

## Social Studies 8 Course Outline 2023-24



**OVERVIEW:** [Social Studies 8](#) helps learners to consider perspectives, think critically, and enables them to participate in society as well-informed, engaged citizens. This course will focus on the disciplines of Civics, Economics, Geography, and History in Canada from 1920-1999. An **inquiry-based approach** will take learners beyond the facts and figures to a deeper understanding of our changing Canadian society. As students engage with the history of Canadian society through various perspectives, voices, and events, they will be encouraged to make connections to their own life experiences, and consider how they can advocate for change.

**SCHEDULE:** Students will have Social Studies 5 times in a two-week cycle.

### UNITS/OUTCOMES:

1. **Globalization (A Changing Canada):** What does it mean to be Canadian? In this course, students will formulate responses to change in Canadian society including changes in **technology**, changes to our **environment**, and societal factors that contribute to change, including **immigration**, **innovation**, and **entrepreneurship**. To prepare for the course, students will first review basic Canadian geography. Throughout the course, students will learn how to choose reliable sources, and evaluate bias.
3. **The Treaty Relationship:** Students will reflect on 20th-century Aboriginal experiences in Canada. Students will explore the calls to action in the [Truth and Reconciliation Report](#) (2015)
2. **Cooperation and Conflict:** Students will reflect on how various conflicts have impacted Canadian society. Students will reflect on the impact of WWII on a changing Canadian society. Students will learn about the Holocaust and its impact on Canadians, within the context of WWII and other genocides.
4. **Perspective, Voice, and Empowerment:** Students will reflect on factors that promote equity in a changing Canadian society. Leading up to [African Heritage Month](#), our study will take an Afro-centric focus with the unit, "Maps and Flags."
5. **Advocacy:** Students will implement an advocacy action in response to an issue.

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**STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION:** Students will be assessed in various ways, including a **portfolio** (“**Social Studies Journal**”), creative projects, classroom presentations, small and whole-group conversations, and student-teacher conferences. We will use Google Classroom sometimes, but please note: material in the classroom *does not* represent the full course. You can check your child’s real-time attendance, marks, and assessment schedule using the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). If a student has missed time, they should contact me personally to catch up.

**METHODS OF COMMUNICATION:** I hope to see you at Curriculum Night. Otherwise, do not hesitate to contact me by email ([earleyh@hrce.ca](mailto:earleyh@hrce.ca)) or phone (902 421-6758, extension 545 1215). If you have a concern, please reach out sooner rather than later, following the [parent concern process](#).

**PROVINCIAL SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT:** Students must follow the [Nova Scotia school code of conduct](#).

**PHONE POLICY:** A cell phone is not required for Social Studies 8. Phones must be in the student’s locker, or the “cell phone hotel.” Exception: translation, and diabetes management.

**INVITATION TO VOLUNTEER AS A GUEST SPEAKER:** Do you have a connection to our curriculum? If you would like to share your experiences with our class, teach a new skill, or offer a new perspective, please contact me. Guests will be required to produce an enhanced/vulnerable sector police check.

I look forward to exploring the past 100 years of Canada’s history with the students this year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Helen Earley