Exploring Canadian Geography, Grade 9, De-streamed (CGC1W)
2025 - 2026 Course Outline
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Developed from ***The Ontario Curriculum Grade 9 and 10 Canadian and World Studies (revised)***, published 2024

Credit Value: 1.0

Prerequisite course: None

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will explore relationships within and between Canada's natural and human systems and how they interconnect with other parts of the world. Students will also examine environmental and economic issues, and their impact related to topics such as natural resources and industries, careers, land use and responsible development, and sustainability. In addition, students will understand the connections that diverse communities and individuals have with the physical environment and each other throughout Canada, including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit perspectives. Students will apply geographic thinking, use the geographic inquiry process, and use geospatial technologies throughout their investigations.

Credit Value: 1.0

Prerequisite courses: None

CURRICULUM EXPECTATIONS

A. GEOGRAPHIC INQUIRY AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT OVERALL EXPECTATIONS

Throughout this course, students will:

- A1. Geographic Inquiry: use the geographic inquiry process and the concepts of geographic thinking when investigating issues relating to Canadian geography;
- A2. Developing Transferable Skills: apply in everyday contexts skills, including spatial technology skills, developed through the investigation of Canadian geography, and identify some careers in which a background in geography might be an asset

B. INTERACTIONS IN THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT OVERALL EXPECTATIONS

By the end of this course, students will:

- B1. The Physical Environment and Human Activities: analyse various interactions between physical processes, phenomena, and events and human activities in Canada (FOCUS ON: Interrelationships; Geographic Perspective)
- B2. Interrelationships between Physical Systems, Processes, and Events: analyse characteristics of various physical processes, phenomena, and events affecting Canada and their interrelationship with global physical systems (FOCUS ON: Patterns and Trends; Interrelationships)
- B3. The Characteristics of Canada's Natural Environment: describe various characteristics of the natural environment and the spatial distribution of physical features in Canada, and explain the role of physical processes, phenomena, and events in shaping them (FOCUS ON: Spatial Significance; Patterns and Trends).

C. MANAGING CANADA'S RESOURCES AND INDUSTRIES OVERALL EXPECTATIONS

By the end of this course, students will:

- C1. The Sustainability of Resources: analyse impacts of resource policy, resource management, and consumer choices on resource sustainability in Canada (FOCUS ON: Interrelationships; Geographic Perspective)
- C2. The Development of Resources: analyse issues related to the distribution, availability, and development of natural resources in Canada from a geographic perspective (FOCUS ON: Interrelationships; Geographic Perspective)
- C3. Industries and Economic Development: assess the relative importance of different industrial sectors to the Canadian economy and Canada's place in the global economy, and analyse factors that influence the location of industries in these sectors (FOCUS ON: Spatial Significance; Patterns and Trends)

D. CHANGING POPULATIONS OVERALL EXPECTATIONS

By the end of this course, students will:

- D1. Population Issues: analyse selected national and global population issues and their implications for Canada (FOCUS ON: Interrelationships; Patterns and Trends)

● D2. Immigration and Cultural Diversity: describe the diversity of Canada's population, and assess some social, economic, political, and environmental implications of immigration and diversity for Canada (FOCUS ON: Spatial Significance; Geographic Perspective)
● D3. Demographic Patterns and Trends: analyse patterns of population settlement and various demographic characteristics of the Canadian population (FOCUS ON: Spatial Significance; Patterns and Trends)

E. LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES OVERALL EXPECTATIONS
By the end of this course, students will:
● E1. The Sustainability of Human Systems: analyse issues relating to the sustainability of human systems in Canada (FOCUS ON: Interrelationships; Geographic Perspective)
● E2. Impacts of Urban Growth: analyse impacts of urban growth in Canada (FOCUS ON: Spatial Significance; Geographic Perspective)
● E3. Characteristics of Land Use in Canada: analyse characteristics of land use in various Canadian communities, and explain how some factors influence land-use patterns (FOCUS ON: Spatial Significance; Patterns and Trends)

COURSE OUTLINE
This course has been broken down and will be taught via individual units that will encompass the previously stated strands. Expectations from the Geographical Inquiry and Skill Development strand will be interwoven throughout the other four strands and throughout the course.

Unit Number	Unit Name	Topics Covered	Instructional Hours	Overall Expectations
1	Geographic Inquiry/Skill Development	Maps as a Basic Tool; Locating Places on a Map; Alphanumeric Grids; GPS/GIS Systems.	25	A1, A2
2	Interactions in the Physical Environment	Population Density/Distribution; Rural Settlement Patterns; Landform Processes; Plate Tectonics; the Rock Cycle; Glaciation; Landform Patterns/Regions; Climate, Soil, Vegetation Processes.	30	B1, B2, B3
3	Managing Canada's Resources and Industries	Types of Resources; Recycling, Reducing, Reusing; Sustaining Yield Management; Farming, Fishing, Forestry; Importance of Water; Non-Renewable Resources; Canada's Manufacturing/Service Industry.	25	C1, C2, C3
4	Changing Populations	Canada's Population, Immigration, Demographic Transition; Global Issues; Internal Migration.	15	D1, D2, D3
5	Liveable Communities	Liveability vs Sustainability; Types of Land Use; Urban Growth; Improving Communities; Measuring Sustainability and Liveability.	15	E1, E2, E3

TOTAL INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS – 110

TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES

Students will be involved in a variety of learning activities including presentations, debates, class discussion, internet/media research, and independent research on topics related to the course. Students will participate in activities by following instructions and giving it their best effort and will maximize achievement with basic learning strategies such as note-taking, studying, re-reading, asking questions, and participating in all class activities.

STRATEGIES FOR ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Assessment Policy

In keeping with the Ministry of Education's document, Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting in Ontario Schools, 2010, this course will be presented to students with consideration of the overall and specific expectations established for the credit, the achievement chart in the appropriate curriculum policy document, and the guidelines for Assessment and Evaluation. Each course contains both content standards (the knowledge and skills a student is expected to demonstrate throughout the course) and performance standards (the quality of student learning as reflected by the student's work toward achieving these skills).

To support student learning and to ensure that the assessment and evaluation encourage and promote student achievement as much as possible, course evaluations will be designed with a mind to being:

- balanced and equitable, with clear instructions and criteria;
- reflective of the overall and specific expectations for the course;
- ongoing and varied, allowing students to demonstrate achievement throughout the year;
- ongoing descriptive feedback giving students indications of goals and strategies for improvement;
- supportive of student skills in assessing their own learning (for self-improvement, not for marks) so that they can set personal goals and strategies

Assessment Types

This course will contain all three types of assessment recommended by the Ministry of Education.

Assessment *for* learning where the teacher will gather information about student skill and understanding in order to plan teaching activities to maximize student achievement. In addition, the teacher will give feedback on work which is designed to help the student direct his efforts to particular skills or content so that he can improve his results. These assessments are generally not completed for marks, but rather for feedback, and include such things as checklists, student reflections, practice activities, and sample questions.

Assessment *as* learning where the student is asked to demonstrate progress in developing skills and understanding of content in a way which allows him to set goals, reflect on his work, and determine strategies for progress. These assessments may or may not be assessed for marks and include such things as small tests, quizzes, small writing assignments, brief presentations, and self and peer-assessed (not for marks) activities.

Assessment *of* learning where the student is asked to demonstrate that he has acquired the skills taught and has developed a strong understanding of the content and performance standards related to the topic. These assessments are done in preparation for moving forward to new content and performance standards or in completion of the course itself. These are assessed for marks and are used to record and report what has been learned; they include such things as unit tests, larger writing assignments, essays, projects, and exams.

All assessments are designed to fit into one or more of the Grade 9-10 Canadian and World Studies Achievement Chart categories: Knowledge and Understanding, Thinking, Communication, and Application.

