

2010

Saskatchewan Curriculum

Social Studies

4



Social Studies 4

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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.

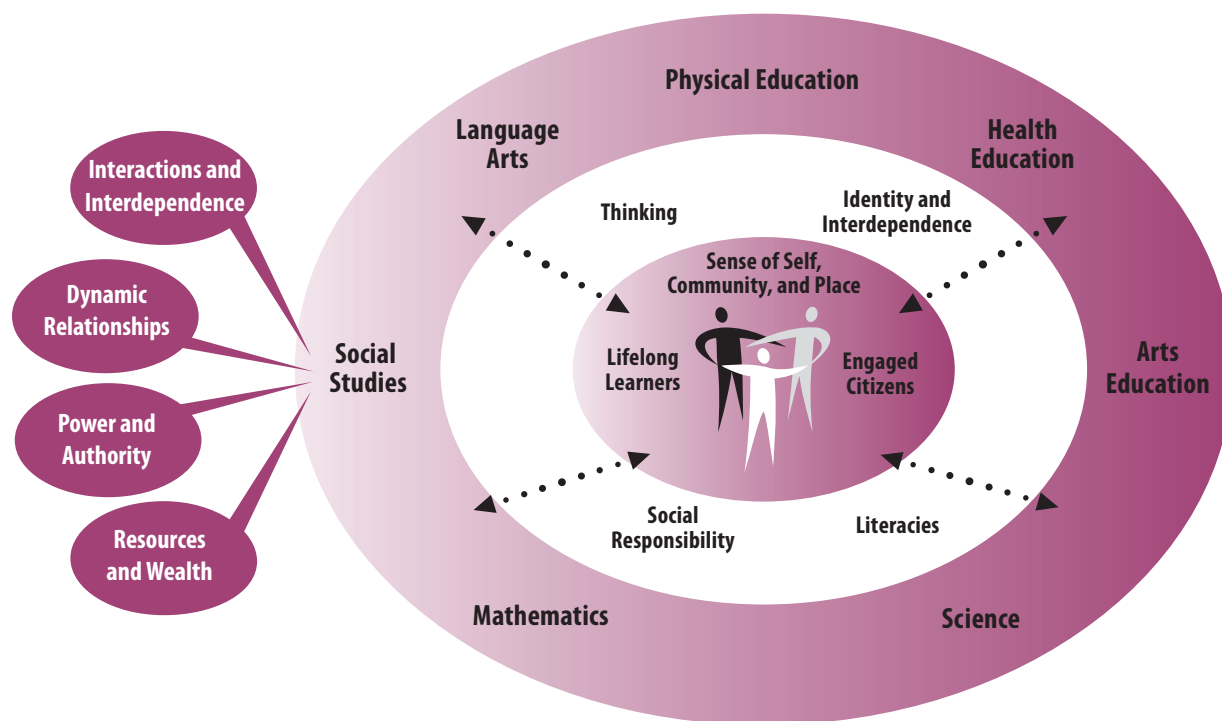
Aim and Goals of Social Studies and the Social Sciences

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 demonstrate a critical understanding of 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, its land, history, complexities, and current issues
 - 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 legitimate 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's political and cultural realities
 - value the diversity, respect the dignity, and support the equality of all human beings
 - develop a sense of social compassion, fairness, and justice
 - recognize, speak out, and take action against injustice as it occurs in their schools, communities, Canada, and the world
 - begin to understand Canadian and world history, to better comprehend the present and to influence the future wisely for the well-being of all
 - begin to critically consider and understand historic and contemporary issues, including controversial issues, from diverse perspectives
 - begin to develop a global consciousness with respect to the human condition and world issues
 - begin to understand how political and economic distributions of power affect individuals, communities, and environments
 - understand geographic concepts and skills, and that humans exist in a dynamic relationship with the natural environment
 - 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
 - conduct research ethically using diverse methods and sources, and organize, interpret, and present their findings and defend their opinions

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- use and manage information and communication technologies
 - develop effective communication skills
 - develop collaborative and cooperative skills.

