

Literature to Support Elementary Social Studies Grade 2

Selected Bibliography

NB: Older titles that you may find in your library have been included, and newer titles are provided as a guide for purchasing of new resources. Book types include references, non-fiction, picture books, novels, poetry, alphabet books, folklore and biography. Emphasis has been placed on Canadian titles. (O/P = out of print)

Title	Book Type	Some Suggested Activities	Curriculum Outcome
General References			
<p>Online Reference Centre, from Alberta Education, http://www.learnalberta.ca, at least 7 free encyclopedias, hundreds of periodical articles, current events, and much more. Password required. Use particularly SIRS Discoverer and Canadian Encyclopedia.</p>	Reference	Use for research, or looking up any quick information.	
<p>Alberta Learning. Learning and Teaching Resources Branch. Focus on Inquiry: A Teacher's Guide to Implementing Inquiry-based Learning, 2004, 0778526666, available in .pdf from http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/K_12/curriculum/bysubject/focusoninquiry.pdf or in print from Learning Resources Centre, http://www.lrc.learning.gov.ab.ca</p>	Teacher Reference	Teacher Reference on research process, an essential resource from Alberta Learning.	
<p>Brown, Margaret Wise. The Important Book, 1949, 0-06-443227-0. "The important thing about rain is/ that it is wet./ It falls out of the sky,/ and it sounds like rain,/ and makes things shiny,/ and it does not taste like anything,/ and is the colour of air./ But the important thing about rain is that it is wet." Whether or not you'd distill these things in the same way that the author does, Brown makes us think about the essence of things.</p>	Picture Book	Model for reporting	
<p>Alberta Education. The Heart of the Matter: Character and Citizenship Education in Alberta Schools, 2005, 0778537919. From LRC or Alberta Ed download.</p>	Prof. Reference	Use for character and citizenship education.	

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<p>Arlon, Penelope. How People Live. From Dorling Kindersley, 2003, 0789498677. Here is a fabulous collection of information on groups of people from all over the world – 300 pages of culture, customs, lifestyles, all in fascinating text and photographic detail. Students will be fascinated – a must have!</p>	<p>Non-fiction</p>	<p>Use for research. Read for enjoyment.</p>	
<p>Hennessy, B. G. Once Upon a Time Map Book: Take a Tour of Six Enchanted Lands. 1999, 0-7636-2521-3. It's the fairy tale trip of a lifetime! Join Peter Pan, Snow White, and many more favourite storybook characters in a tour of the lands of Once Upon a Time. Great for enhancing map-reading skills, and a useful model for mapping and writing projects.</p>	<p>Fiction</p>	<p>Use to build map skills and geographical thinking</p>	
<p>Leedy, Loreen. Mapping Penny's World. 2003, 978-0805072624. Lisa and her pet boxer, Penny, discover maps. After learning in school about maps and their parts--the key and symbols, labels, scale, and more--Lisa applies her newfound mapmaking skills to Penny's world. She makes maps of her room, her yard, the neighborhood, and the local park. As Lisa creates her maps, she explains their function and the tools she uses. She also includes a three-dimensional, clay-and-cardboard map and many drawings. Young readers will enjoy both Leedy's cheerful pictures and the narrative about Lisa and her engaging dog as they explore a familiar world from an unfamiliar perspective. Great for inspiring children to map their own world, putting a ruler to everything in sight.</p>	<p>Picture Book</p>	<p>Use to help foster geographical thinking.</p>	

Grade Two Communities in Canada

Grade 2 students will investigate life in three diverse communities within Canada. Based on their understanding of their own communities, students will explore characteristics of selected rural and urban communities in Canada: an Inuit community, a Prairie community and an Acadian community. They will apply their understanding of various aspects that define communities, such as geography, culture, language, heritage, economics and resources, in their investigation of how communities are connected. Students will discover how people live in each of these communities and will reflect upon the vastness of Canada and the diversity of Canadian communities.

Students will also be given the opportunity to study the past of their own or one of the other communities studied. Throughout the study, emphasis will be on the contribution of individuals and groups to a community.

2.1 - Canada's Dynamic Communities

Love, Ann and Jane Drake, The Kids Book of the Far North , 2000, 1550745638.	Non-fiction	Use for research.	2.1.1. appreciate the physical and human geography of the communities studied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appreciate how a community's physical geography shapes identity • appreciate the diversity and vastness of Canada's land and peoples • value oral history and stories as ways to learn about the land • acknowledge, explore and respect historic sites and monuments • demonstrate care and concern for the environment
Trottier, Maxine. Our Canadian Flag , 2004, 043997402X. Two levels of text: the first simply tells about when and where we see the flag, the second tells the history of our flag.	Non-fiction	What does our flag stand for?	
Kuitenbrouwer, P. Our Song: The Story of O Canada, The Canadian National Anthem , 2004, 1894222679. Includes the history, timelines, the music, and the words in English and French. And also: Scholastic Publishing. O Canada: Our National Anthem , 2003, 0439974577. Our national anthem interspersed with majestic photographs from across Canada. A good introduction for teaching primary students "O Canada." And also: Harrison, Ted. O Canada . 2003, 1553375815. Harrison matches lines of the Canadian anthem (in English and French) with pictures and brief text for each of the provinces and territories.	Non-fiction	Sing O Canada in English and French.	
Bellefontaine, Kim. ABC of Canada , 2002, 1553376854. From Arctic to zamboni, follow the alphabet on a tour across Canada. Even the youngest traveler will enjoy the trip.	Alphabet Book	Read for enjoyment. Identify characteristics of Canada.	
Murphy, Patricia J. Rookie Read-About Holidays: Canada Day . 2002. Easy reading level, great photos.	Non-fiction Early reader	Compare and contrast families. Identify family holiday activities.	
Canadian Holidays series. Shows traditions, celebrations, history and symbols of Canada's major holidays. Includes crafts and recipes. Christmas , Foran, Jill, 1894705963 Easter , Foran, Jill, 1894705998 Canada Day , Kissock, Heather, 1894705947 Thanksgiving , Foran, Jill, 1894705971 Remembrance Day , Foran, Jill, 1894705955	Non-fiction	As the year progresses, use these books to identify and characterize these holidays in Canada.	
Heidbreder, R. & Ritchie, Scot. See Saw	Poetry	Read poems aloud.	