Learning Skills/Work Habits
Student achievement also reflects a variety of specific learning skills, through which students complete course assessments. These learning skills are not assigned specific marks, but are rather indicated on the student report card using letters (E=excellent, G=good, S=satisfactory, N=needs improvement) in order to indicate which learning skills should receive increased endeavour by the student in order to improve his learning. They are behaviours considered essential and integral to student learning and to the evaluation of a student's achievement as he progresses through each course and grade. These learning skills and the accompanying descriptors reflecting a "Good" level of achievement are:

- **Responsibility**
- **Organization**
- **Independent Work**
- **Collaboration**
- **Initiative**
- **Self-regulation**

Assessment Structure
Student achievement is communicated formally to students and parents by means of the Provincial Report Card. The report card provides a record of the student's achievement of the curriculum expectations in the form of a percentage grade. The percentage grade represents the quality of the student's overall achievement of the expectations for the course and reflects the corresponding level of achievement as described in the achievement chart. A final grade is recorded, and a credit is granted and recorded if the student's grade is 50% or higher.

The final grade in the course is determined as follows:

Term Work*	70%
Final Examination	20%
Final Summative	10%
Final Grade	100%

*Term work is based on evaluations conducted throughout the course. This portion of the grade will reflect the student's most consistent level of achievement throughout the course, although special consideration may be given to more recent evidence of achievement.

Achievement Chart Categories
There are four categories into which student evaluations are divided: Knowledge and Understanding, Thinking, Communication, and Application. This means that a student's evaluated work will contain marks in all, or some of these categories as indicated by the teacher and based on the teacher's professional judgement. Students are evaluated according to the criteria established for the course, not according to the achievement of other students. Achievement of level 3 in these categories represent the provincial standard. There are four levels of student achievement, Levels 1-4 (as well as the possibility that a student's work can be evaluated as below level 1).

See full achievement chart for Canadian and World Studies Grade 9-10 in Appendix 1.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR PROGRAM PLANNING

INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACHES

Effective instruction is key to student success. To provide effective instruction, teachers need to consider what they want students to learn, how they will know whether students have learned it, how they will design instruction to promote the learning, and how they will respond to students who are not making progress. When planning what students will learn, teachers identify the main concepts and skills described in the curriculum expectations, consider the contexts in which students will apply the learning, and determine students' learning goals. Instructional approaches should be informed by the findings of current research on instructional practices that have proved effective in the classroom. For example, research has provided compelling evidence about the benefits of the explicit teaching of strategies that can help students develop a deeper understanding of concepts. Strategies such as "compare and contrast" (e.g., through Venn diagrams and comparison matrices) and the use of analogy give students opportunities to examine concepts in ways that help them see what the concepts are and what they are not. Although such strategies are simple to use, teaching them explicitly is important in order to ensure that all students use them effectively. A well-planned instructional program should always be at the student's level, but it should also push them towards their optimal level of challenge for learning, while providing the support and anticipating and directly teaching the skills that are required for success.

A DIFFERENTIATED APPROACH TO TEACHING AND LEARNING

An understanding of students' strengths and needs, as well as of their backgrounds and life experiences, can help teachers plan effective instruction and assessment. Teachers continually build their awareness of students' learning strengths and needs by observing and assessing their readiness to learn, their interests, and their learning styles and preferences. As teachers develop and deepen their understanding of individual students, they can respond more effectively to the students' needs by differentiating instructional approaches – adjusting the method or pace of instruction, using different types of resources, allowing a wider choice of topics, even adjusting the learning environment, if appropriate, to suit the way their students learn and how they are best able to demonstrate their learning. Unless students have an Individual Education Plan with modified curriculum expectations, what they learn continues to be guided by the curriculum expectations and remains the same for all students.

LESSON DESIGN

Effective lesson design involves several important elements. Teachers engage students in a lesson by activating their prior learning and experiences, clarifying the purpose for learning, and making connections to contexts that will help them see the relevance and usefulness of what they are learning. Teachers select instructional strategies to effectively introduce concepts, and consider how they will scaffold instruction in ways that will best meet the needs of their students. At the same time, they consider when and how to check students' understanding and to assess their progress towards achieving their learning goals. Teachers provide multiple opportunities for students to apply their knowledge and skills and to consolidate and reflect on their learning. A three-part lesson design (e.g., "Minds On, Action, and Consolidation") is often used to structure these elements.

INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACHES IN CANADIAN AND WORLD STUDIES

Instruction in Grade 9 and 10 Canadian and World Studies should help students acquire the knowledge, skills, and attributes they need in order to achieve the curriculum expectations and to be able to think critically throughout their lives about issues related to geography, history, and civics (politics). Effective instruction motivates students and instils positive habits of mind, such as curiosity and open-mindedness; a willingness to think, question, challenge, and be challenged; and an awareness of the value of listening or reading closely and communicating clearly. To be effective, instruction must be based on the belief that all students can be successful and that learning in Canadian and World Studies is important and valuable for all students.

Students' views of and attitudes towards Canadian and world studies can have a significant effect on their achievement of expectations. When students believe that these subjects simply represent a body of preordained knowledge about certain topics, they may question the relevance of their studies or may not approach their investigations with an open

and inquiring mind. Students must be given opportunities to see that inquiry is not just about finding what others have found, and that they can use the inquiry process not only to uncover knowledge but also to construct understandings and develop their own positions on issues. Learning should be seen as a process in which students monitor and reflect on the development of their knowledge, understandings, and skills. The Grade 9 and 10 Canadian and world studies curriculum provides opportunities for teachers and students to select, within the broad parameters of the expectations, topics for investigation. This flexibility allows teachers to tailor topics to suit the interests and readiness of their students and to address the context of their local communities. It also allows students to focus on the process of "doing" geography, history, and civics (politics), rather than simply assimilating content. It is important that teachers plan their program or units with the "end in mind", selecting appropriate content, including issues and examples, and ensuring that students develop the knowledge, understanding, and skills to support this end.

INDIGENOUS EXPERTISE AND PROTOCOLS

Teachers can provide opportunities for Elders, Métis Senators, knowledge keepers, knowledge holders, residential school survivors and intergenerational survivors, and Indigenous experts in fields such as history, the environment, culture, governance, and law to offer their experience, skills, knowledge, and wisdom to benefit all students. Teachers ensure that the expertise of the community advisers they consult and/or invite into the classroom is well suited to the topic at hand, that cultural and engagement protocols are followed, and that community members are approached in a respectful and appropriate manner. Schools can contact their board's Indigenous lead or a local Indigenous organization for assistance in identifying experts in particular areas and determining the protocols for inviting them into the school or classroom.

CONNECTIONS TO CURRENT EVENTS AND ISSUES

Teachers need to integrate current events and issues within the curriculum expectations, and not treat them as separate topics. The integration of current events and issues into the curriculum will help students make connections between what they are learning in class and past and present-day local, national, and global events, developments, and issues. Examining current events helps students analyse controversial issues, understand diverse perspectives, develop informed opinions, and build a deeper understanding of the world in which they live. In addition, investigating current events will stimulate students' interest in and curiosity about the world around them. The inclusion of current events in Canadian and world studies will help keep the curriculum a relevant, living document.

PLANNING CANADIAN AND WORLD STUDIES PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS

Classroom teachers are the key educators of students with special education needs. They have a responsibility to help all students learn, and they work collaboratively with special education teachers, where appropriate, to achieve this goal. Classroom teachers commit to assisting every student to prepare for living with the highest degree of independence possible. Learning for All: A Guide to Effective Assessment and Instruction for All Students, Kindergarten to Grade 12 (Draft 2011) describes a set of beliefs, based in research, that should guide program planning for students with special education needs in all disciplines. Teachers planning Canadian and world studies courses need to pay particular attention to these beliefs, which are as follows:

- All students can succeed.
- Each student has their own unique patterns of learning.
- Successful instructional practices are founded on evidence-based research, tempered by experience.
- Universal design and differentiated instruction are effective and interconnected means of meeting the learning or productivity needs of any group of students.
- Classroom teachers are the key educators for a student's literacy and numeracy development.
- Classroom teachers need the support of the larger community to create a learning environment that supports students with special education needs.
- Fairness is not sameness.