(Adapted from WNCP, 2002, p. 7)

Grade Four – Saskatchewan

Grade 4 students of social studies will explore Saskatchewan, from historical, cultural, geographic, economic, and contemporary societal perspectives. Students will develop an understanding of Saskatchewan’s diverse First Nations heritage, the evolution of the Métis, and the diversity of those who have come to Saskatchewan from elsewhere in Canada and the world. Students will develop an understanding of the deeply rooted connections of people to land in Saskatchewan. They will explore the agricultural heritage of the province, as well as the importance of contemporary agricultural and other primary industries, including mining, forestry, oil, and natural gas, as well as exploring other economic sectors including manufacturing and services sectors. Treaty education will focus upon the Treaty relationship in Canada, and the benefits of this relationship to all. Students will also explore the decision-making process at the provincial government level, and explore the decision-making process in First Nations and Métis communities. Social studies in Grade 4 is designed to help students understand how Saskatchewan came to be the dynamic province it is today..

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.*

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.

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

“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

“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

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

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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

“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

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)

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- 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.

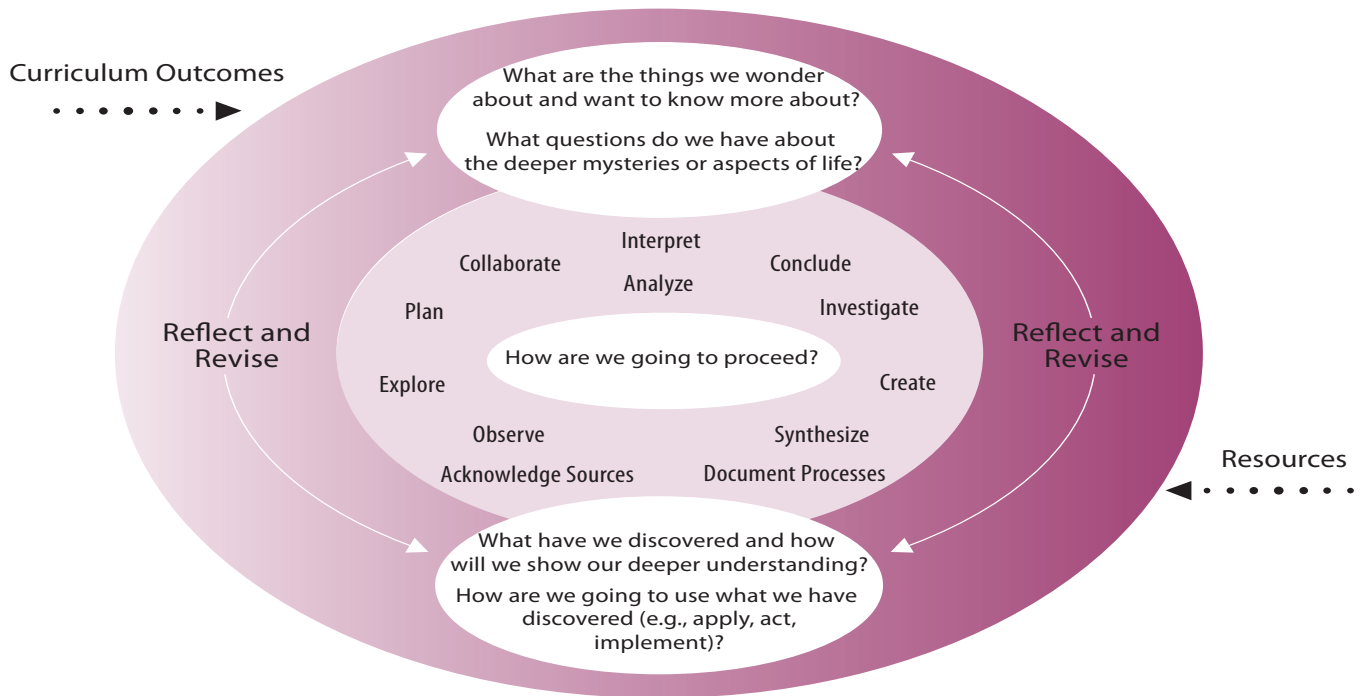
Inquiry learning is not a step-by-step process, but rather a cyclical process, with various phases of the process being revisited and rethought as a result of students' discoveries, insights, and

"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

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 Four, questions such as, "Who lives here and why?", "What is the nature of the relationship of people and the land in Saskatchewan?", "What can be done to ensure continued sustainable development in Saskatchewan?", and "How does government work in Saskatchewan?" all serve to focus the inquiry learning of Grade 4 students.