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<p>Saskatchewan, 2003, 1-55337-392-8. A humorous poetry book about Canadian places, symbols and inhabitants. A book you must have for its fun and allusions to everything Canadian.</p>		<p>Have students memorize and perform them with the various actions suggested. Have students perform them for Grade 2 buddies, and then teach them the poems for sharing with their class. Have students write dotty Canadian poems.</p>	
<p>Hiscock, Bruce. Big Caribou Herd: Life in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, 2003, 1-59078-010-8. Follow a caribou herd living in the arctic throughout a year, learn of the richly diverse habitat and wildlife. Soft water colours spread over two pages create a welcoming look at a harsh climate. The ‘Animal Notes’ and ‘Caribou Year’ at the end add more information. Story format.</p>	<p>Non-fiction</p>	<p>Create a flow chart showing the annual cycle of caribou life.</p>	<p>2.1.2. investigate the physical geography of an Inuit, an Acadian, and a Prairie community in Canada by exploring and reflecting the following questions for inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where are the Inuit, Acadian and Prairie communities located in Canada? • How are the geographic regions different from where we live? • What are the major geographical regions, landforms and bodies of water in each community? • What are the main differences in climate among these communities? • What geographic factors determined the establishment of each community (e.g., soil, water and climate)? • How does the physical geography of each community shape its identity? • What is daily life like for children in Inuit, Acadian and Prairie communities (e.g., recreation, school)? • How does the vastness of Canada affect how we connect to other Canadian communities?
<p>*Highway, Tomson. Caribou Song, 2001, 0-00-225522-7. A tranquil story of two brothers who live in an uninhabited part of Northern Manitoba in the summer time. The boys love to dance and play the kitoochigan (accordion). Searching for the atook (caribou), the boys become part of a wonderful and magical adventure as their calling to the caribou results in a thundering herd going through the spot where they played. Told in English and Cree, this story is a uniquely beautiful tribute to a passing way of life.</p>	<p>Picture Book</p>	<p>Read for enjoyment. Retell the story.</p>	
<p>*Fox-Davies, Sarah. Little Caribou, 1997, 1564029239. A caribou is born on the Arctic tundra. Very soon she must stand and drink her mother’s milk. She must grow strong quickly since she must soon run with the herd. She will spend her whole life traveling and hunting for food. O/P</p>	<p>Picture Book</p>	<p>Use to identify the needs of caribou that live in Canada’s Arctic, relate to Needs of Animals and Plants science unit.</p>	

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<p>Green, Jen. Step into... The Arctic World. 2000, 0754804747. Fact-filled pages look at the many different Arctic peoples and their origins, how they survive in a harsh environment, and how their descendants live today. Many high-quality, beautiful photos, and lots of activities to do. High reading level, but a wealth of information in both pictures and text.</p>	<p>Non-fiction</p>	<p>Use for research. Analyze pictures.</p>	
<p>Geisert, Bonnie and Arthur. Prairie Town. 1998, 0395859077. Describes a year in the life of a prairie town including the effect of seasons and of economics on the ebb and flow of this agricultural community. Brief text, highly-detailed pictures.</p>	<p>Non-fiction</p>	<p>Characterize prairie life. Have students share their experiences on the prairie.</p>	
<p>Ansary, Mir Tamim. Arctic Peoples. 2000, 1-57572-920-2. Includes Table of Contents, glossary, further readings and index along with full colour photographs, maps, drawings and famous people of the Arctic today. The information highlights the history, cultural transition and modern life of the Inuit in easy-to-read large print.</p>	<p>Non-fiction</p>	<p>Use for research. Characterize Inuit customs and lifestyle.</p>	
<p>Ulmer, Mike. Gift of the Inuksuk. 2004, 158536214X. Many lives ago, a girl in what would become Nunavut builds stone men, called Inuksuk, to direct her father and brother home when they are lost in a storm hunting caribou.</p>	<p>Picture Book</p>	<p>Make an Inuksuk.</p>	
<p>Sloat, Teri. The Eye of the Needle. 1990, 0-88240-535-7. This folktale is both funny and satisfying, with an ending that makes everything all right again. Amik learns how important it is to share. A rich teaching story that shows grandmother as industrious, trusting and wise, and Amik as a foolish and impulsive youngster.</p>	<p>Picture Book</p>	<p>Compare to other, similar folktales Characterize customs and lifestyle in the north.</p>	
<p>Bushey, Jeanne. A Sled Dog for Moshi, 1994, 1-55041-956-0. This is a story set in the present day Iqaluit, now capital of Nunavut. Jessica, whose family has moved to the remote northern Canadian town from New York City, finds a new friend in Moshi, an Inuk girl. Jessica does not understand about sled dogs, or other characteristics of life in an</p>	<p>Picture Book</p>	<p>Compare to other, similar stories. Characterize customs and lifestyle in the north.</p>	

