process. These questions are formulated by teachers and students to motivate inquiries into topics, problems, and issues related to curriculum content and outcomes.

Well-formulated inquiry questions are broad in scope and rich in possibilities. Such questions encourage students to explore, observe, gather information, plan, analyze, interpret, synthesize, problem solve, take risks, create, draw conclusions, document and reflect on learning, and develop new questions for further inquiry.

Creating Questions for Inquiry in Social Studies

Teachers and students can begin their inquiry at one or more curriculum entry points; however, the process may evolve into transdisciplinary integrated learning opportunities, as reflective of the holistic nature of our lives and interdependent global environment. It is essential to develop questions that are evoked by student interests and have potential for rich and deep learning. These questions are used to initiate and guide the inquiry and give students direction for investigating topics, problems, ideas, challenges, or issues under study.

"... questions stimulate thought, provoke inquiry, and spark more questions—not just pat answers . . . The best questions point to and highlight the big ideas."

Wiggins & McTighe, 2005, p. 106

The process of constructing questions for deep understanding can help students grasp the important disciplinary or transdisciplinary ideas that are situated at the core of a particular curricular focus or context. These broad questions lead to more specific questions that can provide a framework, purpose, and direction for the learning activities in a lesson, or series of lessons, and help students connect what they are learning to their experiences and life beyond school.

Questions give students some initial direction for uncovering the understandings associated with a unit of study. They also invite and encourage students to pose their own questions for deeper understanding. When devising essential questions that lead to deeper understanding, teachers and students should note that these questions should:

- cause genuine and relevant inquiry into the key ideas and core content
- provide for thoughtful, lively discussion, sustained inquiry, and new understanding as well as more questions
- require students to consider alternatives, weigh evidence, support their ideas, and justify their answers
- stimulate vital, ongoing rethinking of big ideas, assumptions, and prior lessons
- spark meaningful connections with prior learning, personal experiences, and ways of knowing
- naturally recur, creating opportunities for transfer to other situations and subjects.

(Adapted from Wiggins & McTighe, 2005, p. 110)

Social studies inquiry involves the exploration of issues, questions, or problems. The inquiry process begins with the natural curiosity of students and draws upon their prior knowledge. Throughout the process, students engage in creative and critical thinking, carry out research, and design creative responses to questions. Students use a variety of strategies to plan inquiry and analyze issues, and to make decisions or devise innovative approaches to problems that may or may not have solutions.

Through the inquiry process, students strive to understand and explain the world. They pose problems or seek information about relevant issues or questions. It is important that students consider diverse perspectives as they evaluate alternatives and explore consequences. Central to this process is an awareness of the complexity and change inherent in issues related to social studies.

As students inquire into issues, they explore diverse choices and possibilities, and may make decisions or take action. Where resolution

Effective questioning is essential for teaching and student learning and should be an integral part of planning in social studies. Questioning should also be used to encourage students to reflect on the inquiry process and the documentation and assessment of their own learning.

is not possible, students may pose new questions or plan alternative approaches. An important part of this process is a consideration of the beliefs, values, and implications of various alternatives. This complex process includes weighing priorities, predicting consequences, negotiating compromises, and making decisions or exploring possibilities.

Questions for deep understanding in social studies are the key to initiating and guiding students' investigations and critical thinking, problem solving, and reflection on their own learning. In Grade Two, questions such as "What is a community?", "Who lives in my community?", "How did my community come to be what it is today?", and "How do we meet needs and wants in my community?", are examples of questions that will move students' inquiry toward deeper understanding.

Outcomes and Indicators

K-12 Goal: To examine the local, indigenous, and global interactions and interdependence of individuals, societies, cultures, and nations. (IN)

Outcomes (What students are expected to know and be able to do.)

IN2.1 Determine characteristics of a community.

IN2.2 Create a representation of the diversity of cultural groups in the local community.

