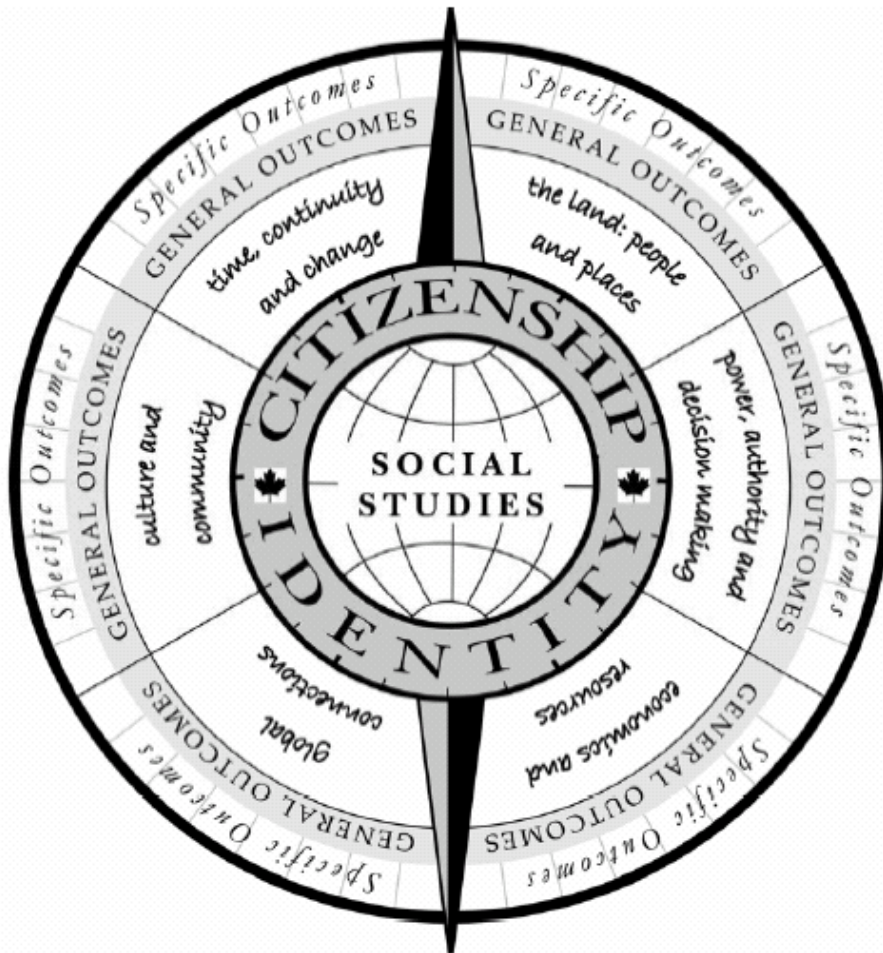


Literature Connections to The New Social Studies Curriculum Historical Thinking

...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

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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

Historical 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: Historical Thinking



**Baker, Jeannie. (1991). *Window*. New York: Greenwillow Books. \$25.89
ISBN 0688089186**

The creator of "Where the Forest Meets the Sea" offers another warning about the environment in this wordless picture book. "The effect human beings have on the landscape is the theme ..." Each distinctive double page collage features the window of Sam's room showing how the landscape is being destroyed as Sam grows up. The animals and the forest are replaced by houses and neighbourhoods, factories are built, etc. The author notes that in the year 2020

"no wilderness will remain on our planet, outside that protected in national parks and reserves". PW AP 5'91.

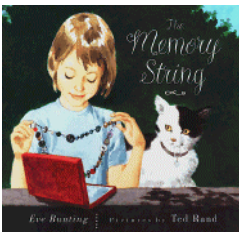
Skills and Processes: Historical Thinking



**Bosak, Susan V. (1997) *Something to remember me by*. Toronto: Communication Project. \$19.95
ISBN 1896232019**

This book is a product of the Communication Project - a research and education group. It deals with the relationship and love between a granddaughter and her grandmother as the girl grows into adulthood. Great artwork accompanies a simple but powerful story about intergenerational relationships, life changes, and the legacies one generation provides for the next. Highly recommended. Previewed by W.O. Mitchell Elementary.