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Inuit village. One day, both girls are stranded in a whiteout, and it is Moshi's knowledge of the Inuit ways of survival, and the help of her father's sled dog Nuna, that save the girls. A very rich resource.		
Bannatyne-Cugnet, Jo. Heartland: A Prairie Sampler. 2002, 0-88776-567-X. Here's a sampler of life in Canada's heartland and the people who live there.	Non-fiction	Try the crafts and games unique to those living on the Prairies. There is even a recipe for Saskatoon pie!
Vaage, Carol. Bibi and the Bull, 1995, 189612402X. After Grandpa has given her a tour of the farm, Bibi knows all about farm safety--but she can't resist confronting the bull when he gets out of his pen--challenging him to a sniffing, snorting and bellowing show-down. Georgia Graham's paintings pay homage to rural, prairie Alberta.	Picture Book	Characterize rural, prairie Alberta. Build a table with these characteristics drawn from a number of stories about the prairies, such as Under a Prairie Sky.
Graham, Georgia. The Strongest Man This Side of Cremona. 1998, 0889951829. Great Alberta prairie, farm, and mountain pictures in this story of Matthew and his dad who have a dairy farm. They encounter something even stronger than his dad – a tornado.	Picture Book	Characterize Alberta, the prairies, and dairy farming.
Carter, Anne Laurel. Under a Prairie Sky. 2002, 155143282X. Story of two boys nicely documents many characteristics of life on the Canadian prairie.	Picture Book	Characterize rural, prairie Alberta.
Joose, Barbara. Mama, Do You Love Me? 1991, 0-87701-759-X. This is a delightful story of a child testing her mother's unconditional love. Her mother is very reassuring and proves that a parent's love is everlasting. It's the Arctic setting that sets the story apart. The book includes a detailed glossary that describes the distinctively different Inuit culture.	Picture Book	Characterize customs and lifestyle in the north.
Devine, Monica. Carry Me, Mama. 2001, 1-55005-150-4. Beautiful, colourful paintings illustrate this story of seasonal changes set in an Inuit community. Provides many details about Inuit life in the far north.	Picture Book	Read for enjoyment. Characterize customs and lifestyle in the north.
Dabovich, Lydia. Polar Bear Son: An Inuit Tale,	Folktale	Read for enjoyment.

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1997, 0-395-72766-9. This folktale is about an old Inuit woman who takes in an orphan polar bear and raises him as her son. A warm story of loving and caring for elderly and animals. Beautiful illustrations; captures the beauty and vastness of the Arctic landscape.		Characterize customs and lifestyle in the north.
Wallace, Mary. The Inuksuk Book , 1999, 1-895688-90-6. Here is a book about Inuit social life and customs with historical references. It includes full-page watercolours as well as photographs. It has instructions on assembling an Inuksuk and directions for building an Inunngerao. It has a guide to Inuit words, as well as photos, text and drawings of Inuit life and customs. It realistically depicts the Inuit's creative, cultural and spiritual way of life. Written above grade 1 level (4-6), but has great illustrations for students and background information for the teacher.	Non-fiction	Make an Inuksuk. Characterize Inuit customs and lifestyle.
Trottier, Maxine. Dreamstones . 1999, 0-7737-3191-1. A captain's son becomes separated from his icebound ship in the Arctic. He encounters the friendly Inuit people and is mesmerized by the striking stone figures called inukshuk.	Picture Book	Make an Inuksuk. Characterize Inuit customs and lifestyle.
Land of Inuit , 1997, (Ingenuity Works, David Young, dyoung@ingenuityworks.com, \$49.95, lab packs and site licenses available). This CD encyclopedia goes from pre-history to contemporary times, including Nunavut. Features an Inuit narrator. Includes narrated stories, pictures and 12 challenging educational games make the Arctic come alive! The encyclopedia portion can be customized for classroom use. Includes games.	CD-ROM	Project the material for all to see choosing small portions at a time. (High reading level, so needs teacher guidance and discussion.) Document changes in the Inuit way of life.
Yacowitz. Inuit Indians , 1403408637	Non-fiction	Use for research on Inuit people.
Corriveau, Danielle. Inuit of Canada . 2002, 082254850x. Easy-to-read, informative and up-to-date reference on Inuit people. Topics include geography, animals and vegetation, historical events and modern changes to traditional lifestyles.	Non-fiction	Analyze pictures for information about Inuit life today.

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<p>Additional reference sites, index and glossary. High reading level, excellent pictures.</p>			
<p>Lassieur, Allison. The Inuit. 2000, 0736804986. This easy reading reference has excellent photos showing Inuit people today and provides an overview of the Inuit, and a description of their homes, food, clothing, art, family life, storytelling, religion, and government.</p>	Non-fiction	<p>Analyze pictures for information about Inuit life today. Use for research on Inuit people.</p>	
<p>Hewitt, Garnet. Ytek and the Arctic Orchid. 1981, 0-88894-405-5. Water colour paintings illustrate the challenges Ytek faces in his development as a shaman as he meets the spirits and animals. Contains a great deal of information about life in the Arctic and the traditional ways and beliefs of the Inuit people. O/P</p>	Picture Book	<p>Read aloud. Characterize the traditional ways and beliefs of the Inuit people.</p>	
<p>Bannatyne-Cugnet, Jo. A Prairie Alphabet, 1992, 0887762921. Paintings of astounding realism--one for each letter of the alphabet--reveal a Western Canadian rural world throughout the seasons. Brief alliterative sentences provide a verbal frame for each painting--but readers will enjoy looking for additional items beginning with the featured letter.</p>	Alphabet Book	<p>Analyze pictures for information about prairie life. Compare life today with prairie life in the past as in A Pioneer ABC. Create a class alphabet book with each letter linked to and describing the community which has been studied.</p>	
<p>Cooney, Barbara. Miss Rumphius, 1994, 0140505393. This is a book about what one person does to “make the world more beautiful.” Great Aunt Alice has lived a full life, but it is her twilight years, when she plants flowers throughout the countryside where she lives, that she finds most fulfilling. Cooney’s paintings for the book certainly do their bit to “make the world more beautiful.” A book to be read and reread.</p>	Picture Book	<p>Although this story is from new England, it nevertheless shows many features of New England that are also characteristic of Acadia. Use to characterize the geography and plants life. Also use to show how people can care for the environment.</p>	
<p>Hamilton, Jen, ed. Canadian Poems for Canadian Kids. 2005, 0-9736675-0-8. So much fun! A collection of 25 poems written for the elementary aged child by Canadian poets, some famous, others just starting out. They are excellent to read aloud and use in a classroom.</p>	Poetry	<p>Read aloud for enjoyment. Read aloud "The Prairie is Where the Sky Begins." Talk about the images that the poem invokes.</p>	

