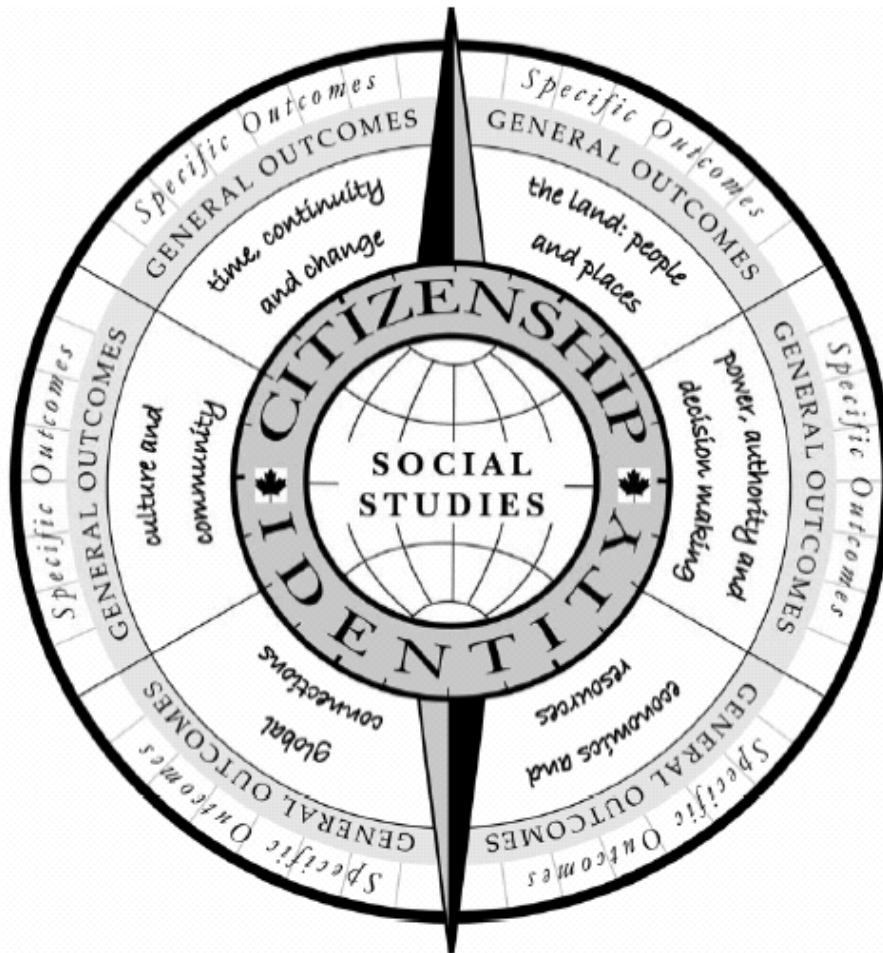


Literature Connections to The New Social Studies Curriculum Geographical Thinking

...a sampling of quality literature and associated outcomes



Calgary Board of Education



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Alberta Initiative For School Improvement

Resource Connections to
The New Social Studies Curriculum
K-3

Rationale

Alberta Education has identified basic resources for use with each grade level in the new Social Studies Program of Studies. They continue to encourage teachers to integrate literature and supplementary resources to create a rich, deep and engaging curriculum.

The purpose of this document is threefold:

- ❖ To provide a number of exemplary literature and multi-media resources that best support the Social Studies outcomes.
- ❖ To assist the school staff in making informed decisions regarding literature resources connected to the new Social Studies outcomes.
- ❖ To guide and build capacity for educators to identify quality literature through the lens of social studies.

We have attempted to include resources that already reside in many school libraries as well as some of the newest titles available. It is not intended to be a comprehensive list but rather a listing of some of the types of books that best meet our CBE criteria.

The criteria used in selecting the materials included:

- 1) *Evaluation and Selection Criteria for Learning Resources*", Calgary Board of Education, March 1998
- 2) Social Studies Skills and Outcomes congruency , *Social Studies K-12, Program of Studies Validation Draft*, September 2003, Alberta Learning.
- 3) Aboriginal consultation and verification, Curriculum Support Services, CBE
- 4) Francophone consultation and verification, Curriculum Support Services, CBE

The following people contributed to the writing of this document:

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Thanks to all of the Calgary Board of Education teacher-librarians and teachers who have provided their time and ongoing guidance and support in the reviewing of these resources.