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.)

IN4.1 Analyze how First Nations and Métis people have shaped and continue to shape Saskatchewan.

IN4.2 Describe the origins of the cultural diversity in Saskatchewan communities.

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

- a. Create biographic profiles of a selection of Saskatchewan First Nations and Métis leaders in the time period prior to Saskatchewan joining Confederation (e.g., Poundmaker, Big Bear, Riel, Dumont, Almighty Voice).
 - b. Create an inventory of the contributions of First Nations and Métis people to government, business, and professional life in Saskatchewan (e.g., consulting firms, outfitters, financial firms, architects, educators, health workers, legal specialists, artists, athletes).
 - c. Explain the significance of dance and music to First Nations and Métis peoples and its contribution to Saskatchewan intercultural development.
 - d. Illustrate the contributions of First Nations and Métis artists, sculptors, musicians, dancers, storytellers and writers to Saskatchewan culture (e.g., Buffy Sainte-Marie, Allan Sapp, David Bouchard, Michael Lonechild, Henry Beaudry, Andrea Menard, Angélique Merasty).
-
- a. Identify the traditional locations of the various First Nations tribes and language groupings in Saskatchewan prior to European contact.
 - b. Detail the ways in which First Nations peoples supported the survival of early European newcomers to Saskatchewan.
 - c. Trace and represent the history of European immigration to Saskatchewan including those who came for economic reasons (explorers, fur traders, homestead farmers) and religious reasons (Mennonites, Hutterites, Doukhobours).
 - d. Articulate reasons why European immigrants left their homelands and settled in Saskatchewan, with particular emphasis upon the local community and/or the individual student families.
 - e. Represent through speaking, writing, drama, multimedia, or other form, the challenges faced, both historically and in the current era, by First Nations people, Métis people, and immigrants to Saskatchewan.

Outcomes**Indicators****IN4.2 continued**

- f. Identify strategies by which diverse cultural communities in Saskatchewan learned to work together for the common good (e.g., agricultural fairs, service organizations, community celebrations, arts groups, barn raising, construction of community facilities).
- g. Compare immigration patterns in Saskatchewan in the 19th and early 20th centuries to immigration patterns in the current era.
- h. Identify the significance of historic buildings and places associated with cultural diversity in the community and province.
- i. Investigate the role of archaeology in understanding the origins of Saskatchewan communities.

IN4.3 Determine the influence Saskatchewan people and programs have had on a national scale.

- a. Identify the impact of programs originating in Saskatchewan on Canada and global communities (e.g., Medicare, welfare, cooperative movement, the Saskatchewan Bill of Rights).
- b. Represent the accomplishments of prominent Saskatchewan people whose contributions in their field are nationally or internationally recognized in a gallery, media clips, vignettes, or other media.
- c. Investigate the value of volunteerism in various local community organizations and activities.

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:)

DR4.1 Correlate the impact of the land on the lifestyles and settlement patterns of the people of Saskatchewan.

- a. Locate Saskatchewan on a map of Canada, North America, and the world.
- b. Locate the geographic centre of Saskatchewan on a map.
- c. Make inferences about why people in Saskatchewan settled particular locations, including settlement patterns before and after coming together of First Nations and European peoples using a variety of maps (e.g., near waterways, sources of water, rail lines, natural resources, low population density in rural areas).
- d. Identify the characteristics of the unique geographic regions in Saskatchewan.

