

# SOCIAL STUDIES

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Social Studies is a required area of study for students in Saskatchewan. From grade 1 through grade 9, social studies is the only curriculum option. From grade 10 on, additional options are available to fulfill requirements in the social sciences area.

The aim of social studies is as follows:

*“ . . . as a study of people and relationships with their social and physical environments. The knowledge, skills, values developed in social studies helps students to know and appreciate the past, to understand the present and to influence the future. Therefore, social studies in the school setting has a unique responsibility for providing students with the opportunity to acquire knowledge, skills for which abilities and attitudes/values to function effectively within their local and national society that is meshed in an independent world.”*

*Social Studies Curriculum Guide*

**Curriculum guides** are available from the Service Center. Please note that curriculum guides **only** are available at no charge under the signature of a school superintendent. For our school division, those curriculum guides are available at the Service Center. This does not apply to activity guides or any other materials listed in the Learning Resources Distribution Center Catalogue. Some guides include the activities, while others do not. Check your LRDC catalogue.

At the elementary level, English and Immersion Social Studies programs are the same. This is less so at the high school level.

**Implementation** of the Social Studies curriculum has begun at the elementary level, but is not yet complete. Implementation of the Social Studies curriculum in Immersion is considered to have been completed.

For information about the provincial curriculum online go to:  
<http://www.sasked.gov.sk.ca/docs/evergrn.html>.

### **Saskatoon Regional Heritage Fair**

The Saskatoon Regional Heritage Fair is not a program of the school division. However, it has very strong links to the Social Studies Curriculum as well as all other areas of the curriculum, but the focus is very strongly that of heritage. The first Saskatoon Regional Heritage Fair took place here in 1997. This program is available for students in grades 4 through grade 9. The model is very much like that of the Science Fair. It is a competition.

The Regional Heritage Fair is held on the second or third weekend of May (usually) at the same time as every other Regional Heritage Fair in Canada. Successful competitors are invited to attend the National Heritage Fair at

no expense, except for spending money. The National Heritage Fair is non-competitive, but designed to allow those who attend an opportunity to know other young Canadians. This experience is also designed to give students more information about Canadian Heritage.

Information is sent to schools in the fall about the Heritage Fair. Teachers are asked to declare intention to participate rather early on in the school year in order for the planning to take place in a timely fashion. Besides full participation in the Heritage Fair, teachers have the option of taking students as class groups to the Heritage Fair itself for an out-of-school excursion.

Costs relating to the Regional Heritage Fair are the responsibility of the school.

Participation in the Regional Heritage Fair is optional.

Attendance by classes at the Regional Heritage Fair is optional.

There is a national website at: <http://www.heritageproject.ca/default.htm>.