In any given classroom, students may demonstrate a wide range of strengths and needs. Teachers plan programs that recognize this diversity and give students performance tasks that respect their particular abilities so that all students can derive the greatest possible benefit from the teaching and learning process. The use of flexible groupings for instruction and the provision of ongoing assessment are important elements of programs that accommodate a diversity of learning needs.

In planning Canadian and world studies courses for students with special education needs, teachers should begin by examining both the curriculum expectations in the course appropriate for the individual student and the student's particular strengths and learning needs to determine which of the following options is appropriate for the student:
• no accommodations or modified expectations; or
• accommodations only; or
• modified expectations, with the possibility of accommodations; or
• alternative expectations, which are not derived from the curriculum expectations for a course and which constitute alternative programs and/or courses.

If the student requires either accommodations or modified expectations, or both, the relevant information, as described in the following paragraphs, must be recorded in their Individual Education Plan (IEP). More detailed information about planning programs for students with special education needs, including students who require alternative programs and/or courses, can be found in Special Education in Ontario, Kindergarten to Grade 12: Policy and Resource Guide, 2017 (Draft) (referred to hereafter as Special Education in Ontario, 2017). For a detailed discussion of the ministry's requirements for IEPs, see Part E of Special Education in Ontario.
(The document is available at http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/policy/os/onschools_2017e.pdf)

Students Requiring Accommodations Only
Some students with special education needs are able, with certain accommodations, to participate in the regular course curriculum and to demonstrate learning independently. Accommodations allow the student with special education needs to access the curriculum without any changes to the course expectations. The accommodations required to facilitate the student's learning must be identified in the student's IEP (Special Education in Ontario, 2017, p. E38). A student's IEP is likely to reflect the same accommodations for many, or all, subjects or courses.

Providing accommodations to students with special education needs should be the first option considered in program planning. Instruction based on principles of universal design and differentiated instruction focuses on the provision of accommodations to meet the diverse needs of learners. There are three types of accommodations:
• **Instructional accommodations** are changes in teaching strategies, including styles of presentation, methods of organization, or use of technology and multimedia. Some examples include the use of graphic organizers, photocopied notes, or assistive software.
• **Environmental accommodations** are changes that the student may require in the classroom and/or school environment, such as preferential seating or special lighting.
• **Assessment accommodations** are changes in assessment procedures that enable the student to demonstrate their learning, such as allowing additional time to complete tests or assignments or permitting oral responses to test questions. (See page E39 of Special Education in Ontario, 2017, for more examples.)

If a student requires "accommodations only" in Canadian and world studies courses, assessment and evaluation of their achievement will be based on the regular course curriculum expectations and the achievement levels outlined in this document. The IEP box on the student's provincial report card will not be checked, and no information on the provision of accommodations will be included.

Students Requiring Modified Expectations
In Canadian and world studies courses, modified expectations for most students with special education needs will be based on the regular course expectations, with an increase or decrease in the number and/or complexity of the expectations. Modified expectations must represent specific, realistic, observable, and measurable goals, and must

describe specific knowledge and/or skills that the student can demonstrate independently, given the appropriate assessment accommodations. It is important to monitor, and to reflect clearly in the student's IEP, the extent to which expectations have been modified. The principal will determine whether achievement of the modified expectations constitutes successful completion of the course, and will decide whether the student is eligible to receive a credit for the course. This decision must be communicated to the parents and the student.

Modified expectations must indicate the knowledge and/or skills that the student is expected to demonstrate and that will be assessed in each reporting period (Special Education in Ontario, 2017, p. E27). Modified expectations should be expressed in such a way that the student and parents can understand not only exactly what the student is expected to know or be able to demonstrate independently, but also the basis on which the student's performance will be evaluated, resulting in a grade or mark that is recorded on the provincial report card. The student's learning expectations must be reviewed in relation to the student's progress at least once every reporting period, and must be updated as necessary (Special Education in Ontario, 2017, p. E28). If a student requires modified expectations in Canadian and world studies courses, assessment and evaluation of their achievement will be based on the learning expectations identified in the IEP and on the achievement levels outlined in this document. If some of the student's learning expectations for a course are modified but the student is working towards a credit for the course, it is sufficient simply to check the IEP box on the provincial report card. If, however, the student's learning expectations are modified to such an extent that the principal deems that a credit will not be granted for the course, the IEP box must be checked and the appropriate statement from Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting in Ontario Schools, First Edition, Covering Grades 1 to 12, 2010, page 62, must be inserted. The teacher's comments should include relevant information on the student's demonstrated learning of the modified expectations, as well as next steps for the student's learning in the course.

PROGRAM CONSIDERATIONS FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Ontario schools have some of the most multilingual student populations in the world. The first language of approximately 26 per cent of the students in Ontario's English language schools is a language other than English. In addition, some students use varieties of English – also referred to as dialects – that differ significantly from the English required for success in Ontario schools. Many English language learners were born in Canada and have been raised in families and communities in which languages other than English, or varieties of English that differ from the language used in the classroom, are spoken. Other English language learners arrive in Ontario as newcomers from other countries; they may have experience of highly sophisticated educational systems, or they may have come from regions where access to formal schooling was limited. When they start school in Ontario, many of these students are entering a new linguistic and cultural environment. All teachers share in the responsibility for these students' English-language development. English language learners (students who are learning English as a second or additional language in English-language schools) bring a rich diversity of background knowledge and experience to the classroom. These students' linguistic and cultural backgrounds not only support their learning in their new environment but also become a cultural asset in the classroom community. Teachers will find positive ways to incorporate this diversity into their instructional programs and into the classroom environment.

Most English language learners in Ontario schools have an age-appropriate proficiency in their first language. Although they need frequent opportunities to use English at school, there are important educational and social benefits associated with continued development of their first language while they are learning English. Teachers need to encourage parents to continue to use their own language at home in rich and varied ways as a foundation for language and literacy development in English. It is also important for teachers to find opportunities to bring students' languages into the classroom, using parents and community members as a resource. During their first few years in Ontario schools, English language learners may receive support through one of two distinct programs from teachers who specialize in meeting their language-learning needs:

• English as a Second Language (ESL) programs are for students born in Canada or newcomers whose first language is a language other than English, or is a variety of English significantly different from that used for instruction in Ontario schools.
• English Literacy Development (ELD) programs are primarily for newcomers whose first language is a language other than English, or is a variety of English significantly different from that used for instruction in Ontario schools, and who arrive with significant gaps in their education. These students generally come from countries where access to education is limited or where there are limited opportunities to develop language and literacy skills in any language. Some First Nations, Métis, or Inuit students from remote communities in Ontario may also have had limited opportunities for formal schooling, and they also may benefit from ELD instruction.

In planning programs for students with linguistic backgrounds other than English, teachers need to recognize the importance of the orientation process, understanding that every learner needs to adjust to the new social environment and language in a unique way and at an individual pace. For example, students who are in an early stage of English-language acquisition may go through a "silent period" during which they closely observe the interactions and physical surroundings of their new learning environment. They may use body language rather than speech or they may use their first language until they have gained enough proficiency in English to feel confident of their interpretations and responses.

Students thrive in a safe, supportive, and welcoming environment that nurtures their self-confidence while they are receiving focused literacy instruction. When they are ready to participate, in paired, small-group, or whole-class activities, some students will begin by using a single word or phrase to communicate a thought, while others will speak quite fluently. In a supportive learning environment, most students will develop oral language proficiency quite quickly. Teachers can sometimes be misled by the high degree of oral proficiency demonstrated by many English language learners in their use of everyday English and may mistakenly conclude that these students are equally proficient in their use of academic English. Most English language learners who have developed oral proficiency in everyday English will nevertheless require instructional scaffolding to meet curriculum expectations. Research has shown that it takes five to seven years for most English language learners to catch up to their English-speaking peers in their ability to use English for academic purposes.

