

New BC Curriculum: Rebuilding a Social Studies 9 Outline

Notes: the challenge with the new Social Studies 9 is to manage a greatly expanded field of (potential) content. The chart on the left shows old familiar topics from SS9, 10, and 11 that now fall under the historical bookends for the new SS9 (1750-1919). One could build a course outline for SS9 starting here, or one could start with the new curriculum document itself and set aside what was done in the past until these topics become justified within the new course and competencies (as many of them will). The business on the right is just one example of how a new SS9 course outline might emerge. It uses a timeline as a structure to learn about themes and work on competencies (as opposed to using a series of themes). The next step might be to develop fresh focus questions for each of the topics. It takes a decidedly *CANADIAN* approach to the content, although the numerous international examples mentioned in the new curriculum document (e.g. Haitian Revolution, Scramble for Africa, Tokugawa Shogunate, Opium Wars, Franco-Prussian War) might make solid case studies for student projects or class activities. Another way to encounter curriculum could be through a problem-based approach that does not pre-suppose what the topics of study will be. For example, how could the story of Canada from 1750-1919 be told in 100 objects? Teachers & students survey, choose, research, defend, and present. Other ways to structure the course could be to centre units or lesson sets around themes, essential questions, or projects.

Topics from existing curriculum that could find a home in the new Social Studies 9
Skills & Processes - varied, applied in context and applicable across most of the content, and similar from grade to grade while expanding in scope. Examples include critical thinking, interpretation of primary and secondary evidence, research and inquiry techniques, representation (multiple forms), presentation (multiple forms), assess and defend positions, assess bias and accuracy, practice active citizenship, individual and group problem-solving. These remain important as they evolve into competencies, and continue to be embedded with big ideas, course themes, content and contexts.
What's in the News - Current Events. present day controversies, conflicts and interesting, relevant stories. Stuff students come up with. Random storytelling about history, geography, society, identity, law, culture, heritage, politics, disasters, etc. Critical and creative thinking activities not tied to specific content.
Industrial Revolution: Textiles, Steam, Coal, Iron, Population, Transportation, Social impacts, Labour laws, etc. 1700-1840s. Typically England, but USA as well.
France in the mid 1700s, Three Estates, French Revolution and aftermath 1780s-1799, Terror, Power, Rights, Rule of Law, Constitutions
Napoleon and Napoleonic Europe 1799-1815, impact on nationalism, laws, politics, etc., Congress of Vienna & Europe after Napoleon
Physical and Political Geography of Canada and/or North America, a variety of maps including physiographic regions
Studies in geography: volcanism, glaciation, climate, contours, global positioning/direction/scale, interpreting maps, etc.
Regional geography of Canada - physical, economic, climate, natural vegetation, cultural features, settlement patterns. Often a focus on the Canadian West or British Columbia
Map and geography skills appropriate for Canadian course content and level including interpretation, representation
Seven Years War in Canada 1754-1763: Acadian Expulsion, Louisbourg, fate of various Forts, Fall of New France and the aftermath including British military rule and the Treaty of Paris
Exploration and Contact on the West Coast by land 1792-1811 -Mackenzie, Fraser, Thompson and by sea 1741-1794 - Bering, Spanish e.g. Quadra, Cook, Vancouver, Sea Otter Trade, Maquinna, Nootka Convention
Fur Trade heats up late 1700s: competition for the HBC from the NWC, origin of the Metis people, Selkirk colonists, Pemmanic Proclamation 1814, Battle of Seven Oaks
British North America 1763-1791, Proclamation Act, Quebec Act, American Revolution, Loyalist Migration and the changing demographics of BNA, Constitution Act
War of 1812 and new relationship between BNA and the United States, connections to Napoleonic Wars, Battle of Lundy's Lane, sometimes forays into American history/geography before 1815
Immigration and Colonization in the 1800s (Great Migration 1815-1850) - a new home for settlers in 1820s and 30s, Irish Potato Famine 1840s, etc.
Reform Era in Canada 1820s-1850s, focus on concerns of Upper and Lower Canada, people, deeds, Rebellions of 1837, Durham, Act of Union, Baldwin & Lafontaine, Rebellion Losses Bill
American Civil War, underground railway, Black settlement in Canada, sometime forays into American history and geography after 1815
Confederation Era 1850s-1860s, Victorian society and values, internal and external factors, Great Coalition, 3 conferences, choices, characters, colonial perspectives, excluded POVs
The later Fur Trade in the Northwest - results of the HBC/NWC rivalry and merger, European settlers, Metis communities and life in Red River from 1820-1860s, continued search for Northwest Passage (e.g. Franklin... to Amundsen?)
Trouble in Red River, Red River Uprising, Riel vs Macdonald, CPR survey, Creation of Manitoba, etc.
Life in the Northwest after 1870, scrip, bison hunts, building the CPR, Pacific Scandal, surveying through the Rockies, etc.
Northwest Rebellion - conflict between Metis, First Nations, NWMP, British forces - people, battles, events, the Trial of Louis Riel
Macdonald's National Dream, completion of CPR, territorial changes in Canada (e.g. PEI), immigration in the 1880s
BC history from contact to 1840s, NWC then HBC fur trade, international competition, Oregon Territory, Forts (James, George, Victoria, etc.), 1846 Treaty, relations with First Nations
BC History 1850s-1914 - The Gold Rush(es), creation of BC, Aboriginal perspectives, Canyon War, Chinese miners, Barkerville, Cariboo Road, early Justice, colonial mergers, Chilcotin uprising,
Drive for Confederation in BC, multicultural character of BC including Chinese railway workers, Japanese fishermen, etc. Development in BC into 1900s
Traditional Economy of BC: First Nations fishing and use of resources (TEK), early coastal fishing and canneries, forestry, rail, early mines, economic development into the 20th century and associated social and labor issues and consequences
Laurier "Boom" Era - economy, immigration (Last Best West), political compromises, Klondike Gold Rush, Boer War, Intolerance (Asiatic Exclusion Act, Vancouver race riots, Komagatu Maru, etc)
Background (and causes) to WWI, Canada at the start of WWI, Canada and WWI - in Europe and at home, key events in the war, suffrage, conscription, internments, Armistice, Paris Peace Conference

