

# What is the purpose of Social Studies?

Arrange these values in a way that reflects how your classroom practice answers this question.



## **HISTORICAL LITERACY**

Becoming knowledgeable about the themes, events, facts, and phenomenon that have shaped our society. Familiarity with key historical narratives and timelines and an appreciation for how the past informs the present.

## **MAKE / DO / INQUIRE**

Practicing and building skills such as research techniques, map reading and making maps, charts, graphs, reading for understanding, writing for an audience, debating, constructing models, experimenting with role-play/simulations, completing an inquiry or project-based cycle, etc.

## **PLACE-BASED**

Authentic learning draw powerful benefits from deep connections to place. Whether this means a human or natural environment, a context for learning (e.g. local history/geography), a landscape, community, homeland or traditional territory, place is intertwined with all aspects of personal and cultural identity.

## **ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP**

Creating informed, engaged, and critical citizens who are literate about global issues, can defend opinions about current events and take stances on social justice and environmental issues, and are willing to work towards change.

## **CRITICAL THINKING**

Developing capacity to interpret, apply logic & thinking concepts, wrestle through problems, and express oneself when faced with a variety of challenging historical or geographic evidence. A “thinking classroom” where cognitive skills are front and centre.

## **IDENTITY WORK**

Setting up students to explore self in regards to society, the world, and the Other. Establishing empathy, interconnectedness, and ability to tell one’s own story and hear the stories of others. Social Studies is interdisciplinary.

## **RECONCILIATION**

Inspired by the urgent need to achieve indigenous reconciliation, students are challenged to understand and respond to indigenous perspectives, legacies, and avenues for positive change. Coming to grips with First Peoples’ experience of Canada is essential to any future vision of “being Canadian.”