Outcomes

Indicators

DR4.1 continued

- e. Identify the impact of geography on the architecture of Saskatchewan, including how styles, materials, and cultural traditions have been affected by interaction with the land and other people in the province.
- f. Analyze the influence of geography on the lifestyle of people living in Saskatchewan (e.g., flora and fauna, pastimes, transportation, cost of food, type of food, occupations, availability of services such as education and health care).
- g. Conduct an inquiry investigating how residents of Saskatchewan came to occupy the land that is now our province (e.g., First Nations, early Europeans, and Métis).

DR4.2 Explain the relationship of First Nations and Métis peoples with the land.

- a. Investigate the traditional worldviews of First Nations peoples prior to European contact regarding land as an animate object and sustaining life force.
- b. Research traditional lifestyles of First Nations communities and peoples prior to European contact (e.g., hunting, gathering, movement of people to follow food sources).
- c. Explore how the traditional worldviews and teachings of First Nations' Elders regarding land influence the lifestyle of First Nations people today.
- d. Research the history of the Métis people and their relationship with the land.
- e. Compare the traditional views of land and culture of the Aboriginal peoples of Saskatchewan with those of the railway developers.
- f. Assess the impact of historic loss of land on First Nations and Métis people.
- g. Investigate the process by which decisions were made about the location of reserve lands in Saskatchewan.
- h. Research the Métis struggle for land, and the displacement of Métis people in the late 19th century.

DR4.3 Analyze the implications of the Treaty relationship in Saskatchewan.

- a. Locate Treaty areas within Saskatchewan and locate reserves within the Treaty area of the school.
- b. Investigate conditions which precipitated Treaty negotiations in Saskatchewan.
- c. Research Treaty provisions, including the spirit and intent of Treaties as well as material considerations.
- d. Assess the benefits of Treaties to all Saskatchewan people.

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.)

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

PA4.1 Analyze the relationship between governance institutions in Saskatchewan and the quality of life of people in the province.

- a. Identify ways in which Saskatchewan people can be involved in making decisions which affect their local communities (e.g., run as a candidate for school board, local government, or band elections; vote during elections; attend community forums).
- b. Illustrate the organization of the municipal or band decision-making process, including the name of the sitting mayor, reeve, or chief.
- c. Describe ways in which Saskatchewan people can be involved in the democratic process regarding decisions which affect their province, and explain why it is important to be an active participant in the democratic process (e.g., vote in provincial elections; belong to a political party; run for member of the provincial or First Nations legislative assembly; communicate with the member of the legislative assembly about issues of concern).
- d. Represent the structure of the provincial decision-making process in Saskatchewan naming the sitting premier, the leader of the opposition, and the local member of the legislative assembly.
- e. Investigate the methods the provincial government uses to raise revenue (e.g., resource revenues, taxes on consumption, provincial sales tax, fuel tax, tax on cigarettes and alcohol) to pay for services and evaluate the impact on quality of life for Saskatchewan people (e.g., health care, education, highways, social services, justice).
- f. Analyze how the symbols of Saskatchewan, including the coat of arms, the flag, and the provincial motto, reflect the values and qualities of the people and the government of Saskatchewan.

PA4.2 Demonstrate an understanding of the provincial system of government.

- a. Differentiate between rules and laws.
- b. Differentiate between rights and responsibilities.
- c. Describe the relationship between three levels of government in Canada, including local (i.e., municipal, band), provincial or territorial, and federal.
- d. Identify elected local, provincial, and federal heads of government.
- e. Compare how laws are made at the local and provincial levels.

Outcomes

PA4.3 Demonstrate an understanding of the First Nations system of governance.

PA4.4 Demonstrate an understanding of the Métis governance system.

Indicators

- a. Research the structures of governance in First Nations communities (e.g., local band council, tribal council, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, Assembly of First Nations).
 - b. Compare the traditional processes for selection of leaders in First Nations communities to current practices for selection of leaders in First Nations.
 - c. Compile an inventory of issues of current focus for First Nations governments in Saskatchewan.
- a. Research the structures of governance of Métis people in Saskatchewan (e.g., Métis local, Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, Métis National Council).
 - b. Compare the traditional processes for selection of leaders of Métis people to current practices for selection of leaders by the Métis people.
 - c. Compile an inventory of issues of current focus for Métis governments in Saskatchewan.

