



The Consortium
Alberta Professional Learning Consortium

Where are the Resources for the Social Studies Curriculum?

August Symposium 2026

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piginach

With gratitude and respect I acknowledge the ancestral home, culture, and oral teachings of the Treaty 7 signatories which includes the **Siksika Nation**, **Piikani Nation**, **Kainai Nation**, the **îethka Stoney Nakoda Nation**, consisting of the **Chiniki**, **Bearspaw**, **Good Stoney** Bands, and the people of the **Tsuut'ina Nation**. The City of Calgary is also homeland to the historic Northwest **Métis** and to the **Otipemisiwak Métis Government**, Métis Nation Battle River Territory, Nose Hill Métis District 5 and Elbow Métis District 6.



Feel free to use these resources!



Type this link into your browser:

<https://bit.ly/SSresources2026>

Or grab the link from the chat.



Social Studies – Summer Symposium Sessions

Supporting every educator
in every classroom



- [Exploring the Grades 4-9 Social Studies Curriculum Architecture](#)
Facilitator: Ted Zarowny Date/Time: Aug 17, 2026 (9:00 am to 10:15 am)
- [How to "DO" Social Studies Grades 4-9](#)
Facilitator: Cheryl Babin and Rick Gilson Date/Time: Aug 17, 2026 (10:30 am to 11:45 am)
- [The Important Art of Critical Thinking in Social Studies Grades 4-9](#)
Facilitator: Ted Zarowny and Cheryl Babin Date/Time: Aug 17, 2026 (1:00 pm to 2:15 pm)
- [Exploring Grades 4-9 Social Studies Resources](#)
Facilitator: Cheryl Babin and Petronella Bouvier Date/Time: Aug 17, 2026 (2:30 pm to 3:45 pm)
- [Assessment for Social Studies Grades 4-6](#)
Facilitator: Cheryl Babin and Cathy Coers Date/Time: Aug 18, 2026 (9:00 am to 10:15 am)
- [Assessment for Social Studies Grades 7-9](#)
Facilitator: Cheryl Babin and Cathy Coers Date/Time: Aug 18, 2026 (10:30 am to 11:45 am)
- [The 5 Essential Questions of Life – AI in Grades 4-9 Social Studies Adapted](#)
Facilitator: Rick Gilson Date/Time: Aug 18, 2026 (2:30 pm to 3:45 pm)
- [Indigenous Culture Based Learning in Alberta Curriculum Website: Grades 4-6 Social Studies Curriculum](#)
Facilitator: Kim Barker-Kay and Jason Bigcharles Date/Time: Aug 20, 2026 (10:30 am to 11:45 am)

Agenda



1. Voices in the Park
2. Critical Thinking
3. General resources
 - a. AB ED NewLearn Website
 - b. Indigenous Culture Based Learning
 - c. ATA Library Guides
 - d. Local Museum Sites
4. Mentor Texts and Resources
5. Professional resources
6. THE Spreadsheet



How Do We Teach Elementary Students to Think Like Historians?

Supporting every educator
in every classroom



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)

