

# SOCIAL STUDIES OVERVIEW

## What Is Social Studies?

Social studies is an interdisciplinary, content-rich subject that empowers students to be lifelong learners. It draws from history, geography, civics, economics, and other disciplines. Social studies provides opportunities for students to learn about and appreciate ideas that have shaped Alberta, Canada, and the world over time. Students acquire foundational knowledge and build understandings of relationships between people, places, and environments. They acquire a growing body of essential knowledge on historical and contemporary controversial issues. Students revisit content as knowledge builds from grade to grade. In social studies, students develop skills that will prepare them to lead fulfilling lives and play a significant role in our democratic society.

## Why Is Social Studies Important?

In social studies, students learn about

- diverse events, people, places, and ideas related to local communities, Alberta, Canada, and the world
- the nature of work, economies, and financial literacy
- the connections between people, places, and environments
- the origins of ideas, viewpoints, religions, and cultures to foster understanding and tolerance

By examining events, people, developments, and ideas in a sequential historical context, students build foundational knowledge of shared culture, tradition, and history. In this way, social studies fosters respect for people of diverse backgrounds that transcends differences and unites us in a pluralistic society.

In the examination of the history of Alberta, Canada, and the world, social studies addresses various perspectives that reflect Canada's diversity. Social studies promotes pluralism so that we may live together in a democratic society that values inclusion, freedom, and justice. Students explore the histories, contributions, and perspectives of Indigenous peoples, including treaty rights and the importance of reconciliation. Students also examine the histories, contributions, and perspectives of Francophone communities in Alberta.