

## Resources for Teaching the Social Studies Curriculum

### DIMENSIONS OF THINKING IN SOCIAL STUDIES

*Teaching about Historical Thinking* by Mike Denos (907 DET 2006) and *Teaching about Geographical Thinking* by Kamilla Bahbahani (910.7 BAT 2008). Professional resources, from the Critical Thinking Consortium, to help teach six interrelated concepts central to students' ability to think critically about history and geography.

### LESSON IDEAS

**LearnAlberta** (Alberta Education) provides a number of *Critical Challenge* lesson plans for each grade as well as other social studies resources.

<http://www.learnalberta.ca> (Ask at reference desk for user name and password)

[Critical Challenges Across the Curriculum](#) book series – developed by Critical Thinking Consortium who wrote the *Critical Challenge* lesson plans on the LearnAlberta website. Many challenges relate directly to topics in the Alberta curriculum and include such topics as *Active Citizenship* and *Rights, Roles and Responsibilities at School*

*Inquiry in action: Teaching Columbus* by Avram Barlowe. New York: Community Studies, Centre for Inquiry, 2005. (970.01 BAI 2005) – An excellent example of how to do true historical inquiry in the social studies classroom.

**Alberta Assessment Consortium** - click on **Assessment Materials** tab, then *Performance Assessment Materials*, to access assessments developed for the Alberta program of studies: <http://www.aac.ab.ca> (Ask at reference desk for password)

### TEACHING STRATEGIES

**Social Studies in Action: A Teaching Practices Library** – These videos show social studies teachers in the classroom. Search the library catalogue under this series title to find what the Doucette has. You can view the remainder of the series online (free registration) or watch the companion series: *Social Studies in Action: A Methodology Workshop* <http://www.learner.org/resources/series176.html>

*A Link to the Past: Engaging Students in the Study of History* by Michael Yel. Silver Spring, Md.: National Council for the Social Studies, c2004. (907 YEL 2004) – Explains and gives examples of a number of powerful strategies for interesting students in Social Studies. Especially useful at the secondary level, but adaptable for elementary.

### CHILDREN'S LITERATURE AND SOCIAL STUDIES

*Learning Resources Assessment and Development for Elementary School Libraries*, Edmonton Public Schools, 2004.(027.8 LE 2004) - Appendix X (p 59-69) is an annotated bibliography of children's literature to support Alberta social studies.

*Social Studies through Literature: A Teaching Resource for the Early Grades* (300.7 VOS) and *Teaching with 'Dear Canada'* (3 volumes) (372.64 VOT) by Amy von Heyking. Markham, ON: Scholastic – Canadian

*Learning Under the Influence of Language and Literature* by Laminack & Wadsworth (372.677 LAL) – annotated suggestions for good read-aloud books, grouped under themes such as *Celebrating Ourselves and Others, Meeting Neighbors, A Family Is...*

**Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction for Young People** –the Canadian Children’s Book Centre list of award winning historical novels by Canadian authors, [http://www.bookcentre.ca/awards/geoffrey\\_bilson\\_award\\_historical\\_fiction\\_young\\_people](http://www.bookcentre.ca/awards/geoffrey_bilson_award_historical_fiction_young_people)

**Children’s Literature with Social Studies Themes** - annotated bibliographies on social studies topics. See how one teacher explored the issue of classroom rules with K-2 students using children’s literature, by clicking on *Rules and Laws: Primary*. <http://www.udel.edu/dssep/literature.html>

## OTHER ONLINE RESOURCES

**Cool Teaching Links for Social Studies (Doucette Library wiki)**: links to a wide range of great social studies sites, including many that provide primary documents from Canadian history. [http://wiki.ucalgary.ca/page/Social\\_Studies](http://wiki.ucalgary.ca/page/Social_Studies)

**Books for Big Ideas**: Tammy’s mind maps exploring the ideas of *identity* and *geographic thinking*, with links to recommended books related to these topics found in the Doucette Library. <http://wcmprod2.ucalgary.ca/doucette2/home>

**Online Reference Centre** (accessible through [LearnAlberta.ca](http://www.learnalberta.ca) with password above) – some of the interesting resources include:

- *Albertasource* – A web portal to nearly 80 purpose-built websites about Alberta. You can search for text, images, audio and video or ‘edukits.’
- *Bookflix* - Access interactive fiction and non-fiction books organized according to such themes as: ‘People and Places’ and ‘Family and Community.’
- *Culturegrams* – Information on countries of the world, with data, maps and graphing tools
- *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center* - varying viewpoints on contentious contemporary topics

**2Learn.ca** - Click on *Kids Love 2Learn* or *2Learn for Teens*, then the Social Studies tab, for websites that relate to topics in the Alberta curriculum: <http://www.2learn.ca>

## LOCAL RESOURCES

**Society of Education Resource Groups** – a consortium of Calgary & Southern Alberta organizations that provide educational opportunities to schools. Stronger for science but includes several programs suitable for Social Studies. <http://www.sergalberta.org>