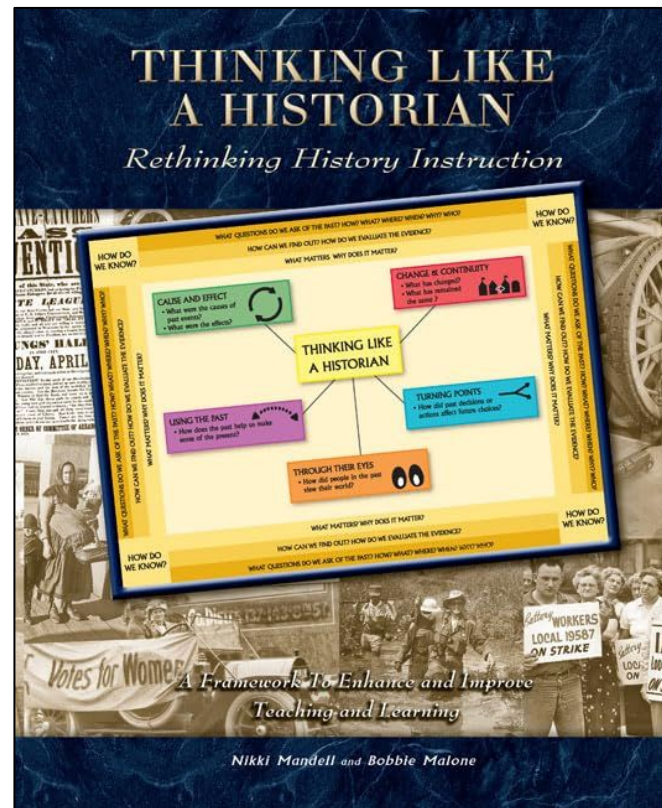
Thinking Like a Historian

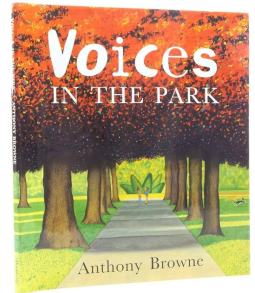
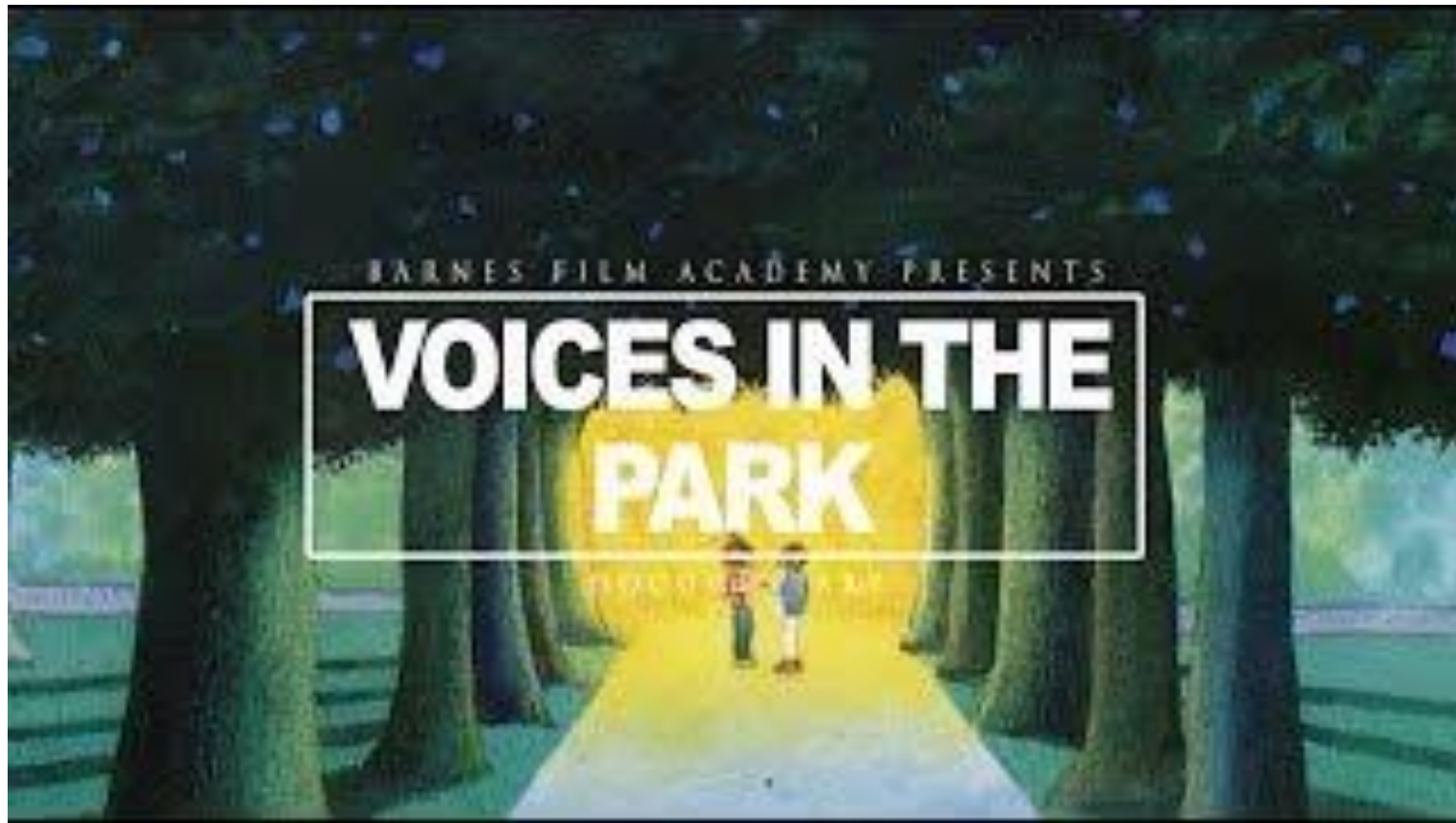
Supporting every educator
in every classroom



“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





Voices in the Park, by Anthony Browne



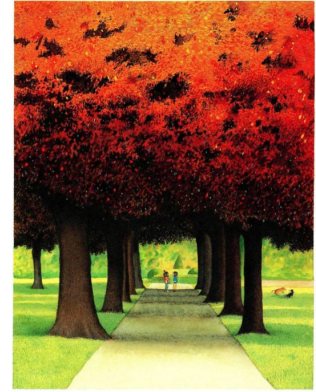
FIRST VOICE



It was time to take Victoria, our pedigree Labrador, and Charles, our son, for a walk.



