

BIG IDEAS

Understanding legal rights and responsibilities allows citizens to participate more fully in society.

Laws can maintain the status quo and can also be a force for change.

A society's laws and legal framework affects many aspects of people's daily lives.

Laws are interpreted and these interpretations many evolve over time as a society's values and worldviews change.

Learning Standards

| Curricular Competencies | Content |
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| <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 legal concepts, issues, and procedures; and communicate findings and decisions • Assess and compare the significance and impact of legal systems and codes (significance) • Assess the justification for differing legal perspectives after investigating points of contention, reliability of sources, and adequacy of evidence (evidence) • Analyze continuities and changes in legal systems and thought during different time periods and across jurisdictions (continuity and change) • Assess the development and impact of legal systems and ideas of justice (cause and consequence) • Explain different perspectives on past or present people, places, issues, and events by considering prevailing norms, values, worldviews, and beliefs (perspective) • Recognize implicit and explicit ethical judgments in a variety of sources (ethical judgment) • Make reasoned ethical judgments about controversial decisions, legislation, or policy (ethical judgment) | <p><i>Students are expected to know the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key areas of law such as criminal law, civil law, and family law • foundations of Canadian law • structures and powers of the federal and provincial courts and administrative tribunals • the Constitution of Canada and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms • legislation concerning First Peoples • role of the judiciary as a constitutional check on legislative power • Canada's correctional system • legislation concerning children and youth • legal resources and services, both online and in the community • structures and roles of global dispute resolution agencies |