Indicators (Students who have achieved this outcome should be able to:)

- a. Identify and record characteristics common to the school community (e.g., Who leads the school community? Who keeps the school community clean and physically pleasant? What kinds of special events happen in the school community?).
 - b. Compile a list of various communities to which students belong (e.g., cultural, recreational, faith, sports, arts).
 - c. Compare characteristics of other communities to which students belong with those of the school community, identifying the similarities in meeting needs and achieving common purpose.
 - d. Identify needs met by the local community that cannot be met independently or individually, and describe the concept of interdependence.
 - e. Create an inventory of ways in which individuals and groups contribute to the well-being of the school and local community.
 - f. Identify characteristics common to local communities (e.g., transportation and communication networks, educational and health care systems, arts, culture, sport, and recreation infrastructure).
 - g. Create a representation exemplifying interdependence within the local community.
-
- a. Describe diverse characteristics within the school and local communities, and describe similarities within and between diverse groups.
 - b. Retell the shared experiences and stories of members of the local community experienced through active listening, viewing, and reading of stories in various formats.
 - c. Identify the significance of a variety of cultural traditions, festivals, and celebrations in the school and local communities.
 - d. Describe ways in which diverse individuals and groups contribute to the well-being of the local community (e.g., storekeepers, medical practitioners, law enforcement personnel, school support workers, spiritual or faith leaders, artisans, trades people, bus drivers, community maintenance workers).

K-12 Goal: To analyze the dynamic relationships of people with the land, environments, events, and ideas as they have affected the past, shape the present, and influence the future. (DR)

Outcomes (What students are expected to know and be able to do.)

Indicators (Students who have achieved this outcome should be able to:)

DR2.1 Investigate stories of significant events and persons in the local community's history to describe the contribution of those who lived in the community in earlier times.

- a. Plan and implement a process to learn about the past experiences of members of the local community (e.g., talk to long term residents, view pictures or other artistic interpretations, visit an historic site).
- b. Research and represent the history of the local school and the local community (e.g., events, people).
- c. Describe events of the past in the local community that affect life today (e.g., Why was the current location chosen for the school? Other buildings? Why are streets or buildings named as they are?).
- d. Represent ways in which life in the local community has changed over time (e.g., change of place names, demographics, services, industries, businesses, transportation networks).
- e. Research the origins of, and reasons for, the names of public sites and landmarks in the local community (e.g., streets, rivers, buildings, parks).
- f. Research the heritage of various individuals and groups within the community, and why people came to live in the community.

DR2.2 Analyze the influence of the natural environment on the local community.

- a. Describe natural features of the local community and speculate upon their importance (e.g., landforms, climate, vegetation, waterways).
- b. Compile examples of natural resources in the local community and explain the importance of conserving or restoring natural resources.
- c. Inventory ways in which the natural environment influences lifestyles of the local community.
- d. Identify ways that technology has been and is used to enable people to adapt to the natural environment (e.g., building technology, clothing, industrial equipment, personal care).
- e. Illustrate ways in which the natural landscape shapes daily life in the local community.

Outcomes

DR2.3 Identify physical representations as constructed models of real things.

DR2.4 Describe the influence of Treaty and First Nations people on the local community.

Indicators

- a. Describe constructed features of the local community and examine the value and purpose of such constructions (e.g., bridges, buildings, statues, parks, water systems, roads).
 - b. Locate the local community on a map of Saskatchewan and Canada, and the community's relative location on a globe.
 - c. Interpret basic features of maps and globes.
 - d. Interpret artistic representations of the land in and around the local community.
-
- a. Share stories of the heritage of the community.
 - b. Investigate the relationship of traditional First Nations to the land.
 - c. Identify on a map the Treaty territory within which the local community is situated.
 - d. Describe the reasons for Treaty from the perspective of the First Nations and the government.
 - e. Trace the evolution of the Treaty relationship in the community.
 - f. Present oral, visual, or other interpretation or representation of historical understanding gained through oral history.

K-12 Goal: To investigate the processes and structures of power and authority, and the implications for individuals, communities, and nations. (PA)

Outcomes (What students are expected to know and be able to do.)

PA2.1 Analyze how decisions are made within the local community.