You get some frightful types in the park these days! I called his name for what seemed like an age.



Then I saw him talking to a very rough-looking child. “Charles, come here. At once!” I said. “And come here please, Victoria.”

We walked home in silence.

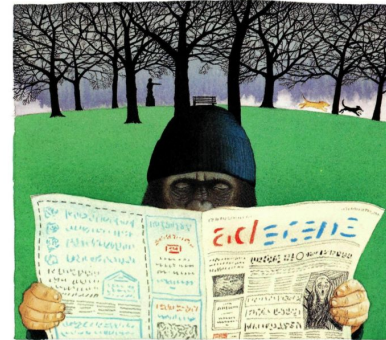


SECOND VOICE



I needed to get out of the house, so me and Smudge took the dog to the park.

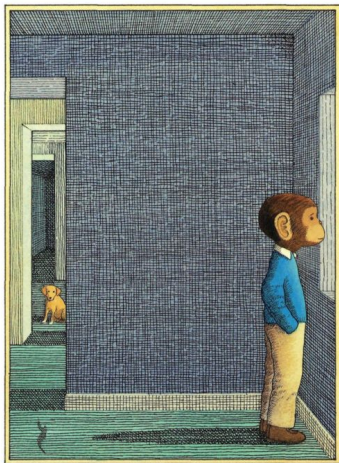
I settled on a bench and looked through the paper for a job. I know it's a waste of time really, but you've got to have a bit of hope, haven't you?



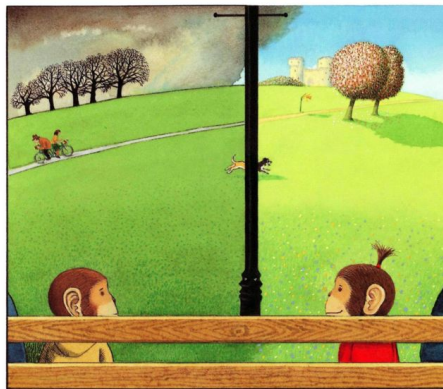
Then it was time to go. Smudge cheered me up. She chatted happily to me all the way home.



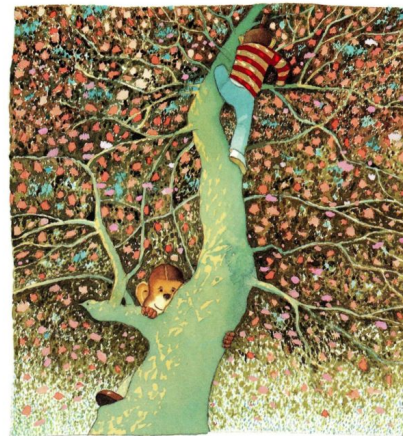
THIRD VOICE



I was at home on my own again.
It's so boring. Then Mummy said
that it was time for our walk.



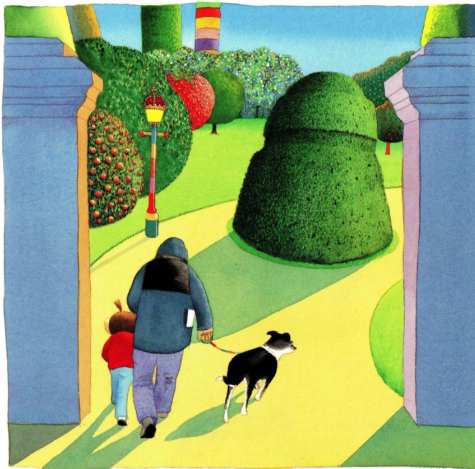
"D'you wanna come on the slide?"
a voice asked. It was a girl,
unfortunately, but I went anyway.
She was brilliant on the slide, she
went really fast. I was amazed.



I'm good at climbing trees,
so I showed her how to do it.
She told me her name was
Smudge - a funny name, I know,
but she's quite nice. Then
Mummy caught us talking
together and I had to go home.



FOURTH VOICE



Dad had been really fed up, so I was pleased when he said we could take Albert to the park.