Notes for a new course
New Focus: Why Canada? This course will explore how Canada became a country and what that can teach us about the big ideas of ideology, environment, power, and identity (taken from the published "Big Ideas")
Skills & Processes - embedded throughout, particularly in assessment, and reframed as Competencies. Each unit and most lessons will have opportunities to address some or all of the Competencies.
What's in the News - Current Events and topics of interest continue to be an important part of the new course
Content areas - these become course themes: different kinds of revolutions (REV), imperialism and colonialism (COL), migration and demographic shifts (IMM), Nationalism and nation-building (NAT), local, regional, and global conflicts (WAR), discriminatory policies, attitudes, and acts of exclusion (EXC), physiographic features and geological processes of Canada (GEO)
Use this as a introductory mini-unit, a skills bootcamp - practice reading/making a map, interpreting graphs, decoding images, dealing with quotes, assessing bias, exercising judgement, the themes of geography, etc. REV GEO IMM EXC
Drop the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Era as stand-alone topics: they can come up alongside the American revolution as an example of individual vs national identity, nationalism, putting ideology into practice, use and abuse of power, historical judgement, etc.
Feature "geography" as a component of most lessons and each unit rather than separate skills and topics. Some orientation is necessary, as are specific lessons or class time on maps and some geography subtopics.
Part of the first big unit - the clash of cultures (French, British, First Nations, and others) in the east (7 Years War), middle (inland fur trade), and west (coastal fur trade). COL WAR GEO EXC
Part of the second big unit - explores change in "Canada" in the 1800s. Light on American Revolution, War of 1812, Reform Era, more about evolution from BNA colonies to a country and the people who lived here (Why Canada?). NAT IMM GEO REV
Part of the third big unit - development of Canada from Confederation to the start of WWI. A lot of potential content here; some will be handled by timeline, and some will come up in student project work. NAT COL IMM EXC WAR GEO
Final unit - a chance to really work the skills developed in the intro unit and assess the competencies. WAR NAT COL GEO EXC

New Social Studies 9 Outline	
UNIT 1 The Power of Invention	
Social and geographical factors that led to the Industrial Revolution	2*
Changes in textiles, steam/coal/iron, transportation	3
Impacts of the Industrial Revolution	2
Time for current events, project work, review, assessment, other. Project: Greatest Invention - Defend a Position. Alternates: Famous Inventor or Heritage Skill Playing Cards, 3D printing project, etc.	5
UNIT 2 Clash of Cultures	
Seven Years War 1749-1763 - clash of British, French, and First Nations. Fall of New France and the emergence of BNA.	5
Inland Fur Trade 1763-1849 - complex dealings between rival companies, Metis, European Settlers, and First Nations.	3
Impact of Geography: physiography of Canada, continental and alpine glaciation, prairie ecosystems, volcanism and earthquakes	2
The West Coast 1774-1849 exploration, contact, trade, and colonization involving First Nations, Russians, Spanish, British, Americans, others. Geography of the Pacific Northwest.	6
Time for current events, project work, review, assessment, other. Project: Big Annotated Map of Canada. Alternates: Nootka Simulation, Battle Plan for the Capture or Defense of Quebec, etc.	6
UNIT 3 Building a Nation	
American influence 1774-1815: Quebec Act, Revolution, Loyalists, War of 1812, impact of/on First Nations	4
A New Home: Immigration in the 1800s	5
Reform Era and the Drive for Confederation 1820s-1867	6
Time for current events, project work, review, assessment, other. Project: New Home Simulation and Journal. Alternates: Reform Era Newspaper, Confederation Debate, Personal Manifesto, etc.	7
UNIT 4 The Last Best West	
Metis Uprisings 1850-1885 - Red River, Bison Hunt, Northwest Rebellions, Riel's mixed legacy	5
The National Dream 1872-1896 - CPR, Macdonald's mixed legacy	3
British Columbia 1858-1914 Gold Rush(es), conflicts involving First Nations, colonial changes, Confederation, early economy	6
The Laurier Era 1896-1914 immigration, Klondike, Acts of intolerance and assimilation, nationalism vs imperialism	5
Time for current events, project work, review, assessment. Project: Heritage Connections Inquiry. Alternates: Louis Riel Trial, Modern Immigration Poster, Gold Rush Journal, etc.	9
UNIT 5 The War That Will End War	
Background (and causes) to WWI: Canada at the start of WWI	2
Canada and WWI - in Europe and at home, key events in the war	6
Aftermath of WWI - Russian Revolution, Paris Peace Conference	3
Time for current events, project work, review, assessment, other. Project: Letter from the Front. Alternate: propaganda poster	5

* Hours of instruction - typical course design based on 100 hours

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