Indicators (Students who have achieved this outcome should be able to:)

- a. Review examples of communities to which students belong, and identify leaders in those communities (e.g., sports teams, artistic groups, school clubs, classroom, school, family).
- b. Give examples of leadership in the local community, and describe ways leadership is demonstrated (e.g., mayor, reeve, chief, Elders, community volunteers).
- c. Identify decision makers in the local community in government, economic, community, faith, and cultural organizations, and the roles of each.
- d. Research processes for decision making in local community organizations, and describe similarities and differences.
- e. Research formal decision-making process for governance of the local community.

Outcomes

PA2.2 Assess and practise various approaches to resolving conflicting interests within the community.

PA2.3 Analyze rights and responsibilities of citizens in the school and local community.

Indicators

- a. Recognize that the existence of conflicting interests does not necessarily result in conflict, and that harmonious communities resolve conflicting interests in peaceful ways.
 - b. Review processes for resolving conflicting interests in the classroom and school.
 - c. Identify possible sources of conflict in groups to which students belong, and in the community.
 - d. Identify and describe diverse viewpoints and perspectives in the local community.
 - e. Identify ways of maintaining safety and harmony within communities (e.g., police, firefighters, signage).
 - f. Investigate processes for resolving conflicting interests in the local government and community organizations.
 - g. Identify attributes of successful approaches to resolution of conflicting interests.
 - h. Apply successful approaches to resolving conflicting interests in the classroom and school communities.
-
- a. Differentiate between the nature of the rights of children and of adult citizens in the community.
 - b. Identify Treaty rights of members of the community.
 - c. Relate the rights of citizens in the community to their responsibilities to the community.
 - d. Identify opportunities for sharing responsibility in the school and community.

K-12 Goal: To examine various worldviews about the use and distribution of resources and wealth in relation to the needs of individuals, communities, nations, and the natural environment and contribute to sustainable development. (RW)

Outcomes (What students are expected to know and be able to do.)

RW2.1 Describe ways in which the local community meets needs and wants of its members.

Indicators (Students who have achieved this outcome should be able to:)

- a. Define the term resource, and inventory resources in the community that help to meet needs and wants.
- b. Investigate how quality of life is influenced by individuals, businesses, and groups in the local community.

Outcomes

RW2.2 Analyze various worldviews regarding the natural environment.

RW2.3 Contribute to initiating and guiding change in local and global communities regarding environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

Indicators

- a. Investigate traditional First Nations worldviews of the relationship between humanity and the environment.
 - b. Describe traditional western European worldviews of the relationship between humanity and the environment.
 - c. Investigate traditional Métis worldviews of the natural environment.
 - d. Assess worldviews of how to achieve balance and harmony.
 - e. Describe current worldviews in the community of the relationship between humanity and the natural environment.
-
- a. Represent through visual art, music, dance, writing, or other forms, the contribution of individuals and communities to initiate change that supports sustainability.
 - b. Investigate how individual local consumer choices may affect people elsewhere in the world (e.g., child labour, enslavement, sweat shops, consumption of scarce resources, prosperity through employment).
 - c. Develop a classroom action plan for harmonizing personal lifestyles with collective needs regarding social, environmental, and economic sustainability.

Assessment and Evaluation of Student Learning

Assessment and evaluation require thoughtful planning and implementation to support the learning process and to inform teaching. All assessment and evaluation of student achievement must be based on the outcomes in the provincial curriculum.

Assessment involves the systematic collection of information about student learning with respect to:

- achievement of provincial curricula outcomes
- effectiveness of teaching strategies employed
- student self-reflection on learning.

Evaluation compares assessment information against criteria based on curriculum outcomes for the purpose of communicating to students, teachers, parents/caregivers, and others about student progress and to make informed decisions about the teaching and learning process. Reporting of student achievement must be based on the achievement of curriculum outcomes.

