

Parent Information About the New Alberta Social Studies Curriculum

How Might Technology be Used in Social Studies?

Digital media plays a significant role in society, and the new Social Studies Program of Study recognizes that we must create learning environments that meet the needs of today's students. Social Studies provides opportunities for students to use technology in order to develop the knowledge & understandings, skills & processes, as well as values & attitudes that will enable them to be informed and responsible citizens.

Technology doesn't just refer to computers. It can encompass the many processes, tools and techniques that alter human activities. In Alberta, there is also a current program of studies for Information Communication Technology (ICT), but other programs of study, such as Social Studies, also incorporate learner outcomes tied to the infusion of technology.

The use of technology in classrooms is determined by teachers, depending on what is most appropriate for their students, and the tools that are available. Technology might be used in the classroom to:

- gather and identify information
- create and express ideas
- classify and organize information
- analyze and evaluate ideas

The following learning outcomes are selected from the Grade 3 Social Studies Program of Studies and could involve the use of technology:

- compare and contrast information from similar types of electronic sources, such as information collected on the Internet
- organize and process information from more than one source to retell what has been discovered
- draw conclusions from organized information

How can I support my child/youth in the use of technology?

You may be wondering if there is anything you can do to help your child develop these skills, especially if you have limited experience with computers yourself.

It is common for children/youth to be more knowledgeable about technology than parents, but there are ways you can help:

- Ask your child/teenager how they are using technology in school.
- Ask for a demonstration. Children are excited share their expertise and understanding and can be excellent teachers themselves!
- Talk about websites together. Who is the creator of the website and what is their purpose? Is the information accurate? How can you check?
- Discuss safety on the internet. Remind them to never share personal information with strangers.

Links for further information:

Get Net Wise
<http://www.getnetwise.org/>

Safe Canada
<http://www.safecanada.ca>

LearnAlberta and the Online Reference Centre (for username and password information contact your school or board) <http://www.LearnAlberta.ca>

