



The Consortium
Alberta Professional Learning Consortium

Where are the Resources for the Social Studies Curriculum?

August Symposium 2025

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Social Studies – what is being offered

Wednesday, Aug 20, 2025

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM | <u>Charting the Course: Exploring the New K–6 Social Studies Curriculum</u> |
| 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM | <u>How to "Do" Social Studies</u> |
| 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM | <u>Getting Started With Planning in the Social Studies Curriculum</u> |
| 2:30 PM – 3:45 PM | <u>AI Servant Collaborator – Planning, Feedback, Resources</u> |

Thursday, Aug 21, 2025

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM | <u>Where are the Resources for the Social Studies Curriculum?</u> |
| 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM | <u>Classroom Assessment in Social Studies</u> |

Getting Started resource materials



Agenda

1. Critical Thinking
2. Helpful Tips
3. General resources
 - a. ATA
 - b. AB ED NewLearn Website
 - c. United Library Services
 - d. Canadian Government
4. Mentor Texts and Resources
5. Professional resources
6. Spreadsheet



What is Social Studies?



How Do We Teach Elementary Students to Think Like Historians?



Nokes (2011) proposed that perhaps students do not engage in comparable skills due to the overuse of textbooks. **Students simply trust textbooks because textbooks are presented as the main source of facts.** Teachers need to be more cognizant of the sense of power these books traditionally represent. Although using textbooks in the classroom can prove to be useful, it is necessary **to focus on the realities that textbooks commonly contain a single account of an event, which offers one perspective, one interpretation, and one bias.**

Teachers must provide students with multiple accounts of events, as well as teach students to question nonfiction readings (Nokes, 2011; Wineburg, 1991). Historical thinking that promotes corroboration can successfully integrate content from textbooks with primary and secondary sources
(page 102)



“History is a *discipline*: a way of thinking that encourages students to analyze historical evidence, evaluate it, and then requires repeated practice with these essential elements of the discipline.”

Page 1 from Thinking Like a Historian *Rethinking History Instruction* A Framework To Enhance and Improve Teaching and Learning
Nikki Mandell and Bobbie Malone
Wisconsin Historical Society Press
2007

Tips for Finding Resources

- Copy and paste the concepts (ie regions of Canada) and key words picture books for ... into search engine
- Use AI to assist in finding reference resources or picture books (share a chat one?)
- Go to your school library/ public library/ local museum
- TRAC PAC- Alberta Public Libraries
- A simple Google Search - look for Canadian/Albertan Resources
- Keep in mind initial "Go To" sites
 - NewLearn
 - Boards (will be done in future)
 - APLC (constantly adding resources)





New

Alberta's Curriculum

View Alberta's Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum.



Explore Resources

Learning and teaching resources aligned to the curriculum.

Indigenous Culture Based Learning in Alberta Curriculum



ATA Library Guides



Your ATA Library



The Alberta Teachers' Association



Visual Literacy: Image Collections

Alberta Images



This digital image collection includes photographs picturing elements of physical geography, climate, geology and paleontology that are integral to the landscapes and environment of Alberta.

Images: 125
Grades: 4

[View Images »](#)



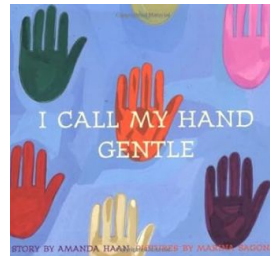
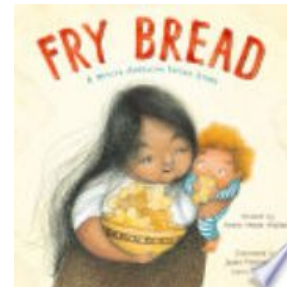
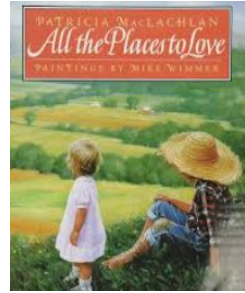
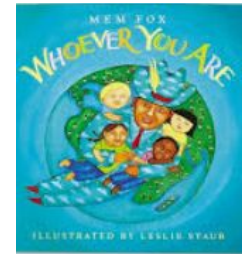
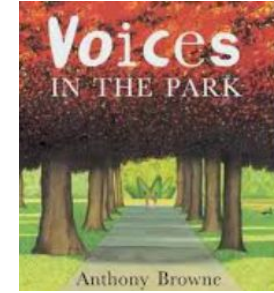
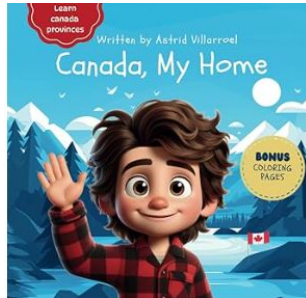
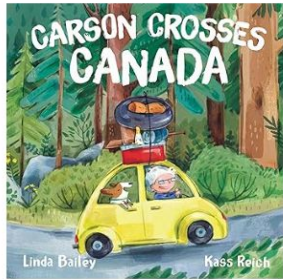
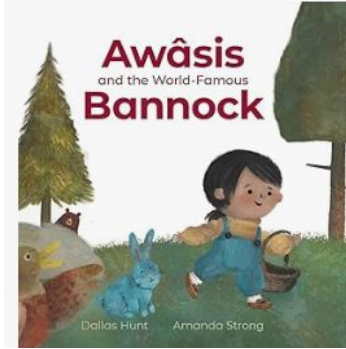
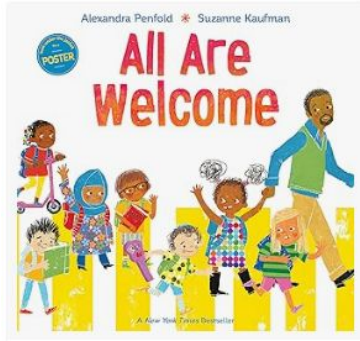
[Calgary Catholic/ United Library Services Book Bundles Draft](#)