Skills and Processes: Historical Thinking

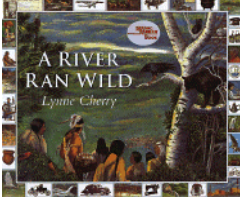


**Bunting, Eve. (2000) *The memory string*. New York: Clarion Books. \$23.95
ISBN 0395861462**

A very touching story about a young girl's cherished family artifact – a string of buttons that represents family members and events past and present. Laura has an estranged relationship with her new stepmother (her mother has died) and when she loses a button from her string, she is distraught. During a late-night search, her stepmother finds the missing button and Laura overhears her commenting that she will just leave the

button on the porch "like a gift from a good fairy". Laura begins to realize that it is time to reconcile with her stepmother, and the ending is an optimistic one. Excellent story to use when modeling family stories and use of family artifacts. Belonging and connecting. Previewed by Hillhurst Elementary.

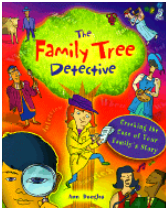
Skills and Processes: Historical Thinking (family treasures)



Cherry, Lynne. (1992) *A river ran wild : an environmental history*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. \$21.95 ISBN 0152005420

Environmental history of Mass. and New Hampshire's Nashua River, from its discovery by Native Peoples, through settlement and the polluting years of the Industrial Revolution, to the ambitious clean-up that revitalized it in recent years. Provides much information including descriptions of North American Natives, settlers and settlements, pollution from mills, animal life, etc. Carefully avoids assigning blame and strives to be positive about each stage in the river's development. Even while polluted, the river never appears menacing - just ill. Richly illustrated with text framed by labelled, colour drawings illustrating artifacts from the various eras. Opposite each page of text is a full-page painting of the river as it changes through the years. Includes a note by the author about the river and endpapers are maps of the colonies in the 1500s and the 1900s. Highly recommended. Previewed by Mount View Elementary.

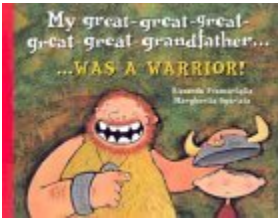
Skills and Processes: Historical Thinking



Douglas, Ann. (1999) *The family tree detective*. Toronto, Ontario: Owl Books. \$9.95 ISBN 1895688892

How-to-guide on tracing your family genealogy. Provides tips and suggestions for interviewing relatives and friends, searching for and storing information, and exploring family names. Highlighted boxes give additional information around topics like family genes or present experiments to try (like creating a time capsule). Colourful cartoon illustrations. Good resource on a topic that may not be covered in a school library. Historical Thinking. Previewed by Hillhurst Elementary.

Skills and Processes: Historical Thinking

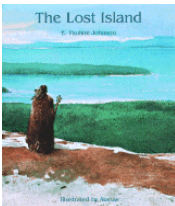


Francaviglia, Riccardo and Sgarlata, Margherita. (2003) *My great-great-great-great-great-grandfather...was a warrior*. Montreal, Quebec : Lobster Press. \$21.95 ISBN 1894222814

When Mark sees a huge warrior in his mirror one morning, he is very surprised to learn that the image is an ancestor. He is even more surprised to discover that they aren't as different as he thinks in the beginning. A great introduction to the notion of family heritage.

Children will enjoy the cartoon-like illustrations. Previewed by Somerset Elementary.

Skills and Processes: Historical Thinking




Johnson, E. Pauline. (2004) *Lost Island*. Vancouver: Simply Read Books. \$22.95 ISBN 1894965078

In a conversation with a young boy, an old man reflects wistfully on the loss of land, religion, dress, language, tradition and story that his people have suffered because of the coming of the 'Pale-faces'. He tells the story of a great medicine man, Sagalie Tye who had a dream vision of what was to become of their land with the creation of the city of Vancouver. Following his vision, he canoed up the North Arm and his strength, courage and fearlessness left him and lodged on a misty island. The grandfather still wishes to seek the mysterious island and regain from it, all the power the First Nations had before the white man came. A haunting Canadian legend first published in 1911. Beautiful watercolour illustrations match the mood perfectly. Previewed by Hillhurst Elementary.

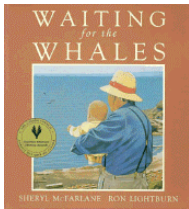
Skills and Processes: Historical Thinking (change over time_



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.