Dimensions of Thinking—Historical and Geographic Thinking

In social studies, students acquire and develop thinking strategies that assist them in making connections to prior knowledge, in assimilating new information and in applying learning to new contexts. (p.8 Social Studies Program of Studies)

As part of this literature listing, the authors have identified a short list of resources to support historical and geographical thinking. Because the skills and processes in these areas apply across the grades, the authors felt the books could be used from K-6. Watch for this section to grow as new titles are evaluated and added. Teachers can select the literature that best supports historical and geographic thinking for their students and indeed add many more that they see fit.

Keywords: Dimensions

- Geographic Thinking : Regions, Landscapes, Environment, Maps and Mapping, Symbols and Landmarks
- Historical Thinking : Time Continuity
- Canadian Symbols and Identity
- Francophone

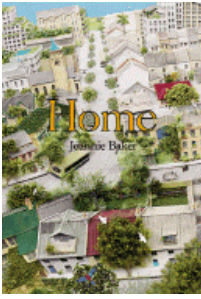
List of Reviewers:

- AISI Alberta Initiative for School Improvement
- BL Booklist
- CM Canadian Review of Materials
- KR Kirkus Reviews
- NYTBR New York Times Book Reviews
- PW Publisher's Weekly
- Q:Q Quill and Quire
- SLJ School Library Journal
- SSS School Support Services



Canadian Author

Geographical Thinking

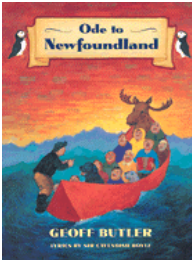


**Baker, Jeannie. (2004) *Home*. New York: Greenwillow Books. \$23.99
ISBN 0066239354**

This is a wordless picture book with beautiful, detailed, collage illustrations that tell the story of baby Tracy and her neighborhood. The story is told on double page spreads in which we look through a window and see what is happening in Tracy's neighborhood. At first the view is very unpleasant with garbage and graffiti spoiling the surroundings. As Tracy grows up we see that the people in the community are making changes for the better. Plants and trees are growing and the birds are returning. By the time Tracy has her own family her neighborhood is a beautiful place. This is a marvelous book with

illustrations that you can look at over and over again and discover something new each time. Perfect for discussions about neighborhood, caring for the environment. Previewed by Hawkwood Elementary.

Skills and Processes: Geographical Thinking

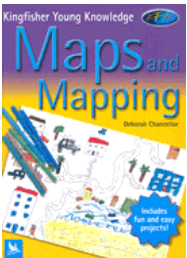


**Butler, Geoff. (2003) *Ode to Newfoundland*. Toronto: Tundra Books. 
\$19.99
ISBN 0887766315**

In this new book, Newfoundland-born Geoff Butler has taken the anthem "Ode to Newfoundland", and provided bright, joyous paintings to illustrate the unique and wonderful place that it is. Using various text, e.g., words, pictures and music, he has provided readers with intriguing facts and delightful insights into the magic of The Rock. He provides additional information and the musical score at the end of the book which provides the reader with a greater depth of

understanding and enjoyment of this wonderful picture book. Fine Arts, Multiple Literacies. **Highly recommended.** Elementary and Primary CORE Collections. Previewed by (SSS) Evaluation/Selection.

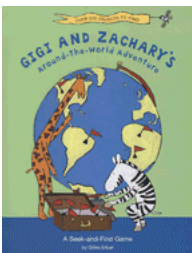
Skills and Processes: Geographic Thinking : Regions (East Coast/Maritimes), Landscape, Symbols



**Chancellor, Deborah. (2004) *Maps and Mapping*. Boston: Kingfisher.
\$12.95
ISBN 0753457598**

This is an informational text that allows primary students to explore the world of maps and map making. This resource includes strong non-fiction text features: table of contents, titles, captions, photos, illustrations, diagrams, well organized and easy to read text as well as a few student crafts/ activities. Contents include: What are maps? Why we need maps, mapping the street, understanding scale, town maps, country maps, mapping the world, Making maps, drawing maps, old maps, making maps today, using symbols, map projections, different types of maps, mapping underwater, mapping the stars. Previewed by Curriculum Support.