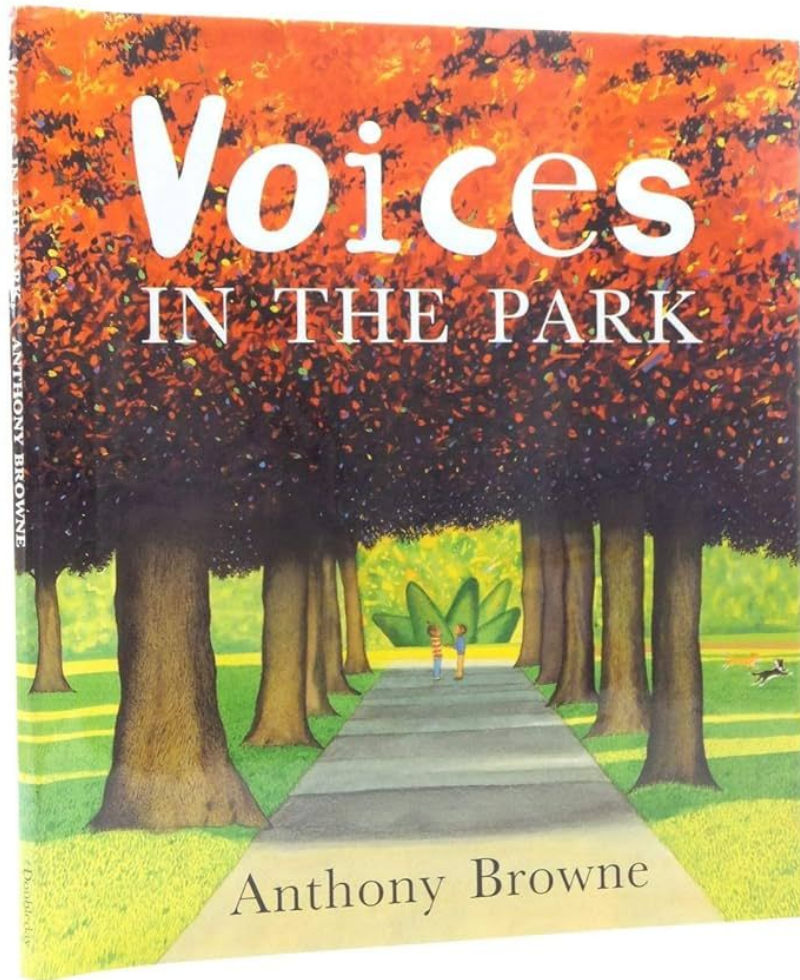
Albert's always in such a hurry to be let off his lead. He went straight up to this lovely dog and sniffed its bum (he always does that).

Of course, the other dog didn't mind, but its owner was really angry, the silly twit.



I got talking to this boy. I thought he was a bit of a wimp at first, but he's okay. We played on the see-saw and he didn't say much, but later on he was a bit more friendly.





Exploring Perspective in Social Studies (see resource guide)

“Historical perspective involves viewing the past through the social, intellectual, emotional and ethical lenses of the time.”

Stipp, Gibson, Denos, Case, Miles.
(2017) *Teaching Historical Thinking: Tools for Critical Inquiry*. Revised and expanded edition. Page 191.



What's in your Social Studies baggage?

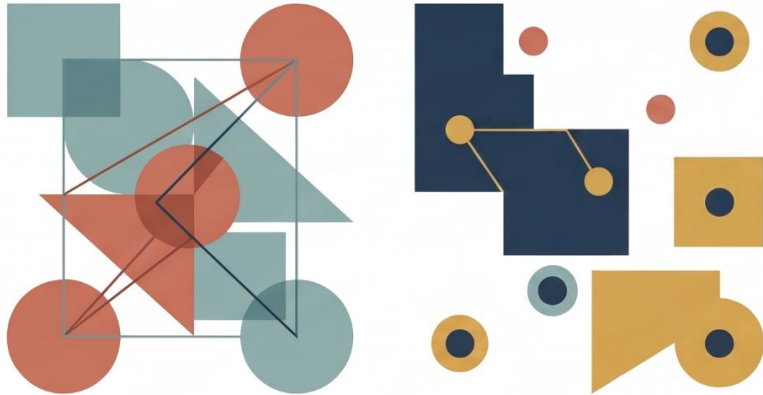




The Pillars of Alberta K–9 Social Studies

Integrates multiple disciplines to help students understand the past and present, transforming them into active, well-informed citizens through a knowledge-based approach and eight core competencies.

Foundations of Informed Citizenship



An Integrated Multi-Disciplinary Study

Integrates history, geography, economics, civics, and politics to explore lessons from the past.

Empowering Active and Responsible Citizens

Focuses on rights, responsibilities, and the various ways students participate in their communities.

