

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
<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

Curricular Competencies – Elaborations

Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze legal concepts, issues, and procedures; and communicate findings and decisions:

Sample activities:

- Examine and explain how to resolve a legal issue in an area of civil law, such as rental agreements, employment, or separation.
- Investigate which legal resources are available in the community to help people deal with a selected legal issue, including how to represent themselves in court or in front of a tribunal.
- Research alternative methods and strategies to resolve conflicts before they become legal problems.
- Assess different types of evidence and how to determine bias, reliability, and relevance in a source of evidence.
- Conduct a mock trial or debate to judge a legal case or issue.

Assess and compare the significance and impact of legal systems and codes (significance):

Sample activities:

- Assess the significance of the Constitution Act, 1982, and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to human rights in Canada.
- Analyze the role of global dispute resolution institutions and agencies in international human rights and economic development issues.

Analyze continuities and changes in legal systems and thought during different time periods and across jurisdictions (continuity and change):

Sample activity:

- Compare and contrast different views over time on the role of the correctional system in Canada.

Explain different perspectives on past or present people, places, issues, and events by considering prevailing norms, values, worldviews, and beliefs (perspective):

Sample activity:

- Analyze whether Canadian laws regarding the rights of minority groups evolved because of, or in spite of, popular support for change.

Recognize implicit and explicit ethical judgments in a variety of sources (ethical judgment):

Sample activity:

- Investigate ways the legal system has been used in the past to maintain inequalities.

Make reasoned ethical judgments about controversial decisions, legislation, or policy (ethical judgment):

Sample activity:

- Assess cases in which the legal system has made rulings on human rights, and evaluate the extent to which these decisions advanced or infringed on the rights of those affected.

Content – Elaborations

key areas of law such as criminal law, civil law, and family law:*Sample topics:*

- Criminal Code
- burden of proof (reasonable doubt versus balance of probability)
- the importance of checks and balances to prevent wrongful convictions

foundations of Canadian law:*Sample topics:*

- discriminatory laws and reform processes
- importance of independence of the judiciary and lawyers
- case and common law
- role of deterrence and denunciation in the correctional system

structures and powers of the federal and provincial courts and administrative tribunals:*Sample topics:*

- victims' rights and the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights
- rights of the accused
- appeals process
- small claims

the Constitution of Canada and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms:*Sample topic:*

- renewed focus on individual rights

legislation concerning First Peoples:*Sample topics:*

- Aboriginal self-government
- the treaty process
- alternative dispute resolution processes, including restorative justice
- 1763 Royal Proclamation

role of the judiciary as a constitutional check on legislative power:*Sample topics:*

- greater role of judicial oversight
- reinterpretation of legislation

Content – Elaborations**Canada’s correctional system:***Sample topics:*

- provincial versus federal institutions
- rehabilitation versus punishment

legislation concerning children and youth:*Sample topics:*

- Young Offenders Act
- Youth Criminal Justice Act

structures and roles of global dispute resolution agencies:*Sample topics:*

- International Court of Justice
- World Trade Organization
- United Nations

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