Responsibility for students' English-language development is shared by the classroom teacher, the ESL/ELD teacher (where available), and other school staff. Volunteers and peers may also be helpful in supporting English language learners in the classroom. Teachers must adapt the instructional program in order to facilitate the success of these students in their classrooms. Appropriate adaptations include:

• modification of some or all of the subject expectations so that they are challenging but attainable for the learners at their present level of English proficiency, given the necessary support from the teacher;
• use of a variety of instructional strategies (e.g., extensive use of visual cues, graphic organizers, and scaffolding; previewing of textbooks; pre-teaching of key vocabulary; peer tutoring; strategic use of students' first languages);
• use of a variety of learning resources (e.g., visual material, simplified text, bilingual dictionaries, and materials that reflect cultural diversity);
• use of assessment accommodations (e.g., granting of extra time; use of oral interviews, demonstrations or visual representations, or tasks requiring completion of graphic organizers or cloze sentences instead of essay questions and other assessment tasks that depend heavily on proficiency in English).

Teachers need to adapt the program for English language learners as they acquire English proficiency. For students in the early stages of language acquisition, teachers need to modify the curriculum expectations in some or all curriculum areas. Most English language learners require accommodations for an extended period, long after they have achieved proficiency in everyday English. When curriculum expectations are modified in order to meet the language-learning needs of English language learners, assessment and evaluation will be based on the documented modified expectations.

Teachers will check the ESL/ELD box on the provincial report card only when modifications have been made to curriculum expectations to address the language needs of English language learners (the box should not be checked to indicate simply that they are participating in ESL/ELD programs or if they are only receiving accommodations). There is no requirement for a statement to be added to the "Comments" section of the report cards when the ESL/ELD box is checked. Although the degree of program adaptation required will decrease over time, students who are no longer receiving ESL or ELD support may still need some program adaptations to be successful. For further information on supporting English language learners, refer to the following documents:

• The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9–12: English as a Second Language and English Literacy Development, 2007
• English Language Learners – ESL and ELD Programs and Services: Policies and Procedures for Ontario Elementary and Secondary Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12, 2007
• Supporting English Language Learners with Limited Prior Schooling: A Practical Guide for Ontario Educators, Grades 3 to 12, 2008
• Many Roots, Many Voices: Supporting English Language Learners in Every Classroom, 2005

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND CANADIAN AND WORLD STUDIES

Ontario's education system will prepare students with the knowledge, skills, perspectives, and practices they need to be environmentally responsible citizens. Students will understand our fundamental connections to each other and to the world around us through our relationship to food, water, energy, air, and land, and our interaction with all living things. The education system will provide opportunities within the classroom and the community for students to engage in actions that deepen this understanding.

Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow: A Policy Framework for Environmental Education in Ontario Schools outlines an approach to environmental education that recognizes the needs of all Ontario students and promotes environmental responsibility in the operations of all levels of the education system. The three goals outlined in Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow are organized around the themes of teaching and learning, student engagement and community connections, and environmental leadership. The first goal is to promote learning about environmental issues and solutions. The second is to engage students in practising and promoting environmental stewardship, both in the school and in the community. The third stresses the importance of having organizations and individuals within the education system provide leadership by implementing and promoting responsible environmental practices throughout the system so that staff, parents, community members, and students become dedicated to living more sustainably. There are many opportunities to integrate environmental education into the teaching of Canadian and world studies. In all subjects of this program, students can be encouraged to explore a range of environmental issues. In the Grade 9 geography courses, students may investigate environmental issues relating to topics such as Canadian resource management, population growth and urban sprawl, and the impact of human activity on the natural environment. Students also analyse the environmental sustainability of current behaviours and practices, explore ways in which environmental stewardship can be improved, and make connections between local, national, and global environmental issues, practices, and processes. In the Grade 10 history courses, students are able to explore various Canadian political policies and social movements related to the environment. In Civics and Citizenship, students learn that the responsibilities of citizenship include the protection and stewardship of the global commons, such as air and water, on a local, national, and global scale. This course also provides opportunities for students to explore various environmental issues of civic importance.

A resource document – The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9–12: Environmental Education, Scope and Sequence of Expectations, 2011 – has been prepared to assist teachers in planning lessons that integrate environmental education with other subject areas. It identifies curriculum expectations and related examples and prompts in disciplines across the Ontario curriculum that provide opportunities for student learning "in, about, and/or for" the environment. Teachers can use the document to plan lessons that relate explicitly to the environment, or they can draw on it for opportunities

to use the environment as the context for learning. The document can also be used to make curriculum connections to school-wide environmental initiatives. This publication is available on the Ministry of Education's website, at: www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/secondary/environ9to12.pdf

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS AND CANADIAN AND WORLD STUDIES

Every student is entitled to learn in a safe, caring environment, free from violence and harassment. Research has shown that students learn and achieve better in such environments. A safe and supportive social environment in a school is founded on healthy relationships – the relationships between students, between students and adults, and between adults. Healthy relationships are based on respect, caring, empathy, trust, and dignity, and thrive in an environment in which diversity is honoured and accepted. Healthy relationships do not tolerate abusive, controlling, violent, bullying/harassing, or other inappropriate behaviours. To experience themselves as valued and connected members of an inclusive social environment, students need to be involved in healthy relationships with their peers, teachers, and other members of the school community.

Several provincial policies and initiatives, including the Foundations for a Healthy School framework, the equity and inclusive education strategy, and the Safe Schools strategy, are designed to foster caring and safe learning environments in the context of healthy and inclusive schools. These policies and initiatives promote positive learning and teaching environments that support the development of healthy relationships, encourage academic achievement, and help all students reach their full potential. In its 2008 report, Shaping a Culture of Respect in Our Schools: Promoting Safe and Healthy Relationships, the Safe Schools Action Team confirmed "that the most effective way to enable all students to learn about healthy and respectful relationships is through the school curriculum" (p. 11). Teachers can promote this learning in a variety of ways. For example, they can help students develop and practise the skills they need for building healthy relationships by giving them opportunities to apply critical-thinking and problemsolving strategies and to address issues through group discussions, role play, case study analysis, and other means. Co-curricular activities such as clubs and intramural and interschool sports provide additional opportunities for the kind of interaction that helps students build healthy relationships. Teachers can also have a positive influence on students by modelling the behaviours, values, and skills that are needed to develop and sustain healthy relationships, and by taking advantage of "teachable moments" to address immediate relationship issues that may arise among students.

One of the elements of the citizenship education framework (see page 10) is attributes – that is, character traits, values, and habits of mind that are associated with responsible citizenship. Several of these attributes – including collaboration, cooperation, empathy, fairness, inclusiveness, and respect – are conducive to healthy relationships. The interconnections between citizenship education and the Canadian and world studies curriculum provide multiple opportunities for students to explore and develop these attributes, which help foster not only responsible, active citizenship but also healthy relationships, both inside and outside the classroom. A climate of cooperation, collaboration, respect, and open-mindedness is vital in the Canadian and world studies classroom. These attitudes and attributes enable students to develop an awareness of the complexity of a range of issues. Moreover, in examining issues from multiple perspectives, students develop not only an understanding of various positions on these issues but also a respect for different points of view. Students develop empathy as they analyse events and issues from the perspectives of people in different parts of Canada or the world, or from different historical eras. These attitudes and attributes provide a foundation on which students can develop their own identity, explore interconnectedness with others, and form and maintain healthy relationships.

