

DISCOVER YOUR LEGISLATURE

A RE-RELEASED VERSION



Many Social Studies educators will remember the original 2001 version of the [Discover Your Legislature](#) learning resource, as it afforded both teachers and students the chance to use this resource as a starting point or as a reference check for learning about B.C.'s Legislative Assembly. With evolving ways of knowing and learning, this learning resource, now web-based, has been modernized and will continue to be updated as necessary.

Divided into four sections, information is presented in a thoughtful and accessible manner for all who want to engage with its content. This is a must-use resource for many Social Studies curriculums as well as providing excellent additional resources for additional content areas. Within its four sections - Purpose, People, Place and History - one can easily find the answers they are looking for or further their quest for more knowledge. Hyperlinks make it easy for anyone to find out anything about the people's legislature.

PURPOSE - Constitutional Framework and Governance, About the Legislative Assembly, Parliamentary Proceedings, Parliamentary Committees, House Documents.

This first section provides every answer to every question regarding all aspects of the governing of the province. In a text rich presentation with supporting visuals, teachers and students can research any particular detail about the operations of the Legislative Assembly under the Purpose heading. Students should only be assigned to one section to learn about and then possibly teach their classmates about it, as there is an astonishing amount of content available.

Best match to curriculums: Social Studies 10 and Political Studies 12 (details on next page)

PEOPLE - Members of the Legislative Assembly, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Lieutenant Governor, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Sergeant-at-Arms, Statutory Officers.

Section two provides teachers and students with the opportunity to become experts on the individuals who are elected or appointed to run all affairs of the Legislative Assembly. Each heading goes into significant detail about the role the individual plays in the system as well as details of the position. Students would have ample information to take on one of the roles described in a role-playing scenario or take on the position in a model Legislative Assembly.

Best match to curriculums: Social Studies 5, Social Studies 10, Political Studies 12 (details on next page)

PLACE - Visiting the Legislative Assembly, Building History, Building Tour, Provincial and Parliamentary Symbols.

Section three provides an outstanding overview of the Parliament Buildings, their creation, why things are placed where they are, and how the Buildings have evolved over time. For teachers wanting their learners to have a clearer sense of place with regard to B.C.'s Legislative Assembly, this section lends itself to understanding how and why the Buildings came to be, what they are today, and who was involved in the decision-making process and who wasn't.

Best match to curriculums: Social Studies 5, Social Studies 10, Political Studies 12 (details on next page)

*Due to COVID-19 restrictions, site tours are not available at this time. However, there is a fantastic new [Virtual Classroom Program](#) available to book online. Students have the opportunity to learn about all aspects of the Legislative Assembly in a fun and engaging way (with limited technological demands placed on the teacher). Working with sections one, two and/or three of Discover Your Legislature would be very beneficial prior to participating in the Virtual Classroom Program.

HISTORY - Presented within Timeframes

The last section is divided into multiple timeframes to allow teachers and learners to focus in upon a particular era or historical issue: Up to 1858, 1859-1870, 1871-1899, 1900-1917, 1918-1945, 1946-1971, 1972-2000, 2001-2012, and 2013-Present. Within each grouping, one can find still photographs or video clips to support the event being reviewed. Indigenous history, electoral history, feminist history, political history along with a myriad of other topics are presented within these timeframes. Application for students could include an annotated timeline through a specific historical lens or a biographical overview of a key person in BC's history.

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Direct Curriculum Matches

Within the Social Studies Curriculum framework, Core Competencies, Curricular Competencies as well as Content elaborations provide the basis to develop the pedagogy necessary to meet the expectations of student learning in this realm.

Social Studies 5 - Canadian Issues and Governance

Big Ideas

- Canada's policies and treatment of minority peoples have negative and positive legacies
- Canadian institutions and government reflect the challenge of our regional diversity

Learning Standards - Content

- levels of government (First Peoples, federal, provincial, and municipal), their main functions, and sources of funding)
- Participation and representation in Canada's system of government
- First Peoples land ownership and use

Social Studies 10 - Canada and the World: 1914 - Present

Big Ideas

- The development of political institutions is influenced by economic, social, ideological, and geographic factors.
- Historical and contemporary injustices challenge the narrative and identity of Canada as an inclusive, multicultural society.

Learning Standards - Content

- Government, First Peoples governance, political institutions, and ideologies
- Advocacy for human rights, including findings and recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Political Studies 12

Big Ideas

- Understanding how political decisions are made is critical to being an informed and engaged citizen.
- Decision making in a democratic system of government is influenced by the distribution of political and social power.

Political Studies 12 (cont.)

Learning Standards - Content

- Structure and function of Canadian and First Peoples political institutions
- Issues in local, regional, national, and international politics
- Major ideologies and political systems
- Election processes and electoral systems

BC First People's 12

Big Ideas

- The impact of contact and colonialism continues to affect the political, social, and economic lives of B.C. First Peoples.

Learning Standards - Content

- Provincial and federal government policies and practices that have affected, and continue to affect, the responses of B.C. First Peoples to colonialism
- Impact of historical exchanges of ideas, practices, and materials among local B.C. First Peoples and with non-Indigenous peoples

Social Justice 12

Big Ideas

- The causes of social injustice are complex and have lasting impacts on society.

Learning Standards - Content

- Social injustices in Canada and the world affecting individuals, groups, and society
- Governmental and non-governmental organizations in issues of social justice and injustice

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