**Introduction to Social Studies**

Our Social Studies curriculum is an **inquiry-based** study of people and their relationships to one another and to the world. It is based on **Big Ideas** about history, geography, ecology, economics, law, philosophy, and political science. Viewing the Social Studies logo below will help you understand what it is all about.

The **Core Concepts** of Social Studies (Citizenship and Identity) are in the centre.



Around the core concepts are the **strands** of Social Studies:

* the land: places and people
* power, authority, and decision-making
* economics and resource
* global connections
* culture and community
* time, continuity, and change

**General Outcomes** are next in the circle, then **Specific Outcomes** – all leading to the core concepts. The **General Outcomes** are the Big Ideas in each unit, and the **Specific Outcomes** are what you will learn to understand the **General Outcomes (Big Ideas)**.

To learn the **Outcomes**, you will develop and make use of many skills called **Competencies**. The competencies include

* know how to learn
* think critically
* identify and solve complex problems
* manage information
* innovate
* create opportunities to benefit communities
* apply multiple literacies
* demonstrate effective communication skills and the ability to work cooperatively with others

Following are some examples of how you will make use of the **Core Concepts**, **Strands**, and **Outcomes** in your Social Studies learning.

Through achieving **Specific Outcomes** about the land: places and people (such as *How did Japan’s physical geography affect its worldview?*), you will come to understand better the **General Outcome (Big Idea)** about Japan. (*How did isolation and then adaptation affect Japan’s worldview?)*



Through achieving **Specific Outcomes** about global connections *(*such as *How did increased trade and business change a society’s worldview?*), you will come to understand better the **General Outcome (Big Idea**) about the Renaissance. (*What is the Western worldview, and how and why did it spread beyond Europe?*)

The **Big Ideas (General Outcomes)** in this course will contribute to your understanding of citizenship and identity in the times and places studied as well as to your sense of citizenship and identity.

Our Social Studies curriculum focuses on **Multiple Perspectives** so you will be learning about and considering the perspectives of various cultures and communities. *You can also use* ***Multiple Perspectives*** *to consider the* ***Strands, General Outcomes****, and* ***Specific Outcomes****.*



You could consider **the land: places and people** through the Aztec perspective of **economics and resources**, leading you to a greater understanding of the Aztec sense of citizenship and identity.

You could consider **culture and community** through the Japanese perspective of **power, authority, and decision-making**, leading you to a greater understanding of the Japanese sense of citizenship and identity.