

Social Studies 3201

Curriculum Guide 2020



Education

***Department of Education
Vision Statement***

A community that fosters quality care and learning in safe and inclusive environments enabling individuals to reach their full potential.

Acknowledgements

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Curriculum Outcomes Framework

General Curriculum Outcomes

The social studies program is designed to enable and encourage students to examine issues, respond critically and creatively, and make informed decisions as individuals and citizens of Canada and of an increasingly interdependent world.

The general curriculum outcomes (GCOs) for the social studies curriculum are organized around seven conceptual strands. These general curriculum outcomes statements identify what students are expected to know and be able to do upon completion of study in social studies.

GCO 1 – Civic Engagement

Students will be expected to demonstrate the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a diverse democratic society in an interdependent world.

Social studies helps students make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good. This requires that students understand the values upon which democracies are built; possess essential knowledge about their community, province, country, and world; are able to frame inquiries, including skills used for data collection and analysis, synthesis and evaluation, and problem solving. Additionally, students understand that democracy must be both protected and nurtured by the deliberate actions of citizens.

GCO 2 – Inquiry and Research

Students will be expected to demonstrate the ability to apply inquiry and research skills to analyze, synthesize, and share information.

The purpose of social studies is to enable students to make informed and reasoned decisions for both their personal benefit and the public good. To this end, citizens must possess the ability to apply inquiry processes – including data collection and analysis – as well as creative thinking and critical thinking as they engage with decision making, problem solving, and responding to issues.

GCO 3 – Citizenship, Power, and Governance

Students will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and the origins, functions, and sources of power, authority, and governance.

The empowered Canadian citizen understands personal rights and responsibilities and the interplay among authority systems, citizens, and public policy. An understanding of the various ideologies and forms of power; the origins, functions, and sources of government power; and the roles played by individuals and groups is critical to informed citizenship. Students will examine how power is gained, used, and justified and how the protection of individual rights and freedoms is ensured within the context of constitutional democracy.

GCO 4 – Culture and Diversity

Students will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of culture, diversity, and world view, while recognizing the similarities and differences reflected in various personal, cultural, racial, and ethnic perspectives.

Social studies provides students with a lens through which they can examine the cultural experiences of people in their neighbourhoods, Canada, and the world. Appreciation of culture is integral to an understanding of one's self, of one's country, and of others who share the world. The study of culture opens to students a diversity of perspective about traditions, beliefs, and values. With this understanding, students are better equipped to recognize the similarities of their cultural traditions to those of others and to understand the reasons for the differences. A study of culture enables students to evaluate how cultures are formed, sustained, and transformed by power structures, systems, and individuals within society.

GCO 5 – Individuals, Societies, and Economic Decisions

Students will be expected to demonstrate the ability to make responsible economic decisions as individuals and as members of society.

Social studies provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to make personal economic decisions and to participate in the process of societal economic decision making. Students will assess the difficulties and dilemmas in developing private or public policies and the need to achieve individual and societal goals.

The study of economic concepts, principles, and systems enables students to understand how economic decisions affect their lives as individuals and members of society.

GCO 6 – Interdependence

Students will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the interdependent relationships among individuals, societies, and the environment—locally, nationally, and globally—and the implications for a sustainable future.

Social studies provides students with opportunities to analyze, appreciate, and act on the global challenges of an increasingly interdependent world. It offers students an avenue and perspective from which to survey the impact of technological change on societies and the environment. Through social studies, students learn to appreciate the environment and develop a disposition toward protection and wise use of resources so as to ensure a sustainable future. As students recognize the interdependence of Earth's peoples and the finite nature of Earth's resources, they develop strategies and systems that respect diversity and promote collaborative problem solving.

GCO 7: People, Place, and Environment

Students will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the interactions among people, places, and the environment.

Social studies examines the interaction of humans within their spatial environments and the effects on the location and development of place and region. The study of humans and their environments in the social studies is focused on answering four primary questions: Where is it? Why is it there? How is it organized? and Why is that significant?

GCO 8: Time, Continuity, and Change

Students will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the past and how it affects the present and the future.

An understanding of the dynamics of change is critical in social studies. A study of time, continuity, and change enables students to understand their Canadian heritage, who they are, and why their society espouses the values it does through its governments, its institutions, and its culture. History is to society what memory is to the individual. It provides a frame of reference for testing the merits of ideas, philosophies, and beliefs. Through its study, students learn to recognize and evaluate different perspectives and biases in historical writing.

Understanding develops through critical analysis of the events of the past, their effects on today, and their ties with the future. Historical study develops capacities for critical and creative thinking, issues analysis, values clarification, and an examination of perspective. In essence, history provides a window on Canada and the world, serving to broaden our understanding of the interdependent nature of society on a national and global level.