EQUITY AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN THE CANADIAN AND WORLD STUDIES PROGRAM

The Ontario equity and inclusive education strategy focuses on respecting diversity, promoting inclusive education, and identifying and eliminating discriminatory biases, systemic barriers, and power dynamics that limit the ability of students to learn, grow, and contribute to society. Antidiscrimination education continues to be an important and integral component of the strategy. In an environment based on the principles of inclusive education, all students,

parents, caregivers, and other members of the school community – regardless of ancestry, culture, ethnicity, sex, physical or intellectual ability, race, religion, creed, gender identity/expression, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, or other factors – are welcomed, included, treated fairly, and respected. Diversity is valued when all members of the school community feel safe, welcomed, and accepted. Every student is supported and inspired to succeed in a culture of high expectations for learning. In an inclusive education system, all students see themselves reflected in the curriculum, their physical surroundings, and the broader environment, so that they can feel engaged in and empowered by their learning experiences. The implementation of antidiscrimination principles in education influences all aspects of school life. It promotes a school climate that encourages all students to strive for high levels of achievement, affirms the worth of all students, and helps students strengthen their sense of identity and develop a positive self-image. It encourages staff and students alike to value and show respect for diversity in the school and the broader society. Antidiscrimination education promotes equity, healthy relationships, and active, responsible citizenship. Teachers can give students a variety of opportunities to learn about diversity and diverse perspectives. By drawing attention to the contributions of women, the perspectives of various ethnocultural, religious, and racial communities, and the beliefs and practices of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples, teachers enable students from a wide range of backgrounds to see themselves reflected in the curriculum. It is essential that learning activities and materials used to support the curriculum reflect the diversity of Ontario society. In addition, teachers should differentiate instruction and assessment strategies to take into account the background and experiences, as well as the interests, aptitudes, and learning needs, of all students. Interactions between the school and the community should reflect the diversity of both the local community and the broader society. A variety of strategies can be used to communicate with and engage parents and members from diverse communities, and to encourage their participation in and support for school activities, programs, and events. Family and community members should be invited to take part in teacher interviews, the school council, and the parent involvement committee, and to attend and support activities such as plays, concerts, co-curricular activities and events, and various special events at the school. Schools may consider offering assistance with childcare or making alternative scheduling arrangements in order to help caregivers participate. Students can also help by encouraging and accompanying their families, who may be unfamiliar with the Ontario school system. Special outreach strategies and encouragement may be needed to draw in the parents of English language learners and First Nations, Métis, or Inuit students, and to make them feel more welcomed in their interactions with the school.

The valuing of inclusiveness is an element of the vision statement for the social studies, history, geography, and Canadian and world studies programs (see page 6). Thus, encouraging students to understand and value diversity is a focus of geography, history, and civics (politics) in Grades 9 and 10. The expectations in these courses provide numerous opportunities for students to break through stereotypes and to learn about various social, religious, and ethnocultural groups, including First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people, and how their beliefs, values, and traditions are reflected in the community. Students also investigate injustices and inequalities within various communities, but not simply through the lens of victimization. Rather, they examine ways in which various people act or have acted as agents of change and can serve as role models for responsible, active citizenship. It is important that teachers of Canadian and world studies create an environment that will foster a sense of community where all students feel included and appreciated. It is imperative that students see themselves reflected in the choices of issues, examples, materials, and resources selected by the teacher. When leading discussions on topics related to diverse ethnocultural, socio-economic, or religious groups or the rights of citizenship, teachers should ensure that all students – regardless of culture, religious affiliation, gender, class, or sexual orientation – feel included and recognized in all learning activities and discussions. By teachers carefully choosing support materials that reflect the makeup of a class, students will see that they are respected. This will lead to student understanding of and respect for the differences that exist in their classroom and in the multiple communities to which they belong.

FINANCIAL LITERACY IN CANADIAN AND WORLD STUDIES

The document A Sound Investment: Financial Literacy Education in Ontario Schools, 2010 (p. 4) sets out the vision that: Ontario students will have the skills and knowledge to take responsibility for managing their personal financial well-being with confidence, competence, and a compassionate awareness of the world around them.

There is a growing recognition that the education system has a vital role to play in preparing young people to take their place as informed, engaged, and knowledgeable citizens in the global economy. Financial literacy education can provide the preparation Ontario students need to make informed decisions and choices in a complex and fast-changing financial world. Because making informed decisions about economic and financial matters has become an increasingly complex undertaking in the modern world, students need to build knowledge and skills in a wide variety of areas. In addition to learning about the specifics of saving, spending, borrowing, and investing, students need to develop broader skills in problem solving, inquiry, decision making, critical thinking, and critical literacy related to financial issues, so that they can analyse and manage the risks that accompany various financial choices. They also need to develop an understanding of world economic forces and the effects of those forces at the local, national, and global level. In order to make wise choices, they will need to understand how such forces affect their own and their families' economic and financial circumstances. Finally, to become responsible citizens in the global economy, they will need to understand the social, environmental, and ethical implications of their own choices as consumers. For all of these reasons, financial literacy is an essential component of the education of Ontario students – one that can help ensure that Ontarians will continue to prosper in the future. One of the elements of the vision for the social studies, history, geography, and Canadian and world studies programs is to enable students to become responsible, active citizens who are informed and critically thoughtful. Financial literacy is connected to this element. In the Canadian and world studies program, students have multiple opportunities to investigate and study financial literacy concepts related to the course expectations. For example, in Grade 9 geography, students can develop their financial literacy skills when investigating Canada's role in the trading of commodities, the use of resources, or their roles as consumers. In Grade 10 history, students investigate the impact of economic factors on the development of Canada, including how different communities responded to or were affected by these factors. In Civics and Citizenship in Grade 10, students develop their understanding of the importance of paying taxes. This course also provides students with opportunities to explore issues related to government expenditures and to analyse, in the context of issues of civic importance, how limited resources are allocated. A resource document – The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9–12: Financial Literacy Scope and Sequence of Expectations, 2011 – has been prepared to assist teachers in bringing financial literacy into the classroom. This document identifies the curriculum expectations and related examples and prompts, in disciplines across the Ontario curriculum, through which students can acquire skills and knowledge related to financial literacy. The document can also be used to make curriculum connections to school-wide initiatives that support financial literacy. This publication is available on the Ministry of Education's website, at www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/policy/FinLitGr9to12.pdf.

LITERACY, MATHEMATICAL LITERACY, AND INQUIRY SKILLS IN CANADIAN AND WORLD STUDIES

Literacy is defined as the ability to use language and images in rich and varied forms to read, write, listen, view, represent, and think critically about ideas. It involves the capacity to access, manage, and evaluate information; to think imaginatively and analytically; and to communicate thoughts and ideas effectively. Literacy includes critical thinking and reasoning to solve problems and make decisions related to issues of fairness, equity, and social justice. Literacy connects individuals and communities and is an essential tool for personal growth and active participation in a cohesive, democratic society. Literacy instruction must be embedded across the curriculum. "All teachers of all subjects … are teachers of literacy" (Think Literacy Success, Grades 7–12: The Report of the Expert Panel on Students at Risk in Ontario, 2003, p. 10.).

As these quotations suggest, literacy involves a range of critical-thinking skills and is essential for learning across the curriculum. Literacy instruction takes different forms of emphasis in different subjects, but in all subjects, literacy

needs to be explicitly taught. Literacy, mathematical literacy, and inquiry/research skills are critical to students' success in all subjects of the curriculum and in all areas of their lives. Many of the activities and tasks that students undertake in the Canadian and world studies curriculum involve the literacy skills relating to oral, written, and visual communication. For example, they develop literacy skills by reading, interpreting, and analysing various texts, including diaries, letters, government legislation and policy documents, interviews, speeches, treaties, information from non-governmental organizations, news stories, and fiction and non-fiction books. In addition, they develop the skills needed to construct, extract information from, and analyse various types of maps and digital representations, including topographic, demographic, thematic, annotated, choropleth, and geographic information systems (GIS) maps. In all Canadian and world studies courses, students are required to use appropriate and correct terminology, including that related to the concepts of disciplinary thinking, and are encouraged to use language with care and precision in order to communicate effectively.