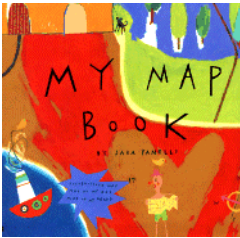
Skills and Outcomes: Geographic Thinking : Maps and Mapping



**Eduar, Gilles. (2003) *Gigi and Zachary's around-the-world adventure*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books. \$25.95
ISBN 0811839095**

In this oversized picture book, Gigi, the giraffe, and Zachary, the zebra, travel to 19 different sites around the world. Each place is presented on a 2-page spread. At the bottom of the spread is a list of 25 – 40 objects to find in the picture. The illustrations are bold and colorful and locating the objects ranges from a relatively easy task to much more challenging. Useful for raising awareness of different locations in the world. Previewed by Hawkwood Elementary

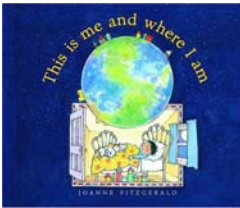
Skills and Processes: Geographic Thinking :Landscapes, Symbols and Landmarks.



Fanelli, Sara. (1995) *My map book* New York: HarperCollins Publishers. \$23.99 ISBN 0060264551

This colourful picture book presents maps through childlike drawings. The representations are primarily drawings with labels and not “geographic” maps. An example is Map of my Dog which is a drawing of a dog that has been labeled. This book could be used as a motivator when introducing maps and students could help to identify why these child-like drawings are fun but are not true maps. Fun to read and share, these illustrations could connect to many creative and imaginative language arts based activities. Previewed by Curriculum Support.

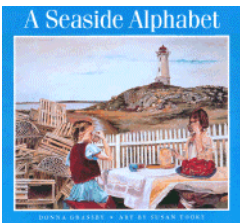
Skills and Processes: Geographic Thinking : Maps (simple) and Mapping



Fitzgerald, Joanne. (2004) *This is me and where I am.* Markham, Ontario: Fitzhenry & Whiteside. \$19.95 ISBN 155041819X

In the world there is a country. In the country there is a city....” So begins this delightful, smaller-sized picture book about our place on Earth. The story starts with the world and narrows down to the street, the house, the bedroom, the blanket on the bed and then outwards again. Very young children will be able to “read” along with the predictable text and will enjoy looking at the charming illustrations for details such as a cat hiding in a window, the neighborhood ice cream store, a newspaper on a porch. A wonderful introduction to the concept of community.

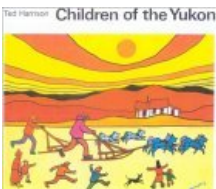
Skills and Processes: Geographic Thinking: Maps and Mapping



Grassby, Donna. (2000) *A seaside alphabet.* Toronto: Tundra Books. \$19.99 ISBN 0887765165

Beautifully illustrated alphabet book of the Atlantic coast with alliterative sentences for each letter – eg. “Colorful Cape Islanders come back to coastal coves with their catch.” Though it does refer to places along the coast in the United States, most of the content is Canadian. Rich and realistic paintings. At the end is a list of further alphabet words to be found and an annotation about each painting that provides additional information. Useful as a model for students to create their own geographic alphabet books. Previewed by Hillhurst Elementary.

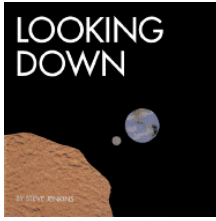
Skills and Processes: Geographic Thinking : Regions (East Coast/Maritimes), Landscapes, Symbols and Landmarks



Harrison, Ted. (1977) *Children of the Yukon.* Montreal: Tundra Books. \$9.99 ISBN 0887761631

Stunning collection of Ted Harrison paintings as he viewed the Yukon landscape and its people on his arrival there in 1968. He wanted to paint the “Not how the Yukon is the same, but how it differs (from other North American places).” Text reflects the fascination he had with the activities of all northern people including traditions from First Nations. Fine Arts. Geographic Thinking. Previewed by Hillhurst Elementary

Skills and Processes: Geographic Thinking : Regions (Arctic) , Landscapes, Symbols and Landmarks

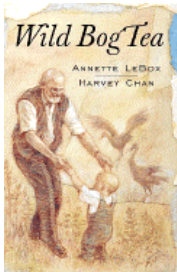


Jenkins, Steve. (1995) *Looking down*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. \$8.95 ISBN 0618310983

An excellent resource to support geographic thinking at all grade levels, this wordless picture book gives students a bird's eye view starting with a small planet in a black universe and ending with the minute details of a backyard. The cut-paper illustrations provide students the opportunity to visually discriminate between physical and man-made features, and rural and urban

land use patterns. The format is exciting and would invite much opportunity for instruction and exploration of maps, perspectives and geographic terms. Students will want to create their own cut-paper illustrations after using this book. Previewed by Curriculum Support.