Intellectual Skills and Career Pathways



Robust Critical Thinking and Media Literacy

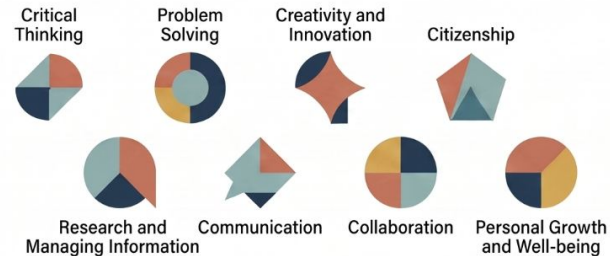
Students analyze bias, question assumptions, and use source evaluation to build objective inquiry.



Preparation for Academic and Career Success

Focuses on transferable skills that prepare students for fulfilling lives and community contributions.

Alberta's Eight Core Competencies



Teaching & Learning Resource Selection

- Use the Alberta Education and Childcare Provincial Resource Review Guide. ([click to access](#))
- Teachers are responsible for ensuring that materials and resources:
 - ◆ align with curriculum (DRAFTS change!)
 - ◆ Are developmentally appropriate (and sensitive material is handled with respect, acknowledgement of diverse perspectives and critical thinking toward empathy and acceptance)
 - ◆ Are meaningful and support student learning in a relevant way
 - ◆ Promote equality and non-discrimination
 - ◆ Authentically and appropriately represents First Nations, Métis, and Inuit experiences and perspectives
 - ◆ Authentically and appropriately represents Francophone perspectives
- Adhere to intellectual property as well as a resource's accessibility, usability and inclusion for all learners.

Provincial Resource Review Guide

Alberta Education and Childcare

Getting Started with Resource Materials



Tips for Finding Resources



- TRAC PAC- Alberta Public Libraries
- Keep in mind initial "Go To" sites
 - Log into NewLearn Alberta
(<https://curriculum.learnalberta.ca/home/en>)
 - Boards (SS specific boards will be done in coming months)
 - [APLC Curriculum Resources](#) (constantly adding resources)
- Go to your school library/ public library/ local museum



Supporting your Journey (click on each to access)

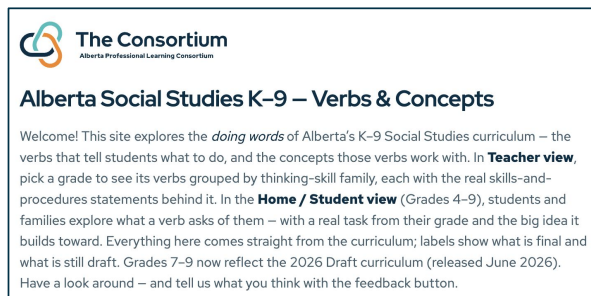
Social Studies Knowledge Companion

A website to source vetted resources



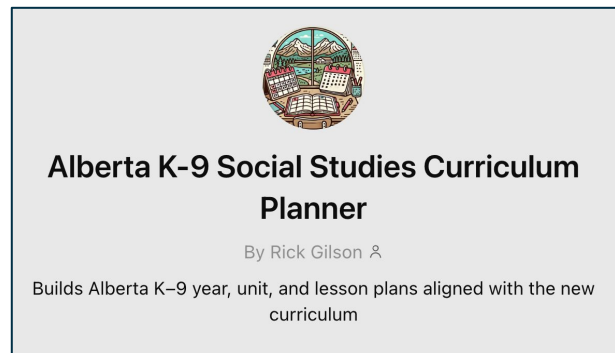
Social Studies Verbs & Concepts

A site to explore the DOING Words of SS



K - 9 SS Curriculum Planner

A GPT to “pin” and aid in your planning



SS Current Events Lens for Gr 6 - 9

A GPT to “pin” and connect current news





Alberta's Curriculum

View Alberta's Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum.

New



Explore Resources

Learning and teaching resources aligned to the curriculum.



Indigenous Culture Based Learning in Alberta Curriculum



Alberta Teacher's Association Resources



The Alberta
Teachers' Association

Search ▾



En français



Catalogue

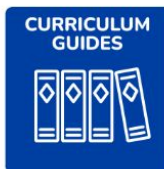


Please Note: While Barnett House remains closed for repairs, library staff are regularly visiting the building to circulate items to teachers. Please note that the library cannot be booked for meetings until Barnett House reopens.

If you need assistance in accessing resources from our library, please contact our staff at library@ata.ab.ca

Web Guides

Click these boxes to see our amazing collections of **free web resources** for teachers!