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Bouchard, Dave. Prairie Born . 1999, 1-55143-152-1. Explore in verse and image the prairie experience that is so cherished by Canadians.	Poetry	Read aloud for enjoyment. Have students share their experiences on the prairie.
Bouchard, David. If You're Not From the Prairie.... 2001, 1-895714-66-4. Those born and raised on the prairies are passionate about their experiences with this diverse land. This text reminds us of the power of the wind, the sweep of the sky, the adventures in the cold. The images are snapshots from our own pasts - playing hockey on the river, lying under the big sky in a field of swaying grass, wading in a spring pond.	Poetry	Read aloud for enjoyment. Use as a model for writing a new poem about the prairie, or about the land of the Inuit. Use Life in the Far North to help with picturing life in the far north.
Hutchins, Hazel. One Duck . 1999, 1-55037-561-X. One duck just does what she must do: lay her eggs. One farmer just does what he must do: till the field. What will happen when the farmer with his frightening machine comes upon one duck with her nest of twelve eggs? Set on the Alberta prairie.	Poetry	Characterize prairie life.
Trottier, Maxine. Claire's Gift . 1999, 059051461X. In Chéticamp, Nova Scotia, rug hooking has become an art, and its hooked rugs and wall hangings are known around the world. Young Claire has been sent to live with her great-aunt for the summer. How can Tante Marie make friends with this small silent girl? All she can think to do is to go back to hooking her rug... and suddenly Claire shows an interest. This is a heartwarming story of friendship between generations and the value of traditional crafts handed down.	Picture Book	Characterize life in Acadia.
Grant-Smith, Joyce. Latch: An Acadian Adventure . 0973530502	Novel	Use as a read aloud.
Kessler, Deirdre. Lobster in My Pocket , 1987, 1551094231. Although it has just black and white lines drawings, the story is charming and provides lots of details about life in Acadia. Lee lives in a fishing village. One day she hears a little voice coming from a lobster crate and she discovers Lucky, a talking lobster. Lee sets Lucky free and Lucky returns the favour one day when Lee nearly	Picture Book	Use to identify characteristics of life in Acadia.

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drowns in a wild spring storm.		
Pallotta, Jerry. Going Lobstering . 1990, 2008, 978-1570916236. A lovely day at the beach turns very exciting when two youngsters go out lobstering on Big Joe’s lobster boat.	Picture Book	Use to identify characteristics of life in Acadia.
Wallace, Ian. Boy of the Deeps . 2005, 0888996608. A story of the miners and the hardships and danger of their lives in Cape Breton.	Picture Book	Use to help identify characteristics of life in Acadia.
Field, Rachel. Grace for an Island Meal . 2006, 0-374-32759-9. One morning in Maine, three visitors travel to a small island. The day is clear and bright – its beauty a blessing. There are other blessings, too: a bright red fishing boat, berries, and mussels to discover, the surprise of a wild bicycle ride. Best of all is the joy of family coming together to share a special meal. Bold, color-saturated art perfectly captures the light and spirit of the Maine coast.	Poetry, Picture Book	Use to identify characteristics of Acadia. (Maine is part of Acadia.)
McCloskey, Robert. Time of Wonder . 0140502017. This old favourite explores the coast of Maine and the wonders of its shore and islands and shows the delight of young children when they discover sea shells, flowers, and wildlife.	Picture Book	Use to identify characteristics of Acadia. (Maine is part of Acadia.)
McCloskey, Robert. One Morning in Maine . 0140501746. In this old favourite, Sal digs for clams, picks blueberries, takes boat rides to get ice cream, and plays on the rocky shore.	Picture Book	Use to identify characteristics of Acadia. (Maine is part of Acadia.)
McCloskey, Robert. Blueberries for Sal . 014050169X. Kuplink, kuplank, kuplunk go the blueberries into Sal’s pail. In this old favourite, Sal can’t seem to pick as fast as she eats. Sal and her mother have set off in search of blueberries at the same time as a mother bear and her cub. A comedy of errors ensues when the young ones wander off and absentmindedly trail the wrong mothers.	Picture Book	Use to identify characteristics of Acadia. (Maine is part of Acadia.)
Aucoin, Rejean and Jean-Claude Tremblay. The Magic Rug of Grand-Pré . 2002, 2923016-05X. A blend of fantasy, tradition and adventure in involving a quest to find the 12 strands of wool needed to complete the magic hooked rug of	Picture Book	Read for enjoyment.

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Grand-Pré.		
Taylor, Cora. Out On The Prairie: A Canadian Counting Book , 2002, 0-439-98840-3. The numbers one to ten are shown in rhyme and picture. Each number is shown as a baby animal indigenous to the Canadian prairie. The rhymes can be sung to the music of a traditional nursery tune, included on the last page of the story. Also on the last page are factual descriptions of the ten prairie species in the book. Beautiful paintings.	Poetry	Integrate with Needs of Animals and Plants science unit as well as identifying characteristics of the prairie.
Hundal, Nancy. Prairie Summer . 1999, 1550414038. There's nothing as special as the place we call home – a small town prairie home 40 years ago.	Poetry	Characterize life on the prairies
Harrison, Ted. Northern Alphabet . 1989, 0887762336. An alphabetical exploration of the sights and activities of a community in Canada's north, each picture teasing the reader to look for additional items beginning with the featured letter.	Alphabet Book	Find more words for each letter from the pictures. Model for reporting
Harrison, Ted. Children of the Yukon . 2000, 0-88776-163-1. A picture book with the colourful, distinctive illustrations of Ted Harrison - bold and bright. The scenes of the Yukon all include children playing on snowshoes, on dogsleds, with parents, in their summer and winter homes in everyday life. Included with each set of pictures is text describing the life of the Natives in the Yukon.	Picture Book	Characterize life in the Yukon.
Kalman, Bobbie. Life in the Far North , 2003, 0778704696. With index, glossary, table of contents, appealing format, and beautiful, large, bright illustrations, this book provides a historical look at the people and their culture.		Use for research.
Kalman, Bobbie. An Arctic Community . 1992, 0395543916. Covers clothing, homes, igloos, transportation, water, services, health care, food, language, and much more. Lots of interesting photos to analyze, information too difficult for most grade 2 students to read by themselves. O/P	Non fiction	Read passages aloud, and have students discuss information and analyze related pictures.
Bushey, Jeanne. Polar Bear's Gift , 2000,	Picture	Read for enjoyment.