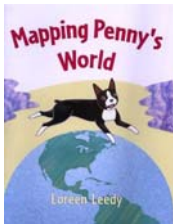
Skills and Processes Geographic Thinking : Maps (Birds Eye View) and Mapping



LeBox, Annette (2001). *Wild bog tea*. Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre. \$18.95 ISBN 0888994060

The narrator of the story looks back on times that he shared with his grandfather in a wild Canadian bog. He recalls how he and his grandfather got to know the many animals and plants of the bog and how they made bog tea from sprigs of Labrador that they picked. This is an interesting look at a unique Canadian habitat. Very good curriculum fit with Gr. 5 science – wetlands. A read aloud for younger children. Previewed by Hawkwood Elementary.

Skills and Processes: Geographical Thinking



Leedy, Loreen. (2000) *Mapping Penny's world*. New York: Henry Holt. \$25.50 ISBN 0805061789

Mapping Penny's World is a wonderful picture book supporting geographic thinking skills for K-3 students. This fictional account is rich with geographic information. The main character Lisa shares detailed drawings/maps of her school, bedroom, her dog Penny's world and a map of a park. The text provides information about symbols, directions and scale. The illustrations and content will appeal to students and teachers exploring the world of maps. This can be used

to introduce basic mapping skills or to illustrate and reinforce more advanced mapping concepts. Previewed by Curriculum Support.

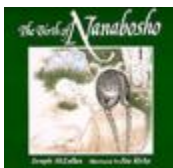
Skills and Processes: Geographic Thinking: Maps and Mapping (simple)



Locker, Thomas. (2000) *Cloud dance*. San Diego: Silver Whistle/Harcourt. \$21.95 ISBN 0152012842

Poetic language describes images of clouds in various forms and times. Each page of prose is a brief, three line poem. Beautiful oil paintings accompany the text. Factual information about clouds is included at the end of the book. This is valuable for integrating Science, Fine Arts and Language Arts. Grade 5 Science - Weather. Highly recommended. Primary and Elementary CORE Collections. Previewed at Sunnyside Elementary.

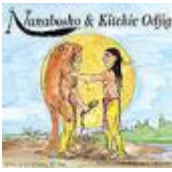
Skills and Processes: Geographic Thinking : Environment



McLelland, Joseph. (1989) *The birth of nanabosho*. Winnipeg: Pemmican Publications Ltd. \$12.25 ISBN 0921827008

A grandfather tells two children the story of the birth of Nanabosho, the great trickster & protector of the Ojibway people. Modest pencil ill. are full of understated info. about Indian life in the northern woods - working with birch bark etc. Globe and Mail August 12'89; Children's Book News FALL 89.

Skills and Processes: Geographic Thinking

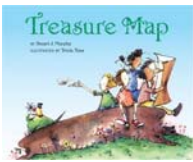


McLelland, Joe & Matrine McLelland . (1997) *Nanabosho & Kitchie Odjig*. Winnipeg: Pemmican Publications Ltd. \$12.25 ISBN 92182758X

The legendary Cree figure, Nanobosho, searches for food in the forest. He sees the god Manitou bringing the shores of a lake together and he wants to have the same power. His wish is granted and he brings the shores of the lake together.

Then he wants to split the shores apart. He gets into trouble doing what he is told not to do. The lesson is to do what one is told to do by the Elders. This story is a traditional Cree story told in simple language. Lovely charcoal drawings extend the text. Previewed by AISI Curriculum Support.

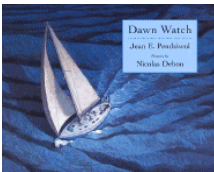
Skills and Processes: Geographic Thinking, Aboriginal



Murphy, Stuart J. (2004) *Treasure Map*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers. \$23.99 ISBN 0060280360

In the picture book *Treasure Map* a group of children find a map and work cooperatively using the different mapping tools to locate the treasure. This book introduces and reinforces the purpose for maps, symbols, direction, distance and scale in a fun and fictitious format. K-3 students will enjoy the illustrations and the story as part of a social studies lesson or for their own reading pleasure. Previewed by Curriculum Support.

Skills and Processes: Geographic Thinking

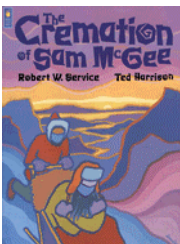


Pendziwol, Jean. (2004) *Dawn watch*. Toronto : Groundwood Books. \$15.95 ISBN 0888995121

A little girl and her father cross Lake Superior at night in a sailboat. When she takes the dawn watch it is her job to look for ships, logs, land, and lights. Her father goes below to sleep and she is all alone on the great inland sea.