The Ministry of Education has facilitated the development of materials to support literacy instruction across the curriculum. Helpful advice for integrating literacy instruction in Canadian and world studies may be found in the following resource materials:

- Me Read? And How! Ontario Teachers Report on How to Improve Boys' Literacy Skills, 2009
- Think Literacy: Cross-Curricular Approaches, Grades 7–12, 2003

The Canadian and world studies program also builds on, reinforces, and enhances mathematical literacy. Many courses in Canadian and world studies provide students with opportunities to reinforce their mathematical literacy in areas involving computational strategies and data management and, in particular, the ability to read and construct graphs. For example, students exploring trends in geography might need to interpret population pyramids or climate graphs as well as data related to economic development and/or quality of life. Calculations and graphing are often used in field studies: students engaged in a field study focusing on traffic congestion, for example, may need to develop methods of gathering data on the vehicle count per minute for selected times of day and then might construct graphs to communicate their findings. In addition, student may use their mathematical literacy skills when interpreting data from various types of maps and when creating maps to communicate their findings. Inquiry and research are at the heart of learning in all subject areas. In Canadian and world studies courses, students are encouraged to develop their ability to ask questions and to explore a variety of possible answers to those questions. As they advance through the grades, they acquire the skills to locate relevant information from a variety of print and electronic sources, such as books, periodicals, dictionaries, encyclopedias, interviews, videos, and relevant Internet sources. The questioning they practised in the early grades becomes more sophisticated as they learn that all sources of information have a particular point of view and that the recipient of the information has a responsibility to evaluate it, determine its validity and relevance, and use it in appropriate ways. The ability to locate, question, and validate information allows a student to become an independent, lifelong learner.

CRITICAL THINKING AND CRITICAL LITERACY IN CANADIAN AND WORLD STUDIES

Critical thinking is the process of thinking about ideas or situations in order to understand them fully, identify their implications, make a judgement, and/or guide decision making. Critical thinking includes skills such as questioning, predicting, analysing, synthesizing, examining opinions, identifying values and issues, detecting bias, and distinguishing between alternatives. Students who are taught these skills become critical thinkers who can move beyond superficial conclusions to a deeper understanding of the issues they are examining. They are able to engage in an inquiry process in which they explore complex and multifaceted issues, and questions for which there may be no clear-cut answers. Students use critical-thinking skills in Canadian and world studies when they assess, analyse, and/or evaluate the impact of something and when they form an opinion about something and support that opinion with a rationale. In order to think critically, students need to examine the opinions and values of others, detect bias, look for implied meaning, and use the information gathered to form a personal opinion or stance, or a personal plan of action

with regard to making a difference. Students approach critical thinking in various ways. Some students find it helpful to discuss their thinking, asking questions and exploring ideas. Other students, including many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students, may take time to observe a situation or consider a text carefully before commenting; they may prefer not to ask questions or express their thoughts orally while they are thinking. In developing critical-thinking skills in Canadian and world studies, students must ask themselves effective questions in order to interpret information, detect bias in their sources, determine why a source might express a particular bias, and consider the values and perspectives of a variety of groups and individuals.

The development of these critical-thinking skills is supported in every course in the Canadian and world studies curriculum by strand A on inquiry and skill development as well as by the concepts of disciplinary thinking that are identified as a focus for each overall expectation (for a description of the concepts of disciplinary thinking, see page 13). As they work to achieve the Canadian and world studies expectations, students frequently need to identify the possible implications of choices. As they gather information from a variety of sources, they need to be able to interpret what they are listening to, reading, or viewing; to look for instances of bias; and to determine why a source might express a particular bias. Critical literacy is the capacity for a particular type of critical thinking that involves looking beyond the literal meaning of a text to determine what is present and what is missing, in order to analyse and evaluate the text's complete meaning and the author's intent. Critical literacy goes beyond conventional critical thinking by focusing on issues related to fairness, equity, and social justice. Critically literate students adopt a critical stance, asking what view of the world the text advances and whether they find this view acceptable, who benefits from the text, and how the reader is influenced.

Critically literate students understand that meaning is not found in texts in isolation. People make sense of a text, or determine what a text means, in a variety of ways. Students therefore need to be aware of points of view (e.g., those of people from various cultures), the context (e.g., the beliefs and practices of the time and place in which a text was created and those in which it is being read or viewed), the background of the person interacting with the text (e.g., upbringing, friends, communities, education, experiences), intertextuality (e.g., information that a reader or viewer brings to a text from other texts experienced previously), gaps in the text (e.g., information that is left out and that the reader or viewer must fill in), and silences in the text (e.g., voices of a person or group not heard). In Canadian and world studies, students who are critically literate are able, for example, to actively analyse media messages and determine potential motives and underlying messages. They are able to determine what biases might be contained in texts, media, and resource material and why that might be, how the content of these materials might be determined and by whom, and whose perspectives might have been left out and why. Students would then be equipped to produce their own interpretation of the issue. Opportunities should be provided for students to engage in a critical discussion of "texts", which can include books (including textbooks), television programs, movies, web pages, advertising, music, gestures, oral texts, visual art works, maps, graphs, graphic texts, and other means of expression. Such discussions empower students to understand the impact on members of society that was intended by the text's creators. Language and communication are never neutral: they are used to inform, entertain, persuade, and manipulate.

Another aspect of critical thinking is metacognition, which involves developing one's thinking skills by reflecting on one's own thought processes. Metacognitive skills include the ability to monitor one's own learning. Acquiring and using metacognitive skills has emerged as a powerful approach for promoting a focus on thinking skills in literacy and across all disciplines. In Canadian and world studies, metacognitive skills are developed in a number of ways. Throughout the inquiry process, students use metacognitive skills to reflect on their thinking, ensuring, for example, that their questions are appropriate, that they have logically interpreted the information they have generated, and that the appropriate concepts of disciplinary thinking are reflected in their analysis. Through the application of metacognitive skills, students constantly revisit and rethink their work, leading to a deepening of the inquiry process. Outside of the inquiry and skill development strand, students are given many opportunities to reflect on and monitor their learning. As they develop hands-on practical skills related to daily life, as well as relationship skills, communication skills, and critical-thinking skills, students are given opportunities to reflect on their strengths and needs and to monitor their progress. In addition, they are encouraged to advocate for themselves to get the support they

need in order to achieve their goals. In all areas of Canadian and world studies, students are expected to reflect on how they can apply the knowledge and skills they acquire in their courses to their lives, in meaningful, authentic ways – in the classroom, in the family, with peers, and within the various communities to which they belong. This process helps students move beyond the amassing of information to an appreciation of the relevance of Canadian and world studies to their lives.

THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL LIBRARY IN THE CANADIAN AND WORLD STUDIES PROGRAM

The school library program can help build and transform students' knowledge in order to support lifelong learning in our information- and knowledge-based society. The school library program supports student success across the Canadian and world studies curriculum by encouraging students to read widely, teaching them to examine and read many forms of text for understanding and enjoyment, and helping them improve their research skills and effectively use information gathered through research. The school library program enables students to:

- develop a love of reading for learning and for pleasure;
- acquire an understanding of the richness and diversity of texts produced in Canada and around the world;
- obtain access to programs, resources, and integrated technologies that support all curriculum areas;
- understand and value the role of public library systems as a resource for lifelong learning.

The school library program plays a key role in the development of information literacy and research skills. Teacher-librarians, where available, collaborate with classroom or content-area teachers to design, teach, and provide students with authentic information and research tasks that foster learning, including the ability to:

- access, select, gather, process, critically evaluate, create, and communicate information;
- use the information obtained to explore and investigate issues, solve problems, make decisions, build knowledge, create personal meaning, and enrich their lives;
- communicate their findings to different audiences, using a variety of formats and technologies;
- use information and research with understanding, responsibility, and imagination.

In addition, teacher-librarians can work with teachers of Canadian and world studies to help students:
- develop literacy in using non-print forms, such as the Internet, CDs, DVDs, and videos, in order to access information, databases, and demonstrations relevant to Canadian and world studies;
- design questions for Canadian and world studies inquiries;
- create and produce single-medium or multimedia presentations.

Teachers of Canadian and world studies are also encouraged to collaborate with both local librarians and teacher-librarians on collecting digital, print, and visual resources for projects (e.g., biographies and/or autobiographies of people who have contributed to Canada; books with historical and geographic photographs and maps of Canada; culture-specific image collections; and informational videos). Librarians may also be able to assist in accessing a variety of online resources and collections (e.g., professional articles, image galleries, videos). Teachers need to discuss with students the concept of ownership of work and the importance of copyright in all forms of media.