[United Library Services Pilot Resource List](#)

[United Library Services Website](#)



Angela's Awesome Armload



Mentor Text and Resources



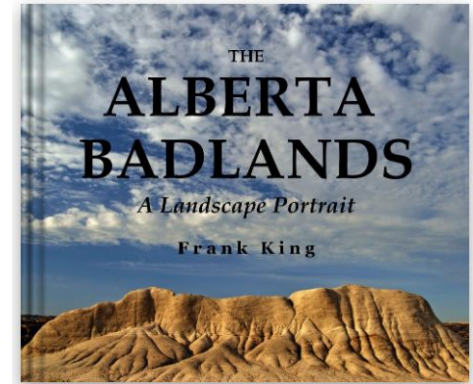
Normally Mentor Texts are used in ELAL for modeling great writing skills and themes related to ELAL.

The Mentor Text Collection for Social Studies can be used not only for teaching ELAL skills but for assisting you in teaching specific Social Studies Topics and themes that make it easier for students to grasp. For example:

One Learning Outcome for **Grade three** is: **LO: Students investigate natural and created features of Alberta.**

One of the resources listed is a book of photographs of the Badlands. (King, F. **THE ALBERTA BADLANDS: A Landscape Portrait**)

This book is perfect for introducing “natural” features of Alberta. Without defining natural or created features for the children, showing the pictures in this book will give you one example of some of the natural features that can be found in Alberta.



Mentor Text and Resources



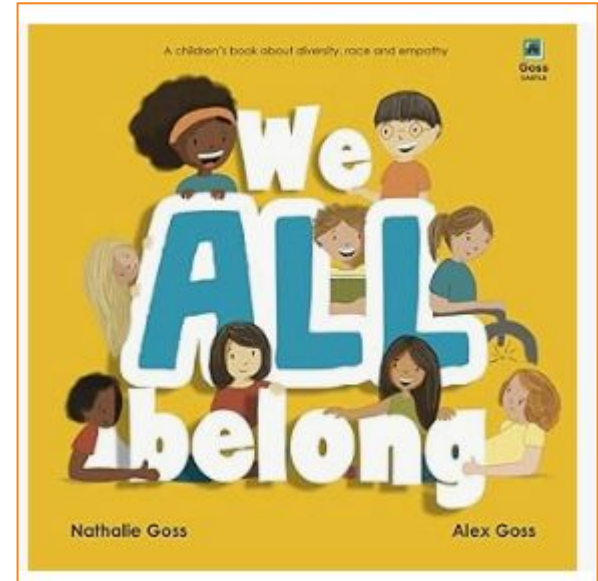
Let's look at another example:

In **grade one**: Under the **Organizing Idea of Citizenship**, (LO) Students examine how belonging is supported within groups and communities.

A key concept is "Belonging". This concept can be introduced through a book or read aloud.

The Book "We All Belong" is a book that can be read aloud with a 'think aloud'. A synopsis of this book states that by recognizing differences between cultures and races, and appreciating that everyone is beautiful, children can grow up with empathy, appreciating others around them.

Engaging the students in thinking as they listen to the story and discussing what belonging means is also a great way to introduce how as classroom community or a school community we support belonging.



Mentor Text and Resources

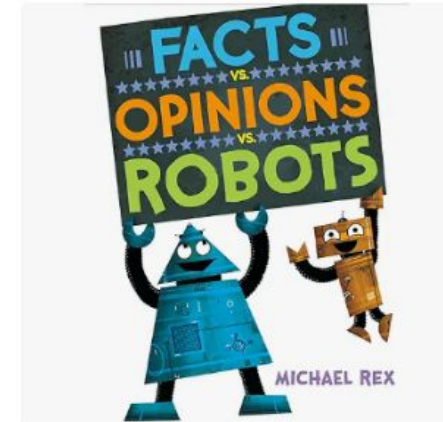
Let's look at another example:

In Grade two, OI: **Citizenship**; LO: Students Learn competencies for **democratic discussion and decision making**.

Within that LO, students learn about community decision making and are required to understand the difference between **facts and opinions**.

This book is a cute example of how a robot learns the difference between fact and opinions.

Reading this book to the students when introducing these concepts also offers an interesting and engaging way to get the topic started.