Green iridescent Northern Lights shine about her and then she sees "...one green eye from a sea serpent..." and realizes that it is the light of a huge freighter. She quickly sounds the alarm so her father can avert a collision and proves herself a worthy first mate. Stunning watercolours evoke the mood and expanse of the huge lake in darkness. Health-Life Learning Choices. Previewed by Hillhurst Elementary.

Skills and Processes: Geographic Thinking : Regions (Great Lakes, Ontario)



Service, Robert W. (1986) *Cremation Of Sam McGee*. Toronto: Kids Can Press. \$18.95 ISBN 0919964923

Introduced by Pierre Berton, this familiar fantasy poem is recreated here in a powerfully-illustrated volume in semi-abstract style, painted in waves of colour - purples, reds, yellows, oranges and blues that suggest the vibrancy and cold of northern life. Previewed by Western Canada High.

Outcomes: Geographic Thinking : Regions (Arctic), Landscape

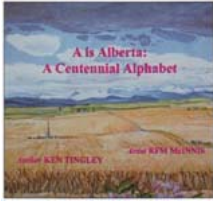


Smith, David J. (2002) *If the world were a village : a book about the world's people*. Toronto: Kids Can Press. \$17.95 ISBN 1550747797

If the world were a village of 100 people, 22 people would speak Chinese, 20 would earn less than a dollar a day, 17 could not read or write, 60 would always be hungry, 24 would have a television in their homes. This is a fascinating book that puts into perspective the lives of the 6 billion people on our planet. The information is presented on double page spreads with colorful acrylic

illustrations depicting multicultural scenes. This will be fascinating to children and could be very useful for introducing a global perspective. Highly recommended. Primary and Elementary CORE Collections. Previewed by Hawkwood Elementary.

Skills and Processes: Geographic Thinking

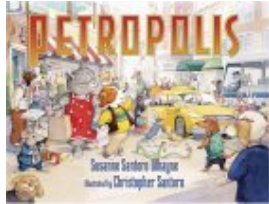


Tingley, Ken. (2005) *A is Alberta : a centennial alphabet.* Regina : Simple Truth Publications Inc. \$24.95 ISBN 0973350024

“It is my hope that this book will create a sense of place for its readers...”

With beautiful oil on linen paintings, this book will be a valuable addition to school libraries featuring text about places all over Alberta. With each location, Tingley provides information about the origin of the place name, its history, stories about it, or recent happenings. From Mount Zengel, to Jasper, to Head Smashed In, to Calgary and Onefour, this could be used as a model for students to write their own alphabets, or as a research source. Previewed by Hillhurst Elementary.

Skills and Processes: Geographic Thinking : Regions, Landscapes



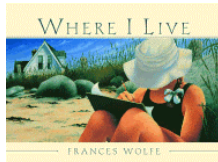
Whyne, Susanne Santoro. (2004) *Petropolis.* New York : Handprint Books. \$23.95 ISBN 1593540019

Max the dog sets off on an adventure in the big city. K-1 students will enjoy this story about the dog that gets lost. As a class project students could map the adventure on a chart and help Max to get home again.

Told as a story in rhyme, this provides an excellent opportunity to discuss the many signs and labels, landmarks and strategies people

might use if they did get lost. This helps to introduce and reinforce very early geographic thinking skills. Previewed by Curriculum Support Services.

Skills and Processes: Geographic Thinking : Journey Story, Symbols and Landmarks



Wolfe, Frances. (2001) *Where I live.* Toronto : Tundra Books. \$17.99 ISBN 0887765297

A young girl reflects on the images of things that surround her seaside home. Compound sentences are used throughout the book with lovely realistic oil paintings on double-page spreads. The first letter of each compound sentence is highlighted and leads to the spelling of SEASIDE by the end of

the book. The text is brief but the pictures are inviting. The trick of spelling out SEASIDE and the exclusive use of compound sentences could make this into a Language Arts lesson in addition to the contribution in the Science curriculum topic Grade 2 - Oceans. Grade 2 Social Studies - Communities / Early Literacy / Creative Arts program / Patterning /Poetry. Primary and Elementary CORE Collections. Previewed at Falconridge Elementary & by (SSS) Evaluation/Selection.

Skills and Processes: Geographic Thinking : Regions, Landscapes