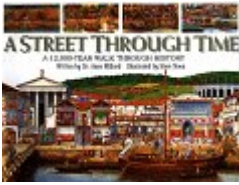
Skills and Processes: Historical Thinking (change over time)



McFarlane, Sheryl. (1991) *Waiting for whales*. Victoria: Orca Book Publishers. \$8.95  ISBN 0920501966

An elderly man who lives on the West Coast watches the migrating orca whales swim in the strait in front of his cottage each year. When his daughter and grandchild come to live with him, he passes the tradition of whale watching to them. The grandfather eventually dies. Beautiful, realistic air-brushed illustrations "... capture the poignancy and the timelessness inherent in the text's message." Winner of the 1992 Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Medal; 1992 Elizabeth Mrazik-Cleaver Canadian Picture Book Award; 1992 Governor General's Literary Award for Children's Literature (Illustrations - English Text). CM JA 92; BC F 92.

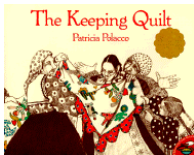
Skills and Processes: Historical Thinking (change over time)



Millard, Dr. Anne. (1998) *A street through time: A 12,000-Year Walk Through History*. New York: Dorling Kindersley \$27.99 ISBN 0789434261

This is one in a series of fascinating books showing how a location has changed through time (like A City through Time and The Story of the Nile). Every double page is packed with colourful cutaways, cross-sections and close-ups. This one looks at a street from its beginnings as a location for Stone Age hunters, first farmers, iron age workers, Romans, Vikings, Medieval townspeople and others up to a modern city street. Text that runs around the outside of the spread provides information and questions that will have readers looking for details in the complex pictures. Time-traveling quiz and glossary at the end. Historical thinking. Time, continuity and change. Previewed by Hillhurst Elementary.

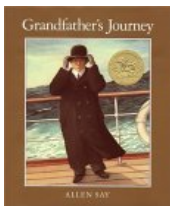
Outcomes: Historical Thinking (change over time)



Polacco, Patricia. (1988) *The keeping quilt*. New York: Aladdin Paperbacks. \$10.99 ISBN 0689844476

A family story about a quilt made from an immigrant Jewish family's clothing from their Russian homeland "adds a few squares to the original story with expanded text and art," noted PW '01.

Skills and Processes: Historical Thinking (family treasures)



Say, Allen. (1993) *Grandfather's journey*. Boston : Houghton Mifflin. \$27.95 ISBN 0395570352

This is a companion book to "Tree of Cranes" published in 1991 which chronicles the lives of three generations of a Japanese American family. The narrator experiences the feelings of being torn by a love for two different countries as his grandfather did before him. "The brief text is simple and unaffected, but the emotions expressed are deeply complex. The paintings are astonishingly still, like the captured moments found in a family photo album. Each translucent watercolor is suffused with light ... not easily accessible, but ... a work of haunting beauty and personal reconciliation." Winner of the 1994 Caldecott Medal and the 1994 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award (Picture Book). SLJ S 93(*)

Skills and Processes: Historical Thinking



Taylor, Joanne. (2004) *Making room*. Toronto: Tundra Books.  \$22.99 ISBN 088776651X

John William Smith clears some land in a broad valley to build his home. Upon completion of it he decides he needs a wife. In turn she decides they need... a pantry and when it is completed, a cradle, some extra bedrooms, another house added on for the extended family, a parlour, and so on until they need to retire. Their family builds them a cozy cottage near the orchard and tenderly care for them in their old age. Rich, full page oil paintings evoke a sense of the rural landscape of Nova Scotia in the 1800's. Excellent family story that also reflects people and their environment through time. Enjoyable read aloud with repeated refrain. Previewed by Hillhurst Elementary.

Skills and Processes: Historical Thinking (Nova Scotia—1800-), Fiction



Thornhill, Jan. (1997) *Before & After: a book of nature timescapes*.  Washington DC: National Geographic Society. \$16.00 ISBN 0792270932

A combination puzzle, art, and information book. Two-page spreads with vibrant coloured pictures show a variety of environments including a coral reef, savannah, forest edge, wetland, meadow, rain forest, and school yard, before and after. Borders identify wildlife found in each painting. The illustrations are fun to look at, noting differences between two pictures. Some discrepancies in time, e.g., "After a year" - shows garden ready to be planted and then ready to be harvested. "Nature Notes" at the end of the book indicate what is happening in each environment. Previewed by (SSPS) Evaluation/Selection.

Skills and Processes: Historical Thinking : time continuity