There are three interrelated purposes of assessment. Each type of assessment, systematically implemented, contributes to an overall picture of an individual student's achievement:

Assessment for learning involves the use of information about student progress to support and improve student learning, inform instructional practices, and:

- is teacher-driven for student, teacher, and parent use
- occurs throughout the teaching and learning process, using a variety of tools
- engages teachers in providing differentiated instruction, feedback to students to enhance their learning, and information to parents in support of learning.

Assessment as learning actively involves student reflection on learning, monitoring of her/his own progress, and:

- supports students in critically analyzing learning related to curricular outcomes
- is student-driven with teacher guidance
- occurs throughout the learning process.

Assessment of learning involves teachers' use of evidence of student learning to make judgements about student achievement and:

- provides opportunity to report evidence of achievement related to curricular outcomes
- occurs at the end of a learning cycle using a variety of tools
- provides the foundation for discussion on placement or promotion.

"Assessment is basically a formative process in which information on students' knowledge, skills, and understandings is fed back into the instructional process and used to improve instruction and student learning. Evaluation is basically a summative process in which teachers use information on students' knowledge, skills, and understandings to make value judgements about student performance."

Banks & Banks, 1999, p. 464

Connections with Other Areas of Study

The curriculum is more relevant when connections are made to students' lives and previous learning. Although some learning outcomes or subject area knowledge may be better achieved through discipline-specific instruction, deeper understanding may be attained through the integration of disciplines. Some outcomes for each area of study complement each other and offer opportunities for subject area integration.

By using a particular context and identifying a common theme to use as an organizer, the outcomes from more than one subject area can be achieved and students can make connections. **Integrated, interdisciplinary instruction in a thematic unit, however, must be more than just a series of activities. An integrated unit must facilitate students' learning of the related disciplines and their understanding of the conceptual connections.** The unit must achieve each individual subject area's outcomes and ensure that in-depth learning occurs. If deep understanding is to occur, the unit cannot be based on superficial or arbitrarily connected activities (Brophy & Alleman, 1991). Further, the outcomes and activities of one area of study must not be obscured by the outcomes or activities of another area of study (Education Review Office, 1996, p. 13).

Glossary

Authority is power that is recognized by both those who possess it and those who are subject to it.

Cardinal directions include north, east, south, and west.

Citizenship is full membership in a community, including political rights and obligations.

Community is a broad term but generally refers to a group of people with at least one thing in common – location, shared interest, values, experiences, or traditions. Each of us may belong to several different communities – a neighbourhood or home town, a professional community, a volunteer community, or a school community.

Culture is a learned way of living that is shared by a group of people.

Globalization is international economic integration, particularly in terms of production and distribution of goods and services.

Infrastructure includes transportation systems, water and sewage systems, political and economic systems, and other systems and structures that promote quality of life.

Multiculturalism is a policy supporting the existence of many distinct cultural groups in one society.

Place refers to the human, physical, and environmental characteristics of a location that distinguish it from any other.

Power is the ability to exert control over people and situations.

Quality of life is measured using various indicators, including material wealth, life expectancy, literacy rates, and other non-material factors affecting individuals and societies.

Resources are the raw materials or component parts of a finished product that may include natural resources, human resources, and capital resources (equipment and buildings).

Society is a structured community of people bound together by similar traditions, institutions, or nationality.

Technology is a creative human activity (a way of knowing nature) concerned with solving practical problems that arise from human/social needs, particularly the need to adapt to the environment and to fuel a nation's economy.

Work includes the paid and unpaid chores, volunteer activities, and labour as a matter of meeting responsibility to self and as a member of a group.

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Feedback Form

The Ministry of Education welcomes your response to this curriculum and invites you to complete and return this feedback form.

Grade 2 Social Studies Curriculum

1. Please indicate your role in the learning community

- parent teacher resource teacher
 guidance counsellor school administrator school board trustee
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What was your purpose for looking at or using this curriculum?

2. a) Please indicate which format(s) of the curriculum you used:

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4. Please respond to each of the following statements by circling the applicable number.

The curriculum content is:	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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informative	1	2	3	4

5. Explain which aspects you found to be:

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Thank you for taking the time to provide this valuable feedback.

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