THE ROLE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY IN THE CANADIAN AND WORLD STUDIES PROGRAM

Information and communications technology (ICT) provides a range of tools that can significantly extend and enrich teachers' instructional strategies and support student learning. ICT can help students not only to collect, organize, and sort the data they gather and to write, edit, and present reports on their findings but also to make connections with other schools, at home and abroad, and to bring the global community into the local classroom. The integration of

information and communications technologies into the Canadian and world studies program represents a natural extension of the learning expectations. ICT tools can be used in a number of ways:

• In the inquiry process: ICT programs can help students throughout the inquiry process as they gather, organize, and analyse information, data, and evidence, and as they write, edit, and communicate their findings.
• When developing spatial skills: Students can extract and analyse information using on-line interactive mapping and graphing programs. Such programs can also help students organize and present information in maps and graphs. Students in geography develop their ability to use GIS to layer information when analysing and creating new maps. The "using spatial skills" suggestions that follow some specific expectations in the geography courses provide students with opportunities to use various ICT tools and programs.
• As part of field studies: When engaging in a field study, students can combine a number of ICT tools such as GPS, hand-held personal digital devices, and digital cameras.
• As simulations: Various simulation programs are available that provide hands-on visual engagement to support student learning.

Whenever appropriate, students should be encouraged to use ICT to support and communicate their learning. For example, students working individually or in groups can use computer technology to gain access to the websites of museums, galleries, archives, and heritage sites in Canada and around the world as well as to access digital atlases and other sources of information and data. They can also use cloud/online data storage and portable storage devices to store information, as well as technological devices, software, and online tools to organize and present the results of their investigations to their classmates and others. Although the Internet is a powerful learning tool, there are potential risks attached to its use. All students must be made aware of issues related to Internet privacy, safety, and responsible use, as well as of the potential for abuse of this technology, particularly when it is used to promote hatred. ICT tools are also useful for teachers in their teaching practice, both for whole-class instruction and for the design of curriculum units that contain varied approaches to learning in order to meet diverse student needs. A number of digital resources to support learning are licensed through the ministry; they are listed at https://www.osapac.ca/dlr/.

THE ONTARIO SKILLS PASSPORT: MAKING LEARNING RELEVANT AND BUILDING SKILLS

The Ontario Skills Passport (OSP) is a free, bilingual, web-based resource that provides teachers and students with clear descriptions of the "Essential Skills" and work habits important in work, learning, and life. Teachers planning programs in Canadian and world studies can engage students by using OSP tools and resources to show how what they learn in class can be applied in the workplace and in everyday life. The Essential Skills identified in the OSP are:

• Reading Text
• Writing
• Document Use
• Computer Use
• Oral Communication
• Numeracy: Money Math; Scheduling or Budgeting and Accounting; Measurement and Calculation; Data Analysis; and Numerical Estimation
• Thinking Skills: Job Task Planning and Organization; Decision Making; Problem Solving; and Finding Information

Work habits specified in the OSP are: working safely, teamwork, reliability, organization, working independently, initiative, self-advocacy, customer service, and entrepreneurship. Essential Skills, such as Reading Text, Document Use, and Problem Solving, are used in virtually all occupations and are the foundation for learning other skills, including technical skills. OSP work habits such as organization, reliability, and working independently are reflected in the learning skills and work habits addressed in the provincial report card. Essential Skills and work habits are transferable from school to work, independent living, and further education or training, as well as from job to job and sector to sector. Included in the OSP are videos and databases that focus on everyday tasks and occupation-specific workplace tasks and that teachers can use to connect classroom learning to life outside of school. Teachers can also

consult A Guide to Linking Essential Skills and the Curriculum, 2009, which illustrates how to integrate explicit references to Essential Skills into classroom activities as well as how to give feedback to learners when they demonstrate these skills. For further information on the Ontario Skills Passport, including the Essential Skills and work habits, visit http://skills.edu.gov.on.ca.

EDUCATION AND CAREER/LIFE PLANNING THROUGH THE CANADIAN AND WORLD STUDIES CURRICULUM

The goals of the Kindergarten to Grade 12 education and career/life planning program are to:
• ensure that all students develop the knowledge and skills they need to make informed education and career/life choices;
• provide classroom and school-wide opportunities for this learning; and
• engage parents and the broader community in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the program, to support students in their learning.

The framework of the program is a four-step inquiry process based on four questions linked to four areas of learning: (1) knowing yourself – Who am I?; (2) exploring opportunities – What are my opportunities?; (3) making decisions and setting goals – Who do I want to become?; and, (4) achieving goals and making transitions – What is my plan for achieving my goals?

Classroom teachers support students in education and career/life planning by providing them with learning opportunities, filtered through the lens of the four inquiry questions, that allow them to apply subject-specific knowledge and skills to work-related situations; explore subject-related education and career/life options; and become competent, self-directed planners. The curriculum expectations in Canadian and world studies provide opportunities to relate classroom learning to education and career/life planning that will prepare students for success in school, work, and life.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION AND OTHER FORMS OF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Planned learning experiences in the community, including job shadowing and job twinning, work experience, and cooperative education, provide students with opportunities to see the relevance of their classroom learning in a work setting, make connections between school and work, and explore a career of interest as they plan their pathway through secondary school and on to their postsecondary destination. In addition, through experiential learning, students develop the skills and work habits required in the workplace and acquire a direct understanding of employer and workplace expectations. Experiential learning opportunities associated with various aspects of the Canadian and world studies curriculum help broaden students' knowledge of employment opportunities in a wide range of fields, including parks and recreation; environmental industries such as water management; public institutions such as municipal offices, libraries, museums, and archives; the public service; local not-for-profit organizations; and the tourism industry.

Students may take the course Cooperative Education Linked to a Related Course (or Courses), with a Canadian and world studies course as the related course, to meet the Ontario Secondary School Diploma additional compulsory credit requirements for Groups 1, 2, and 3. Policies and guidelines regarding cooperative education in Ontario schools, including workplace opportunities such as job twinning, job shadowing, and work experience, are outlined in the 2018 cooperative education curriculum policy document, available on the ministry website, at www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/secondary/subjects.html.

For guidelines to ensure the provision of Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) coverage for students fourteen years of age or older participating in work education programs (also known as experiential learning programs) in which they are considered workers but are not earning wages, see Policy/Program Memorandum No. 76A, "Workplace Safety and Insurance Coverage for Students in Work Education Programs". Teachers should also make sure that students in

work education or experiential learning programs meet the minimum age requirements set out in the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA).

PLANNING PROGRAM PATHWAYS AND PROGRAMS LEADING TO A SPECIALIST HIGH SKILLS MAJOR

Canadian and world studies courses are well suited for inclusion in Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSMs) or in programs designed to provide pathways to particular apprenticeship, college, university, or workplace destinations, In some SHSM programs, courses in this curriculum can be bundled with other courses to provide the academic knowledge and skills important to particular economic sectors and required for success in the workplace and postsecondary education, including apprenticeship training. Canadian and world studies courses can also serve as the in-school link with cooperative education credits that provide the workplace experience required not only for some SHSM programs but also for various program pathways to postsecondary education, apprenticeship training, and workplace destinations.

HEALTH AND SAFETY IN THE CANADIAN AND WORLD STUDIES PROGRAM

As part of every course, students must be made aware that health and safety are everyone's responsibility – at home, at school, and in the workplace. Teachers must model safe practices at all times and communicate safety requirements to students in accordance with school board and Ministry of Education policies and Ministry of Labour regulations. Health and safety issues not usually associated with Canadian and world studies education may be important when the learning involves field trips and field studies. Out-of-school field trips can provide an exciting and authentic dimension to students' learning experiences, but they also take the teacher and students out of the predictable classroom environment and into unfamiliar settings. Teachers must preview and plan these activities carefully to protect students' health and safety.

