Social Studies Essential Questions and Big Ideas

What makes a country rich?

How does what I have change what I get?

Who has more?

Does money buy everything?

What is wealth?

What does my country tell me about me?

How do countries think about resources differently?

Who owns natural resources?

Is all fair in war?

Are there rules in war?

How has conflict changed over time? How has it stayed the same?

Are people basically good or bad?

What is our responsibility to those less fortunate than us?

How can we find hope within conflict and despair?

How do responsibilities govern/dictate our relationships?

Can cultures of the world co-exist peaceably?

Can wronged cultures ever truly forgive and forget?

Who is responsible for the mistakes of the past?

How can a society fall?

Why does a society rise and why does it lose steam?

How do we recognize a falling society?

What do all societies have in common?

Did all past societies fall the same way?

How can we avoid falling?

When two societies exist in the same time, how do they influence each other?

What happens when one society comes in contact with another?

Can two societies co-exist? How can this happen?

Why do some societies rise and others fall?

Why do some societies suppress others?

What leads people to explore?

Were the explorers of Canada crazy?

Is violence ever justified? When and Why?

Who was Canada’s greatest leader and why?

Who was the greatest Canadian hero and why?

What was the greatest Canadian invention? Defend your choice.

Is Capitalism the best economic system? What are its strengths and weaknesses?

What is Canada (Saskatchewan)’s greatest success? Its greatest blunder?

What are the great issues facing Canada today and in the future?