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0889952205. Inspired by a traditional Inuit legend, this is the story of Pani, a young Inuit girl and her grandmother. Pani yearns to be a hunter of polar bears like her parents before her, but becomes a compassionate friend of a wounded polar bear. An excellent story with beautiful illustrations.	Book	Characterize life in the far north.
Kusugak, Michael. Northern Lights: The Soccer Trails , 1999, 1-55037-338-2. This beautifully-illustrated story tells the Inuit beliefs about the Northern Lights through the eyes of a young girl.	Picture Book	Tell about the Inuit beliefs about the Northern Lights.
Kusugak, Michael. Hide and Sneak . 1996, 1-55037-229-7. This is the story of a little Inuit girl who learns about the nasty little Ijiraq who will hide you during a game of hide and seek. The trouble is that he will hide you so well that you will never be found. The only thing that will help you find your way home is an Inukshuk.	Picture Book	What does an Inukshuk do? Why do you think Inuit parents tell this story to their children?
Kusugak, Michael. Baseball Bats for Christmas . 1999, 155037-144-4. This is a humorous story of a boy named Arvaarluk who lived in Repulse Bay during Christmas, 1955. The people had never seen trees and when they received six at Christmas time, they carved them into baseball bats.	Picture Book	What had the people never seen trees?
Kusugak, Michael. Arctic Stories . 1999, 1-55037-453-2. Here are three stories about an Inuit girl named Agatha. The prologue and analogue provide the factual background for the stories. The analogue also contains a dictionary of Inuit words used in the story. There are full-page illustrations for each page of print. The pictures are vivid and both the illustrations and the story portray life in the Northwest Territories.	Picture Book	Characterize life in the far north.
Ituko: An Inuit Child (Children of the World series). 2000, 1410302822. Lots of quality photos, easy text in this well-done look at an Inuit child in the Arctic.	Non fiction	Characterize life in the far north.
Bushey, Jeanne. Orphans in the Sky , 2005, 0889952914. A story of the Inuit and their never-ending search for food, and the subsequent search	Picture Book	Characterize life in the far north.

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for a home by the two children.			
Alexander, Bryan & Cherry. Journey into the Arctic , 2003, 0-19-911112-X. The Arctic land, people and wildlife are shown in beautiful photographs with accompanying write ups. Very much a photo essay. Photos show northern Aboriginals engaged in today's living experiences. Provides photos of Inuit and other northern peoples, showing their various clothing and customs. Large photos, large print, index, glossary, table of contents.	Non-fiction	Use for research Characterize life in the far north.	
Davis, Deborah. The Secret of the Seal . 1989, 0679865667. O/P	Novel (short)	Compare Inuit life with life your own community	
Houston, James. Tikta' liktak . Here's a great little survival story about a boy who is trapped on an ice flow and has to rescue himself. O/P	Novel (short)	Compare Inuit life with life your own community	
*Munsch, Robert and Michael Kusugak. A Promise is a Promise . 1988, 155037009X. Allashua, a little Inuit girl, disobeys her mother's warning that the Quallupelluq (an imaginary fruit creature like a troll) will take her away if she fishes in the crack in the ocean. In exchange for her life, Allashua promises to bring her brothers and sisters to the crack in the ocean ice. Her family's courageous trek allows Allashua to keep both her family--and her promise.	Folktale	(*Select stories and other books such as these that illustrate the various heritages of children in the class)	<p>2.1.3 investigate the cultural and linguistic characteristics of an Inuit, an Acadian and a Prairie community in Canada by exploring and reflecting upon the following questions for inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the cultural characteristics of the communities (e.g., special symbols, landmarks, languages spoken, shared stories or traditions, monuments, schools, churches)? • What are the traditions and celebrations in the communities that connect the people to the past and to each other? • How are the communities strengthened by their stories, traditions and events of the past? • What are the linguistic roots and practices in the communities? • What individuals and groups contributed to the development of the communities? • How do these communities connect with one another (e.g., cultural exchanges, languages, traditions, music)? • How do the cultural and linguistic characteristics of the communities studied contribute to Canada's identity?
Canadian Folk Songs for the Young . 1999, 1550542575. Words and melodies for a fine selection of easy folksongs, with words in other languages accompanied by English translations. Includes French and Aboriginal folk songs. A few paragraphs of information on cultural background accompanies each song.	Music	Sing selected folk songs.	
George, Jean Craighea. Nutik, the Wolf Pup , 2001, 0-06-028164-2. Julie of "Julie and the Wolves" and her younger brother come to us in this captivating picture book. Julie brings home a sickly wolf pup for her younger brother to care for and warns, "Don't fall in love, Amaroq." But, of course, he	Picture Book	Read for enjoyment. Characterize how people live in the north. How is Amaroq like you?	