ETHICS IN THE CANADIAN AND WORLD STUDIES PROGRAM

The Canadian and world studies curriculum provides varied opportunities for students to learn about ethical issues and to explore the role of ethics in both public and personal decision making. During the inquiry process, students may need to make ethical judgements when evaluating evidence and positions on various issues, and when drawing their own conclusions about issues, developments, and events. Teachers may need to help students in determining appropriate factors to consider when making such judgements. In addition, it is crucial that teachers provide support and supervision to students throughout the inquiry process, ensuring that students engaged in an inquiry are aware of potential ethical concerns and address them in acceptable ways. If students are conducting surveys and/or interviews, teachers must supervise their activities to ensure that they respect the dignity, privacy, and confidentiality of their participants. Teachers should ensure that they thoroughly address the issue of plagiarism with students. In a digital world in which we have easy access to abundant information, it is very easy to copy the words of others and present them as one's own. Students need to be reminded, even at the secondary level, of the ethical issues surrounding plagiarism, and the consequences of plagiarism should be clearly discussed before students engage in an inquiry. It is important to discuss not only the more "blatant" forms of plagiarism, but also more nuanced instances that can occur. Students often struggle to find a balance between writing in their own voice and acknowledging the work of others in the field. Merely telling students not to plagiarize, and admonishing those who do, is not enough. The skill of writing in one's own voice, while appropriately acknowledging the work of others, must be explicitly taught to all students in Canadian and world studies classes. Using accepted forms of documentation to acknowledge sources is a specific expectation within the inquiry and skill development strand for each course in the Canadian and world studies curriculum.

APPENDIX 1 – ACHIEVEMENT CHART

THE ACHIEVEMENT CHART: CANADIAN AND WORLD STUDIES, GRADES 9–12

Categories	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Knowledge and Understanding – Subject-specific content acquired in each grade (knowledge), and the comprehension of its meaning and significance (understanding)				
	The student:			
Knowledge of content *(e.g., facts, terms, definitions)*	demonstrates limited knowledge of content	demonstrates some knowledge of content	demonstrates considerable knowledge of content	demonstrates thorough knowledge of content
Understanding of content *(e.g., concepts, ideas, theories, interrelationships, procedures, processes, methodologies, spatial technologies)*	demonstrates limited understanding of content	demonstrates some understanding of content	demonstrates considerable understanding of content	demonstrates thorough understanding of content
Thinking – The use of critical and creative thinking skills and/or processes				
	The student:			
Use of planning skills *(e.g., organizing an inquiry; formulating questions; gathering and organizing data, evidence, and information; setting goals; focusing research)*	uses planning skills with limited effectiveness	uses planning skills with some effectiveness	uses planning skills with considerable effectiveness	uses planning skills with a high degree of effectiveness
Use of processing skills *(e.g., interpreting, analysing, synthesizing, and evaluating data, evidence, and information; analysing maps; detecting point of view and bias; formulating conclusions)*	uses processing skills with limited effectiveness	uses processing skills with some effectiveness	uses processing skills with considerable effectiveness	uses processing skills with a high degree of effectiveness
Use of critical/creative thinking processes *(e.g., applying concepts of disciplinary thinking; using inquiry, problem-solving, and decision-making processes)*	uses critical/ creative thinking processes with limited effectiveness	uses critical/ creative thinking processes with some effectiveness	uses critical/ creative thinking processes with considerable effectiveness	uses critical/ creative thinking processes with a high degree of effectiveness
Communication – The conveying of meaning through various forms				
	The student:			
Expression and organization of ideas and information *(e.g., clear expression, logical organization)* **in oral, visual, and written forms**	expresses and organizes ideas and information with limited effectiveness	expresses and organizes ideas and information with some effectiveness	expresses and organizes ideas and information with considerable effectiveness	expresses and organizes ideas and information with a high degree of effectiveness

Categories	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Communication – *(continued)*				
	The student:			
Communication for different audiences *(e.g., peers, adults)* **and purposes** *(e.g., to inform, to persuade)* **in oral, visual, and written forms**	communicates for different audiences and purposes with limited effectiveness	communicates for different audiences and purposes with some effectiveness	communicates for different audiences and purposes with considerable effectiveness	communicates for different audiences and purposes with a high degree of effectiveness
Use of conventions *(e.g., mapping and graphing conventions, communication conventions),* **vocabulary, and terminology of the discipline in oral, visual, and written forms**	uses conventions, vocabulary, and terminology of the discipline with limited effectiveness	uses conventions, vocabulary, and terminology of the discipline with some effectiveness	uses conventions, vocabulary, and terminology of the discipline with considerable effectiveness	uses conventions, vocabulary, and terminology of the discipline with a high degree of effectiveness
Application – The use of knowledge and skills to make connections within and between various contexts				
	The student:			
Application of knowledge and skills *(e.g., concepts, procedures, spatial skills, processes, technologies)* **in familiar contexts**	applies knowledge and skills in familiar contexts with limited effectiveness	applies knowledge and skills in familiar contexts with some effectiveness	applies knowledge and skills in familiar contexts with considerable effectiveness	applies knowledge and skills in familiar contexts with a high degree of effectiveness
Transfer of knowledge and skills *(e.g., concepts of thinking, procedures, spatial skills, methodologies, technologies)* **to new contexts**	transfers knowledge and skills to new contexts with limited effectiveness	transfers knowledge and skills to new contexts with some effectiveness	transfers knowledge and skills to new contexts with considerable effectiveness	transfers knowledge and skills to new contexts with a high degree of effectiveness
Making connections within and between various contexts *(e.g., between topics/issues being studied and everyday life; between disciplines; between past, present, and future contexts; in different spatial, cultural, or environmental contexts; in proposing and/or taking action to address related issues; in making predictions)*	makes connections within and between various contexts with limited effectiveness	makes connections within and between various contexts with some effectiveness	makes connections within and between various contexts with considerable effectiveness	makes connections within and between various contexts with a high degree of effectiveness

APPENDIX 2 – LEARNING SKILLS & WORK HABITS

LEARNING SKILLS AND WORK HABITS IN GRADES 1 TO 12

Learning Skills and Work Habits	Sample Behaviours
Responsibility	The student: • fulfils responsibilities and commitments within the learning environment; • completes and submits class work, homework, and assignments according to agreed-upon timelines; • takes responsibility for and manages own behaviour.
Organization	The student: • devises and follows a plan and process for completing work and tasks; • establishes priorities and manages time to complete tasks and achieve goals; • identifies, gathers, evaluates, and uses information, technology, and resources to complete tasks.
Independent Work	The student: • independently monitors, assesses, and revises plans to complete tasks and meet goals; • uses class time appropriately to complete tasks; • follows instructions with minimal supervision.
Collaboration	The student: • accepts various roles and an equitable share of work in a group; • responds positively to the ideas, opinions, values, and traditions of others; • builds healthy peer-to-peer relationships through personal and media-assisted interactions; • works with others to resolve conflicts and build consensus to achieve group goals; • shares information, resources, and expertise and promotes critical thinking to solve problems and make decisions.
Initiative	The student: • looks for and acts on new ideas and opportunities for learning; • demonstrates the capacity for innovation and a willingness to take risks; • demonstrates curiosity and interest in learning; • approaches new tasks with a positive attitude; • recognizes and advocates appropriately for the rights of self and others.
Self-regulation	The student: • sets own individual goals and monitors progress towards achieving them; • seeks clarification or assistance when needed; • assesses and reflects critically on own strengths, needs, and interests; • identifies learning opportunities, choices, and strategies to meet personal needs and achieve goals; • perseveres and makes an effort when responding to challenges.

APPENDIX 3 – RESOURCE LIST

Developed from *The Ontario Curriculum Grade 9 and 10 Canadian and World Studies (revised)*, published 2018

Making Connections: Canada's Geography – Third Edition
Pearson Education Canada, 2015

Various On-line sources.