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.)

RW4.1 Analyze the strategies Saskatchewan people have developed to meet the challenges presented by the natural environment.

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

- a. List the challenges and opportunities climate presents for residents of Saskatchewan.
- b. Determine safety measures necessary for living in the Saskatchewan climate (e.g., clothing; safety package for vehicle; never leave vehicle when stranded in winter; checking highway hotline; not licking frozen metal).
- c. Retell the stories of Elders, traditional knowledge keepers, and senior citizens about surviving weather extremes (e.g., drought, cold, blizzards, tornadoes, extreme heat).
- d. Collect the natural weather forecasting techniques of Elders, traditional knowledge keepers, senior citizens, and others with local knowledge.
- e. Represent the traditions and practices Saskatchewan people developed when faced with isolation, including First Nations practices adopted by Europeans.

Outcomes

RW4.1 continued

RW4.2 Investigate the importance of agriculture to the economy and culture of Saskatchewan.

RW4.3 Assess the impact of Saskatchewan resources and technological innovations on the provincial, national, and global communities.

Indicators

- f. Research past and present technologies used to withstand the Saskatchewan climate.
 - g. Investigate the technological evolution of farming practices in Saskatchewan, including crop variety development, pesticide and herbicide use, and soil and water conservation.
 - h. Graph the typical energy consumption in Saskatchewan for an average year, and investigate energy efficient technologies being developed in Saskatchewan.
-
- a. Identify and locate various types of farms in Saskatchewan.
 - b. Research production practices of various types of crop and livestock farms.
 - c. Identify various farm stewardship practices (e.g., how farmers care for the land, animals, water supply, natural vegetation, and air quality).
 - d. Compile an inventory of Saskatchewan agricultural food and by-products.
 - e. Identify agricultural products used in daily life in Saskatchewan.
 - f. Trace the steps of a food product from the farm to the plates of consumers, and identify the various careers that contribute to this process in the agriculture and food processing industries.
 - g. Analyze the significance of Saskatchewan agricultural commodity exports to the province.
-
- a. Represent on a map the major resources in Saskatchewan (e.g., minerals, potash, oil, uranium, natural gas, lumber, water, crop and livestock production).
 - b. Locate on a map the major industries in Saskatchewan (e.g., agriculture processing, mining, manufacturing, forestry products, energy refinement, tourism, livestock production).
 - c. Identify the natural resources and industries found in the local community, and analyze their impact upon the community.
 - d. Illustrate the goods made from the major natural resources, the consumers of those goods, and the export destinations.
 - e. Differentiate between primary and secondary industry.
 - f. Examine the environmental impact of the development of natural resources on the local community, the province, and the world.

Outcomes

RW4.3 continued

Indicators

- g. Describe the impact of technological innovations originating in Saskatchewan on the global community (e.g., farm machinery, varieties of grain, automated teller machines, fibre optics, communications technologies, pesticides and herbicides, vaccines).

“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

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.

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.

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.

Elders are those who have lead an exceptional life based on traditions, customs, and culture of First Nations, and have such qualities as knowledge of heritage and history, sites, practices, ceremonies, protocols, and songs, and are fluent in their language. Elders advocate traditional leadership, governance, and law; are aware of and supportive of Treaty rights and history; acknowledge the diversity of First Nations cultures, languages, and traditions; and work to ensure the intergenerational transfer of traditional First Nations knowledge, history, culture, languages, and practices to youth.

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

Intercultural development includes knowledge and cultural exchange between First Nations, Europeans, and Métis.

Knowledge keeper is an individual recognized in the community as learned and displaying great wisdom. In First Nations communities, often an Elder.

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.

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.

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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 4 Social Studies Curriculum

1. Please indicate your role in the learning community:

- parent teacher resource teacher
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What was your purpose for looking at or using this curriculum?

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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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