

Parent Information About the New Alberta Social Studies Curriculum

There's a NEW Social Studies curriculum! What does that mean to my child/teen?

The Social Studies program in Alberta has changed. Over the past four years many grade levels have begun to implement the new curriculum. By September 2009, all grades will be implementing this new program. Most of what the students will be learning will be familiar to you. The change is not so much in what the students will be learning but in how the learning will take place.

It is likely that when you studied Social Studies, you were expected to memorize important historical events and dates. Social Studies was primarily the study of history and this history was typically learned from one textbook with one perspective. Now, students are exploring issues from many different points of view. Students are working with a variety of sources that depict distinct accounts of the same event...learning from multiple perspectives. Students then engage in problem solving to identify multiple plausible responses to questions posed.

The Social Studies classroom may also look different from classrooms when you were a student. Through working with others, students share their learning. Different groups may work at different learning activities, keeping students

actively engaged in their learning.

In the past, students were expected to learn about government processes. Now, students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 are being asked to use what they know about government processes to become active, informed and responsible global citizens. Classroom discussion of current affairs provides students opportunities to explore issues and take action on real issues in a variety of ways. Students may wish to write letters, persuading their peers to follow a course of action, or present their own ideas to elected officials

The goal of social studies is to provide students the opportunities to become active and responsible citizens, engaged in the democratic process and aware of their capacity to change their communities, society and the world.

Programs of study Identify what students are expected to know and be able to do at each grade level. More detailed information about the social studies program of studies can be found at http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/social_studies/programs.aspx

Alberta Education Implementation Schedule				
2005 – 2006	2006 – 2007	2007 – 2008	2008 – 2009	2009 – 2010
Kindergarten to Grade 3	Grade 4 & Grade 7	Grade 5 & Grade 8 10-1 and 10-2	<i>Optional</i> Implementation Grade 6 & Grade 9 Provincial Implementation 20-1 and 20-2	Grade 6 & Grade 9 30-1 and 30-2

The Alberta Social Studies curriculum is built around core principles of citizenship and identity in the 21st Century. In classrooms throughout Alberta, students will critically examine and analyze important issues and concepts while they consider aboriginal, francophone and multiple perspectives from both the present and the past. This newsletter article is produced by the Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium in cooperation with the Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia as a result of a grant from Alberta Education to support implementation of Social Studies.