Facts vs. Opinions vs. Robots
by Michael Rex

<https://catalogue.tracpac.ab.ca/polaris/logon.aspx>

Professional Resources

- [Anthology of Social Studies](#)
- [Thinking like a Historian](#)
- [Using Inquiry to Prepare Students for College, Career, and Civic Life](#)
- Except from above: [Chapter 4- How Do We Teach Elementary Students to Think Like Historians?](#)

- [Historica Canada Education Portal](#)

- [TCE Tips](#) - writing in social studies

Mapping Resources

Maps

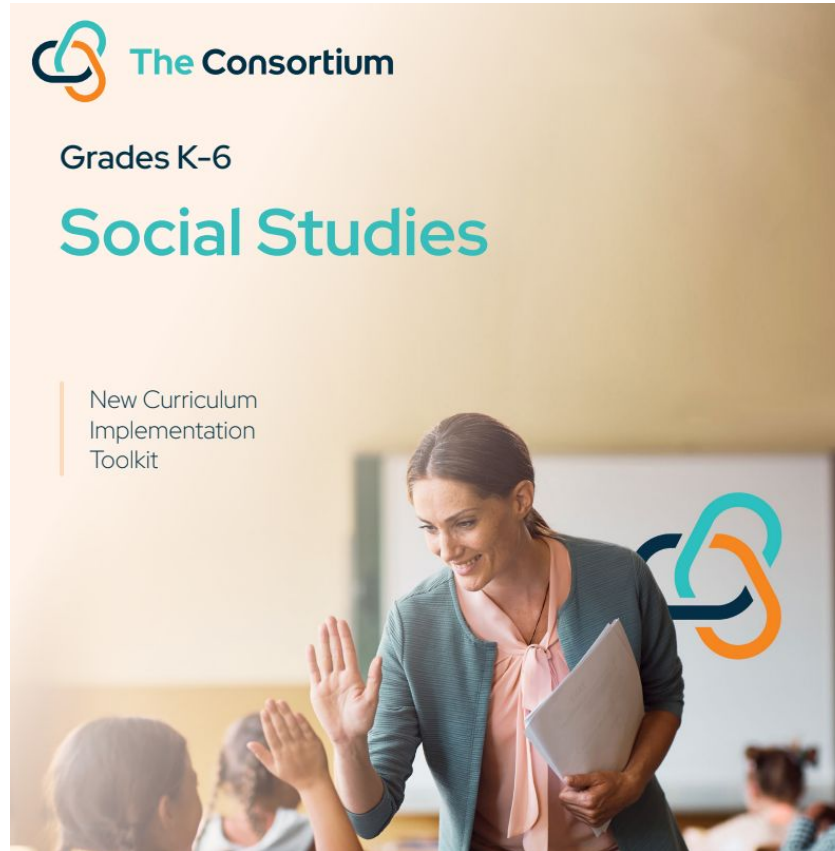
- Visual
- Gives perspective
- A manipulative
- Anchor chart`



Social Studies Curriculum Resources

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	This document will be updated regularly as resources are found: bookmark on your bookmarks bar						
2							
3	Grade(s)	Organizing Idea	Audience	Type	Title	Website or Image	Summary - Recommendations
4	Professional	Time an... Systems Citizens...	Teacher	Print Book	The Anthology of Social Studies: Issues and Strategies for Elementary School Teachers	The Anthology of Social Studies: Issues and Strategies for Elementary Teachers Pacific Educational Press	The Anthology of Social Studies: Issues and Strategies for Elementary Teachers brings together the work of education scholars and the experiences of teachers, the best of theory and practice, in a comprehensive collection of ideas and activities for elementary social studies.
5	Professional	Time an... Systems Citizens...	Teacher	Print Book	Thinking Like a Historian: Rethinking History Instruction	Thinking Like a Historian: Rethinking History Instruction: Mandell, Nikki, Malone, Bobbie, 9780870204388: Books - Amazon.ca	Thinking Like a Historian: Rethinking History Instruction by Nikki Mandell and Bobbie Malone is a teaching and learning framework that explains the essential elements of history and provides "how to" examples for building historical literacy in classrooms at all grade levels.
6	Professional All	Time an... Citizens... Systems	Teacher ...	Print Book	Valley of the Birdtail - Authors Andrew Stobo Sniderman, Douglas Sanderson		Extremely well written non-fiction work following multiple generations of families from Rossburn Manitoba and Waywaysecapo Reserve separated by the Birdtail River - great coverage of the history of the Government of Canada's actions impacting the Indigenous population in our nation over time.
7	Professional All	Systems Time an... Citizens...	Teacher ...	Website	Alberta Education: Summaries of the Critical Challenges	Summaries of the Critical Challenges	Social Studies Resources: Critical Challenges from Legacy Curriculum that can be aligned with new curriculum
	Professional All	Systems	Teacher	Website	Critical Thinking Consortium (TC2)	TC² Resources	The Critical Thinking Consortium (TC ²) is a

SS Curriculum Implementation Toolkit



Questions??





<https://aplc.ca/survey/?id=15077>



**Please take the time to
answer the survey!**

Thank you

Please visit our website for more information

aplc.ca

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