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does.		
Preszler, June. Igloos . 2005, 0-7368-3723-x. The Inuit used snow, ice and sometimes other materials to build their Igloos. Learn all about igloos, how they are built, what they are like inside. Learn also about special igloos, igloo villages, and how the Inuit people kept warm. Includes table of contents, index, glossary, and Internet sites. Very easy reading level, large print.	Non fiction	Use for research.
Carney, Margaret. At Grandpa's Sugar Bush , 1997, 1550746715. Making maple syrup is an annual spring tradition. A young boy and his grandpa share the work of tapping and collecting and boiling the sap.	Picture Book	Use for research.
Linton, Marilyn. The Maple Syrup Book . 1983, 0919964524. Includes stories, projects, games, recipes, jokes, how-tos, and a lot of information. With black & white line drawings, it teaches children about sugaring in an interesting way.	Non fiction	Use for research.
London, Jonathan. The Sugaring-off Party . 1995, 1895555841. Paul, anxious to be going to his first maple-sugaring party tomorrow, asks Grand-mere to tell him about what it was like when she was young and took part in the cabane a sucre. Gilles Pelletier's paintings--filled with brilliant colour--explore the sights, sounds, and tastes of a special time in a French-Canadian community.	Non fiction	Read for enjoyment. Use for research. Identify characteristics of pioneer life from the rich details of the pictures.
Andrews, Jan. The Very Last First Time , 1985, 088899043X. Canadian illustrator Ian Wallace discovers a wealth of colour in the Arctic world of a little Inuit girl who goes beneath the ocean's crust of ice to gather mussels when the tide is out.	Picture Book	Characterize how people live in the north.

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<p>Corriveau, Danielle. First Peoples: The Inuit of Canada. 2002. 082254850X. Learn how the Inuit have used the natural resources around them – whales, seals, caribou, Arctic plants, and even snow – to make food, tools and weapons, warm clothing, sturdy houses, and beautiful artwork. Learn how the Inuit today are working to preserve their heritage and how they strike a balance between new technology and traditional ways.</p>	<p>Non-fiction</p>	<p>Use for research. Characterize Inuit customs and lifestyle.</p>	<p>2.1.4 investigate the economic characteristics of communities in Canada by exploring and reflecting upon the following questions for inquiry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kinds of natural resources exist in the communities (e.g., fishing, agriculture, mining)? • What are the occupations in each of the communities? • What kinds of goods and services are available in the communities? • What impact does industry have on the communities (i.e., agriculture, manufacturing)?
<p>2.2 - A Community in the Past</p>			
<p>Pryor, Bonnie. House on Maple Street, 1992, 0688120318. When Chris and Jenny find a china cup buried in their backyard, it begins a journey through time to discover the several people-- Natives, pioneers, early townspeople--who have lived on the site.</p>	<p>Non-fiction</p>	<p>Comparison graphic organizer, such as a timeline based on the book and on the students' lives.</p>	<p>2.2.1 appreciate how stories of the past connect individuals and communities to the present</p>
<p>Fitz-gibbon, Sally. The Patchwork House. 1996, 1551430886. Traces the series of families, all with different needs and interests, that live in and change the Patchwork House over time.</p>	<p>Picture Book</p>	<p>Compare with The House on Maple Street.</p>	
<p>Waterton, Betty. Pettranella. 1980, 0888991088. Grandmother cannot make the journey with the rest of the family to the New World, but she sends along a package of precious seeds, entrusted to the hands of little Pettranella. A warm affirmation of family bonds, the legacy of growing things, as well as an interesting look at life on the Canadian frontier.</p>	<p>Picture Book</p>	<p>Characterize life on the Canadian frontier.</p>	
<p>MacLachlan, Patricia. Three Names. 1991, 0064433609. Great-grandfather reminisces about going to school on the prairie with his dog Three Names.</p>	<p>Picture Book</p>	<p>Read for enjoyment. Characterize pioneer life about 100 years ago.</p>	
<p>Rosenberry, Vera. The Growing-Up Tree. 2003, 0-8234-1718-2. The life of an apple tree, planted by Alfred's mother when he was a baby, parallels Alfred's life as he and his children and grandchildren grow older together. A celebration of</p>	<p>Picture Book</p>	<p>How does the past connect to the present in this story? What changes over time?</p>	

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the cycle of life.		
*Hope-Simpson, Lila. Fiddles and Spoons: Journey of an Acadian Mouse . 2004, 2980817724. The Acadian spirit shines through when Cecile Souris and her mouse family find themselves deported from their beloved Grand Pré to a faraway land.	Picture Book	Look for characteristics of Acadian life Retell the story of the Acadian deportation.
Downie, Mary Alice. A Song for Acadia , 1980, 2004, 1551094746. Very short read-aloud novel about the expulsion of the Acadians in 1755, told from the point of view of a young boy. Will need background support, but is one of the few resources available to support a historical study of Acadia.	Short Novel	Look for characteristics of Acadian life Retell the story of the Acadian deportation.
Booth, David. The Dust Bowl , 1996, 1550742957. With the return of a period of drought to the prairies a grandfather recalls, for his grandson, the experiences of the family fifty years earlier during the time of the “Big Dry.” A compelling look back at the terrible challenges Canadian families faced during the Depression--as well as a warm remembrances of a caring, close-knit family.	Picture Book	Do you have grandparents or great grandparents that remember the Depression and the Dust Bowl? How did they live?
Wells, Rosemary. The House in the Mail . 2002, 0670035459. Writing in a scrapbook in 1927, a young girl tells the fascinating story of her family's mail-order house arriving from Sears, Roebuck. Moving out of the little house they share with their grandparents, Emily and her brother, Homer, have a lot of changes in store for them: an electric refrigerator, electric lights, a washing machine, a gas stove, and running water indoors. Luminous illustrations show, in great detail, the process of clearing the land, building a foundation, and creating a house from a kit. Hand-written captions from Emily give the illustrations a cozy, personal feel, showing the reader just how exciting a house in the mail can be.	Picture Book	Tell how life has changed in to years since this story took place. (This happened in Canada, as well, by ordering houses through Eaton’s catalogue.)
Koldogsky, Eleanor. Clip-Clop . 2005. 0-887766811. A trip back in time to the early days of the 20 th century when horses were willing workers,	Picture Book	Tell how life has changed since the years this story took place.

