

Social Studies Course Description

Level of Instruction

Intermediate Grade 7

Curriculum Overview:

At the Intermediate Level, the Social Studies Program uses an interdisciplinary approach and specific topics are organized thematically and chronologically when appropriate. Specific topics deal with real-life issues and respond to the students' need for relevance. It requires young adolescents to examine their value systems in light of the expectations of their society, and deals specifically with rights and responsibilities with respect to the individual, community and the natural environment. It includes the use of case studies, role models, current events, technology and hands on activities designed to meet diverse students' needs, interests and abilities.

The Social Studies curriculum for the intermediate grades is designed around conceptual organizers. The organizing concept for the Grade 7 curriculum is "empowerment". The curriculum examines various aspects of empowerment - including personal, political, cultural, social and national. It draws largely on the history of the Canadian nation from the early 1800s to the end of World War I. Reference is made to earlier periods as well as the Contemporary.

Authorized Learning Resources

- Foundation for the Atlantic Canada Social Studies Curriculum (1998)
- Atlantic Canada Social Studies Curriculum Guide Grade (2004, Interim Edition)
- Changing Your World: Investigating Empowerment (2004, with Teachers' guide)

Themes:

Unit 1:	Introduction
Unit 2:	Economic Empowerment
Unit 3:	Political Empowerment
Unit 4:	Cultural Empowerment
Unit 5:	Societal Empowerment
Unit 6:	National Empowerment
Unit 7:	Summative

Assessment:

Assessment in this course is governed by the Assessment and Evaluation Policy of the former Eastern School District.

http://www.esdnl.ca/about/policies/esd/I_IL.pdf.

<http://www.esdnl.ca/aboutesd/policies/regulations.jsp?cat=I&code=IL>

Assessment and Evaluation Plan for Social Studies Grades 7:

Performance Assessment	60%
Tests/Quizzes:	40%

Note:

1. All evidence of learning shall be considered when determining a student's final grade. Averaging shall not be used as a sole indicator of a student's level of attainment of the course outcomes.
2. Homework and student behaviour (except where specified in Provincial documents) shall not be given a value for assessment
3. To ensure student achievement of the outcomes, teachers are expected to use a variety of assessments from the following internal data sources:
 - Formal and informal observations (anecdotal records, checklists, etc.)
 - Written Responses (learning logs, journals, blogs, etc.)
 - Projects (Long and short term)
 - Research (brochures, flyers, posters, essays, graphic organizers, etc.)
 - Student presentations (seminars, speeches, debates, discussions, etc.)
 - Self assessments (exit and entrance cards, learning inventories, yes/no activities, learning contracts, etc.)
 - Peer assessments
 - Conferencing (questioning, ongoing records, checklists, etc.)
 - Digital Evidence (web page, blog, PowerPoint, Prezi, interactive white board)
 - Portfolios
 - Individual and group participation (demonstrations, interviews, questioning, role play, drama)
 - Work samples (investigations, learning logs, journals, blogs,
 - Tests and quizzes

Resource Links:

Grade 7 Curriculum Guide

<http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/k12/curriculum/guides/socialstudies/ss7aug04.pdf>