Virtually Visit a Museum (click on the images)



ExperienceAlbertaHistory.com

Experience
Alberta's
History

1 Brooks Aqueduct
1 Father Lacombe Chapel
1 Fort George and Buckingham House
1 Frank Slide Interpretive Centre
1 Frog Lake
1 Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump
1 Historic Dungen
1 Lethbridge
1 Loughheed House
1 Oil Sands Discovery Centre
1 Chokwe Estate
1 Provincial Archives of Alberta
1 Herrington Carriage Museum
1 Reynolds Museum
1 Royal Alberta Museum
1 Royal Tyrrell Museum
1 Rutherford House
1 Stephenson House
1 Turner Valley Gas Plant
1 Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village
1 Victoria Settlement

Alberta

USA

Alberta

National museums

Experience Canada's past, present and future through its national museums.



Mentor Text and Resources (Grades 4-6)



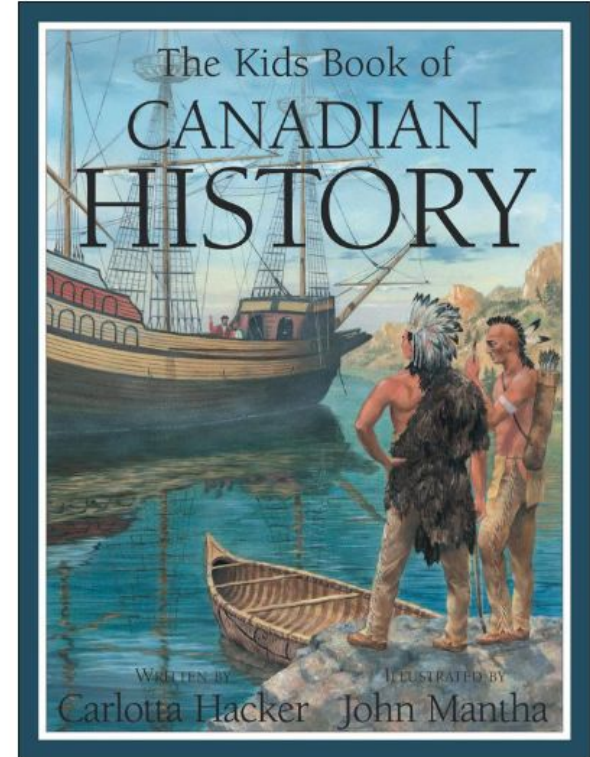
Normally Mentor Texts are used in ELAL for modeling great writing skills and themes related to ELAL.

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:

In **grade four**: Under the **Organizing Idea of Time and Place**, (LO) Students investigate changes in Canada's political boundaries.

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

The Book "The Kids Book of Canadian History" is a book that can be read aloud with a 'think aloud' or as a source material for students to complete research within a group or independently.. A synopsis of this book states that In this informative overview, kids will discover the people, places and events that have shaped our country.



Mentor Text and Resources



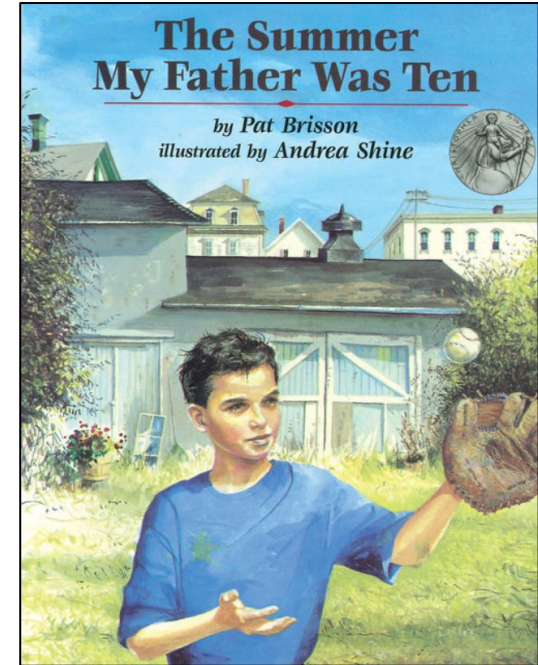
Let's look at another example:

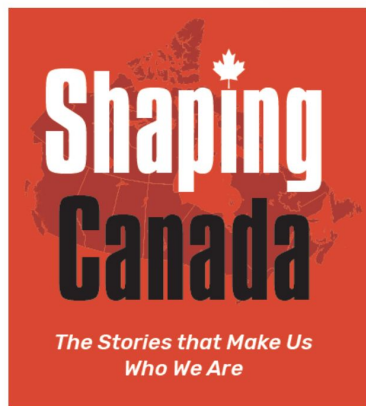
In **Grade five**, **Ol: Citizenship**; LO: Students investigate ways to learn about the world and take action for change..