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<p>good company and common sights on city streets. They pulled delivery wagons, carted away junk, and brought a smile to many faces with their familiar presence.</p>		
<p>Barasch, Lynne. A Country Schoolhouse, 2004, 0374315779. Told in a narrative style, there is good information on a 3-room schoolhouse in the 1940's.</p>	<p>Non-fiction</p>	<p>Use pictures and text for a comparison chart on past and present.</p>
<p>Downie, Mary Alice. A Pioneer ABC. 2005, 0887766889. Alliterative sentences for each letter and lovely pioneer pictures for each.</p>	<p>Non-fiction</p>	<p>Characterize pioneer life. Compare with modern prairie life in A Prairie Alphabet. Use both books as a model for a writing project about pioneer life on the prairies.</p>
<p>Essien, Elaine. Friends in a New Land. 2004, 1-896081-56-8. This is the story of two families, one English and one German, who homestead near Poplar Hills, Alberta in 1902. Joey Wright is an eight-year-old boy whose family is established on their farm; Hans Kruger, also eight, is newly arrived from Germany and speaks no English. This novel portrays the hardships faced by immigrant families in rural Alberta at the turn of the century, and the community spirit that existed to help welcome new settlers. It gives insights into the life of chores and hard work needed to clear the land, sacrifices made by older children who left school to help out the family; it provides descriptions of school, family and leisure activities. Includes a Glossary of "pioneer words"; Timeline of relevant historical events from 1867 to 1905; and, a short biography to introduce each of the characters. Order direct.</p>	<p>Novel for reading aloud or novel study.</p>	<p>Characterize pioneer life in Alberta.</p>
<p>Hopkinson, Deborah. A Packet of Seeds. 2004, 0-06-0090898. A tender tribute to the brave women who traveled west to settle the prairie. Annie's mother misses her home so much that she falls into a depression until Annie finds a packet of seeds.</p>	<p>Picture Book</p>	<p>Read the story for enjoyment. Characterize pioneer life on the prairies.</p>
<p>McGugan, Jim. Josepha: A Prairie Boy's Story,</p>	<p>Picture</p>	<p>List all the countries of origin</p>

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1993, 0889951012. Deals with the isolation and prejudice a child feels as an immigrant to a new community.	Book	of the students. Find the countries on a map. Help students see the immigrant boy's perspective.
Reynolds, Marilyn. Belle's Journey . 1993, 1551430215. An old horse saves a young girl's life in this dramatic pioneer story.	Picture Book	Characterize pioneer life on the prairies.
Kurelek, William. A Prairie Boy's Winter , 1973, 088776116X. Memories in paintings and text of the experience of growing up in a small rural community on the Canadian prairies during the Depression. Companion volume: A Prairie Boy's Summer , 1975, 0887760589.	Painting collections	Characterize life on the prairies during the 1930's.
Fitz-Gibbon, Sally. Lizzie's Storm: New Beginnings , 2004, 1550417932. When she is suddenly orphaned, Lizzie's life in London is over. And nothing could prepare her for her new home a whole continent away on a dusty Canadian prairie farm. Bitter and despondent, Lizzie knows that she will never – ever – fit in. But one day a dust storm blows up. Alone in the house, Lizzie knows her aunt is out there, somewhere in the storm. Despite her own fear, she knows what she must do.	Beginning Chapter Book	Chapter book to read aloud. Characterize life on the prairies during the 1930's. Tell family stories about the 1930's.
Baker, Jeannie. Home , 2004, 0066239354. This wordless collage picture book follows a parallel life of a girl and her urban neighbourhood throughout her bedroom window. As time passes, both develop to show positive change.	Non-fiction	Use for art and writing prompt.
Gutsole, Marlene. Discovering Canadian Pioneers , 1998, 0195413253. Here is a detailed account of the hard but exciting lives led by pioneer settlers in 19th Century. The focus is on the Wilkins family, English immigrants who have never farmed before, let alone had to clear their land and build their own house. Reading level about grade 3, but the book could be aloud.	Non-fiction	Identify characteristics of pioneer life. Use pictures and text to compare past and present.
Kamma, Anne. If You Were A Pioneer On The Prairie , 2003, 0439414288. Long ago life on the prairie was a big adventure. This book tells what if	Non-fiction	Characterize pioneer life. Use a Venn diagram to compare pioneer life with life

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was like to be there.		today.
Trottier, Maxine. Prairie Willow , 1998, 0773761004. Emily, a pioneer child, longs for trees in the sea of grass. Her first wish from the first crop is for a willow tree seedling. The tree is a witness to the joys and tragedies of her life and an anchor for her heart even after her death.	Picture Book	Characterize pioneer life.
Greenwood, Barbara. Pioneer Christmas: Celebrating In The Backwoods In 1841 , 2003, 1550749536. Sepia-coloured illustrations complement Greenwood's non-fiction narrative text as it follows Sarah and her family as they prepare for and celebrate a pioneer Christmas. The narrative is interspersed with explanatory factual text (pioneer crafts, games, decorations) and an index directs the reader to the factual information.	Non-fiction	Try a pioneer Christmas recipe, craft or game. Compare a pioneer Christmas to your family's celebration.
Greenwood, B. A Pioneer Thanksgiving, A Story of Harvest Celebrations in 1841 . 1999, 1550747444. Follows the Robertson family as they prepare for a celebration of the harvest of 1841. Includes recipes, instructions for making craft projects and playing games from the time period.	Picture Book	Try a pioneer recipe, craft or game. Compare a pioneer thanksgiving to your family's celebration.
Waterton, Betty. Pettranella , 1980, 0888995601. Grandmother cannot make the journey with the rest of the family to the New World, but she sends along a package of precious seeds, entrusted to the hands of little Pettranella. A warm affirmation of family bonds, the legacy of growing things, and an interesting look at life on the Canadian frontier.	Picture Book	Tell about customs such as clothing, food, or celebrations in your family that were brought by your family to Canada.
Kalman, Bobbie. Pioneer Life from A to Z , 1998, 0865054061. This colorful picture dictionary looks at the lives of the pioneers who settled the land. Intriguing objects used by the pioneers are featured such as churns, ear trumpets, and zoetropes.	Alphabet	Characterize pioneer life. Use as a model for creating a class book as part of a research project on a community of the past.
Kalman, Bobbie. Visiting a Village , 1993, 0865055076. Lots of high quality photos and well-organized, easy text make this book useful.	Picture Book	Characterize pioneer life.
Newman, Patricia. Jingle the Brass , 2004, 0374336792. On a train trip, in 1926, the engineer	Picture Book	Investigate forms of transportation that the pioneer

