

BC's SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM

Social Studies 12. Urban Studies




To assist secondary school teachers, we evaluated where materials from this textbook align with British Columbia's Curriculum for teaching Social Studies courses. We followed BC's Curriculum Model, focussing on each of the three elements:

- Big Ideas.
What students are expected to understand
- Curricular Competencies.
What students are expected to do
- Content.
What students are expected to know

Our aim is to help teachers understand where and how the materials in this textbook can be incorporated in their courses to meet provincial learning standards. For reference, the contents of the textbook are included as an Appendix.

Using the materials available on the [Ministry's website](#), we identified Social Studies courses that we believe can incorporate parts of the textbook. We used a rating scale (shown in the table below) to indicate where and how well the textbook's Cases, Applications, and Learning Modules align with the Big Ideas, Competencies, Content, and corresponding elaborations for each course.

The detailed assessment below shows where and how well the textbook materials align with the BC Curriculum for **Social Studies 12. Urban Studies**. We used the following three-point scale:

-  Strong alignment with competencies
-  Moderate alignment with competencies
-  Minor alignment with competencies

BIG IDEAS

Urbanization is a critical force that shapes both human life and the planet.

The historical development of cities has been shaped by geographic, economic, political, and social factors.

Decision making in urban and regional planning requires balancing political, economic, social, and environmental factors.

Urban planning decisions and other government policies can dramatically affect the overall quality of life in cities.

Learning Standards

Curricular Competencies	Content
<p><i>Students are expected to be able to do the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze ideas; and communicate findings and decisions Assess and compare the significance of past and present factors that influence urbanization (significance) Ask questions about the content, origins, purposes, and context of multiple sources in order to corroborate inferences gathered from them (evidence) Identify continuity and change in the development of urban spaces (continuity and change) Determine and assess the long- and short-term causes and consequences, and the intended and unintended consequences, of public policy decisions related to urban places (cause and consequence) Explain and identify the forces that shape opinions and decision making on current issues related to urban studies (perspective) Recognize implicit and explicit ethical judgments in a variety of sources (ethical judgment) Make reasoned ethical judgments about current and past issues after considering the context and standards of right and wrong (ethical judgment) 	<p><i>Students are expected to know the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> urbanization as a global phenomenon historic settlement patterns in urban centres local and regional governance in B.C. and relationships with other levels of government functions of local and regional government urban planning and urban design decision making in the planning of cities and regions contemporary issues in urban studies

Curricular Competencies – Elaborations

Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze ideas; and communicate findings and decisions:

- All three applications for the Urban Planning Case Study place the student in a position of an ‘expert’ in which they must analyse the situation and decide how to address the issues. The exercises can include both written and oral communication. The case and relevant learning modules provide context that students must interpret and analyse.

Key skills:

- Draw conclusions about a problem, an issue, or a topic.
- Assess and defend a variety of positions on a problem, an issue, or a topic.
- Demonstrate leadership by planning, implementing, and assessing strategies to address a problem or an issue.
- Identify and clarify a problem or issue.
- Evaluate and organize collected data (e.g., in outlines, summaries, notes, timelines, charts).
- Interpret information and data from a variety of maps, graphs, and tables.
- Interpret and present data in a variety of forms (e.g., oral, written, and graphic).
- Accurately cite sources.

Construct graphs, tables, and maps to communicate ideas and information, demonstrating appropriate use of grids, scales, legends, and contours.

Identify continuity and change in the development of urban spaces (continuity and change):

- The Urban Planning Case Study materials address continuity and change in the development of the City of Prince George and its fringe area as urban spaces.

Sample activities:

- Study historic maps and photos through time and examine what has changed and what has stayed the same. If change did occur, determine what factors influenced that change.
- Compare two examples of urban planning in one city, one current and one past. Determine what has stayed the same and what has changed in terms of decision making and how a space is valued.

Determine and assess the long- and short-term causes and consequences, and the intended and unintended consequences, of public policy decisions related to urban places (cause and consequence):

- The Urban Planning Case Study materials centre on public policy decisions related to the City of Prince George and its fringe area as urban spaces. The Case provide historical context that enables learners to assess long- and short-term causes and consequences.

Sample activities:

- Examine the intended and unintended consequences of the decision not to build a freeway in downtown Vancouver in the 1970s.
- Analyze the factors that influenced decision making in a specific planning decision.

Content – Elaborations

urbanization as a global phenomenon:

Sample topics:

- global urbanization trends and case studies in recent decades
- transnationalism and the interconnectedness of urban centres

historic settlement patterns in urban centres:

➤ The Urban Planning case describes and explains the historic settlement pattern of the City of Prince George and its fringe area.

Sample topics:

historical trends:

- urbanization
- rural-urban migration
- suburbanization
- gentrification

urban geography models of land use:

- concentric zone model
- Hoyt model
- multiple nuclei model
- urban realms model

types of urban land use:

- residential
- transportation
- institutional
- recreational
- commercial
- industrial

local and regional governance in B.C. and relationships with other levels of government:

- The Urban Planning Case Study materials focus on local and regional governance for the Prince George area. Provincial policy is discussed in relation to the *Local Government Act*.
- The Rural Planning Case Study is set within the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako with a primary focus on overlapping jurisdictions. In addition to the Regional District, the case study also encompasses provincial regional planning and the traditional territory of the Wet'sewet'en.

Sample topics:

how cities operate within a network of regional, national, and global urban systems:

- sharing of services

Content – Elaborations

- funding models
- elections
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities,
- Union of BC Municipalities
- relationships with Treaty First Nations, Bands, and Métis Nation British Columbia

functions of local and regional government:

➤ **The Urban Planning Case Study materials focus on local and regional governance for the Prince George area.**

Sample topics:

providing infrastructure (e.g., water, waste)

public housing

taxation

economic development

public safety

support of community organizations such as friendship centres

urban planning and urban design:

➤ **The Urban Planning Case Study materials focus on local and regional planning for the City of Prince George and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George.**

Sample topics:

maximizing benefits and confronting challenges of urban centres

involving First Peoples in planning

livability and sustainability

public and private spaces

zoning and regulations

Key question:

What is the relationship between urbanization and sustainability?

decision making in the planning of cities and regions:

➤ **The Urban Planning Case Study materials focus on local and regional planning for the City of Prince George and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George. The applications require learners to assume the position of expert and present decisions on local and regional planning.**

Content – Elaborations

Sample topic:

examples of factors influencing decision making:

- political considerations
- financial implications
- public pressure, perceptions, and awareness
- social capital
- social engineering
- policy constraints

contemporary issues in urban studies:

- **The Urban Planning Case Study materials focus on current conditions for the City of Prince George. These conditions set the context for exploring a range of contemporary issues, which include homelessness, housing, livability.**

Sample topics:

social justice

- housing quality and homelessness
- poverty
- crime
- livability, affordability, food security
- discrimination and inequity in access to services

global urban disparity:

- governance
- infrastructure
- access to services such as education and health care
- quality of and access to jobs
- gender equality

environmental factors:

- climate change causing rising sea levels, increased storm activity
- air quality
- land and water quality