Within that LO, students learn about how informed citizenship is empowering and how to investigate an issue or event.

The book 'The Summer My Father was Ten' describes a story of one boy's efforts to make amends, we see the rebuilding of a garden and the forming of a relationship across generations. With luminous, beautifully detailed watercolors, this excellent book for the whole family shows how we can turn our mistakes into some of life's greatest moments.

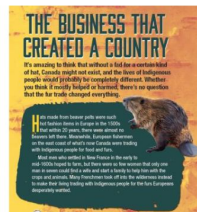
Reading this book to the students when introducing these concepts also offers an interesting and engaging way to get the topic started.





The team behind Kayak: Canada's History Magazine for Kids presents a dynamic, thought-provoking 136-page hardcover resource for Grade 4 Social Studies students.

Table of Contents	
Section #1 First Peoples and the Land: Relationships and Respect Page 6	Section #2 Exploration and Early Relationships: Fur Trade Meeting Page 16
Section #3 The Fur Trade: Relationships and Change Page 28	Section #4 Colonies and Control: Settling Land, Settling Power Page 36
Section #5 Toward Confederation: Many Voices, One Land Page 64	Section #6 Confederation: Building a New Nation Page 108



ETHICAL DIMENSIONS OF HISTORY

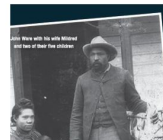
How would Indigenous Peoples who already lived here have been affected by European countries claiming this land? Were those claims fair? Did the newcomers live up to the promises they made to Indigenous Peoples in treaties and in other ways?

EVIDENCE

What can maps, Treaties, letters, objects and traditional knowledge tell us about who controlled the land and how conflicts happened?

RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND CITIZENSHIP

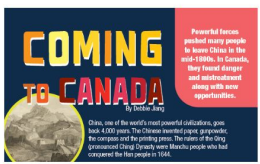
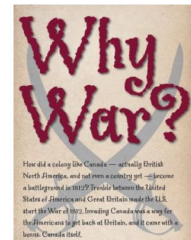
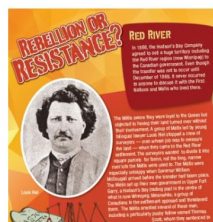
THEN	NOW	THINK
Current groups of people have control of the land. The newcomers from Europe brought their own ideas of land ownership. They had to learn to live with Indigenous Peoples, their land, and their way of life.	Land is owned by the government and is used for many purposes. The government has a responsibility to protect the land and the people who live on it.	What if the land was not owned by anyone? What if the land was owned by everyone? What if the land was owned by no one?



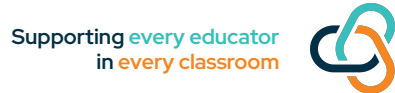
Born into slavery in South Carolina, John Wain moved to Alberta in 1882. 17 years after being freed, he was a well-known and well-loved cowboy, singer, writer and an excellent businessman. One description from the time said "This horse is not running on the Prairie which John cannot ride."



Q If you're the King of France, how do you keep a colony going when he's not there? A You need 600 young women to New France to get married and start families. They are known as the filles du roi, or the daughters of the king. They are sent to the colonies in 17th and 18th centuries. (You need 600 young women to New France to get married and start families. They are known as the filles du roi, or the daughters of the king. They are sent to the colonies in 17th and 18th centuries.)



\$38 per copy, available in class sets.
For more information, please contact
Danielle Chartier-Vandel at dchartier@canadashistory.ca



Available to Order

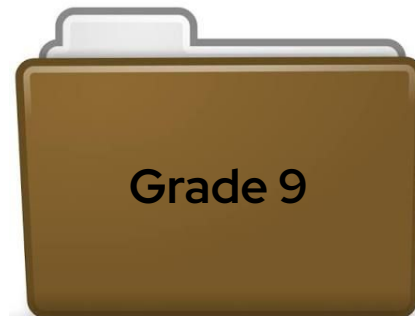
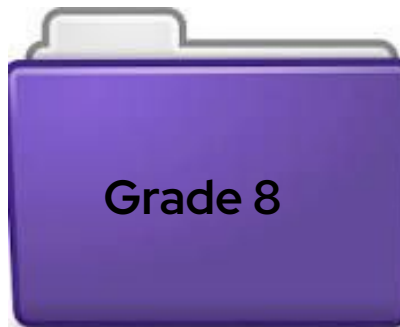
Contact:
Danielle Chartier-Vandel
dchartier@canadashistory.ca

Mentor Text Links



These links are “live” and resources will continue to be added.

Mentor Text Links



These links are “live” and resources will continue to be added.