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teaches a boy the terms used by railway workers as he describes the different kinds of cars, freight, and people they see.		people used.	
			2.2.2 appreciate how Aboriginal and Francophone peoples have influenced the development of the student's community
			2.2.3 appreciate the importance of collaboration and living in harmony
Say, Allen. Grandfather's Journey . 1993, 0395570352. With brief text and watercolour illustrations, Say tells the story of his grandfather's coming to America and then returning to Japan--only to be caught there during the terrible years of World War II. Say follows his grandfather's footsteps himself--but, like his grandfather, he is often homesick for the country he is not in.			2.2.4 appreciate how connections to a community contribute to one's identity
*Khalsa, Dayal Kaur. How Pizza Came to Our Town , 1989, 0887763243. Children are perplexed over Mrs. Pelligrino's homesickness for the old country, and the references she makes to something called "pizza" -- until they do some research and gather all the ingredients needed to cheer up Mrs. Pelligrino.	Picture Book	Tell about customs such as clothing, food, or celebrations in your family that were brought by your family to Canada.	2.2.5 appreciate how cultural and linguistic exchanges connect one community to another
Ivany, Kathryn. C & E Railway Station Museum: The End of the Line : A little gem in Edmonton's history is the role of the Calgary/Edmonton Railway. This resource documents the history of the C & E Railway from its inception until present day with historical photographs. And Ivany, Kathryn. Calgary & Edmonton Railway Station Museum Activity Book : An accompanying resource for The C & E Railway Station Museum: The End of the Line . Teachers will find the historical background information, print and virtual resources useful. Visit the C & E Railway in Old Strathcona in Edmonton or online at http://www.museum.com/jb/museum?id=36354	Non-fiction	The activities are divided into three sections: study prints of archival photos, research cards for independent/center study, and a curator's walk to use while visiting the museum.	2.2.6 analyze how their community emerged, by exploring and reflecting upon the following questions for inquiry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What characteristics define their community? • What is unique about their community? • What are the origins of their community? • What were the reasons for the establishment of their community (e.g., original fur trade fort, original inhabitants)? • What individuals or groups contributed to the development of their community?
Conner, Leslie. Miss Bridie Chose a Shovel , 2004, 0618305645. Miss Bridie is starting a new life as	Picture Book	Characterize pioneer life.	

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an immigrant, and chooses a shovel to take with her on her way to the new land, a new home and a good life.			
Reynolds, Marilyn. The New Land: A First Year on the Prairie. 1997. Here's a complete and vivid picture of the early life and experiences of Canadian pioneers.	Picture Book	Characterize pioneer life.	
Reynolds, Marilyn. The Prairie Fire. 1999, 1551431750. With a prairie fire heading toward his pioneer home, young Percy shows his maturity as the family works together to overcome the crisis.	Picture Book	Characterize pioneer life.	
Spray, Carole. The Mare's Egg. 1980, 0920656072. A new settler in Canada is hoodwinked into purchasing a "mare's egg" - actually a pumpkin - which, he is convinced, will hatch into the perfect horse. Very funny, and loaded with details about pioneer life.	Folktale	Read for enjoyment. Characterize pioneer life by examining the pictures.	
Burton, Virginia Lee. The Little House, 1942, 1978, 0395181569. A little house, once happy as she observed nature and the changing seasons from her hillside vantage, is saddened when the city grows up around her. But there is a solution....	Picture Book	In what ways did the place where the little house stood change over time? In what ways has your community changed over time?	2.2.7 examine how their community has changed, by exploring and reflecting upon the following questions for inquiry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In what ways has our community changed over time (e.g., changes in transportation, land use)? • What has caused changes in their community? • How has the population of their community changed over time (e.g., ethnic mix, age, occupations)? • How have the people who live in the community contributed to change in the community? • How is the presence of Aboriginal and/or Francophone origins reflected in the community today?

Using Children’s Literature in Teaching Elementary Social Studies

Advantages:

- Widespread availability
- Easily integrated into thematic curricula
- Generally more up to date
- More focused and provide an in-depth look at social studies concepts
- More interesting and less confusing for students than textbooks
- Story lines help students remember concepts better
- Contain colourful pictures and graphics
- Present a more human side of social studies than do textbooks
- Evoke both efferent (factual) and aesthetic response (emotional)
- Support Inquiry and Research Processes

What Do We Look For In Non-Fiction?

Using children’s literature in teaching social studies is in accord with a constructivist view that holds that learners actively construct their own meaning when new information is linked to prior knowledge (Duschl, 1990).

Criteria:

- Large, clear, high quality colour illustrations, including both photos and drawings
- Drawings include graphs, diagrams, tables and other structures that plot information and show relationships
- Illustrations that match and support the text
- Captions that support the material
- Index
- Table of Contents
- Glossary
- Authority and currency evident in sources used in content development (e.g., sources and authorities listed)
- Text appropriate as to size, font type, placement, amount per page
- Headings and sub-headings used frequently throughout the text
- Content suitable for age of student
- Content appropriate for the intended unit of study
- Content organized in “chunks” of related material
- Print broken up by illustrations, boxes, sidebars, etc., so as to avoid long, intimidating sections of text.
- Appealing format

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- Canadian or Albertan content where appropriate