TRAC PAC Alberta Public Libraries



Professional Resources Sampler

- [Anthology of Social Studies](#) - Elementary
- [Anthology of Social Studies](#) - Secondary
- [Thinking like a Historian](#)
- [Using Inquiry to Prepare Students for College, Career, and Civic Life- Elementary](#)
- [Using Inquiry to Prepare Students for College, Career, and Civic Life- Secondary](#)
- [Historica Canada Education Portal](#)
- [TCE TIps](#) - writing in social studies

Mapping Resources



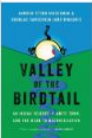
Maps

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



The Consortium's Social Studies Curriculum Resources:

A Living Document

	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 of 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 (TC2) is a

Alberta District & School-Created Social Studies Resources

The following Social Studies resources have been created by leaders and teachers from across Alberta. In support of collaboration and collegiality amongst teachers, The Alberta Professional Learning Consortium ([The Consortium](#)) is gathering these links to make them widely available for the benefit of teachers.

Teachers and leaders are encouraged to vet each resource carefully to ensure they meet your students' needs, the curriculum outcomes, and the guidelines outlined in the [Provincial Resource Review Guide](#).

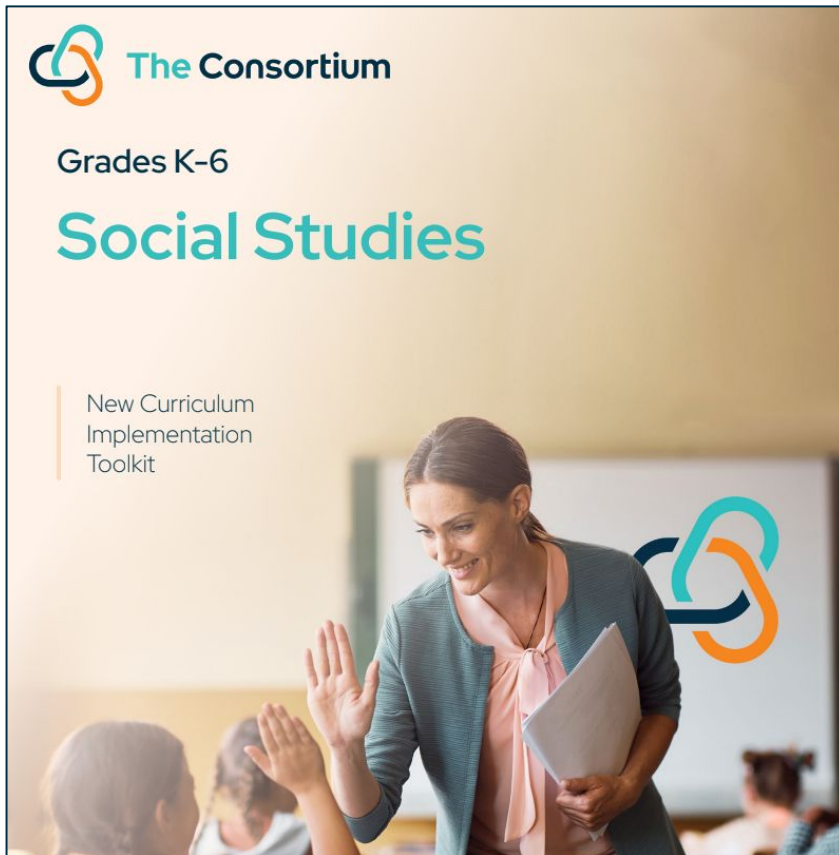
Resource	Created and Shared by	Additional Information
ECSD New Social Studies Curriculum Supports K-6	Edmonton Catholic School Division	*updates are ongoing
ATA Library - Social Studies	Alberta Teachers Association	
Chinook's Edge New Curriculum Resources	Chinook's Edge School Division	
CCSD's Social Studies Curriculum Resources	Calgary Catholic School Division	*updates are ongoing
Engaging Students	Black Gold School Division	

**You are
not alone!**

*(click on
table to
access)*

SS Curriculum Implementation Toolkit

Supporting every educator
in every classroom



Grades 7 - 9 New
Curriculum
Implementation Toolkit

COMING SOON!

What questions do you have?

What comments will you share?





The Consortium

Alberta Professional Learning Consortium

APLC Post Session Survey

Thank you for attending this session. To help us enhance the delivery of future sessions, we ask that you please complete this short survey.

Your feedback is important and appreciated!

Note: Your survey will be submitted anonymously.

Click here to complete a short survey:

<https://aplc.ca/survey/?id=15805><https://aplc.ca/survey/?id=15805>



Thank you

Please visit our website for more information

aplc.ca

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angela.desbarres@aplc.ca

