

GRADE 6: Democracy: Action and Participation

General Outcome 6.1: Citizens Participating in Decision Making

Students will demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the dynamic relationship between governments and citizens as they engage in the democratic process.

Specific Outcomes

Values and Attitudes

6.1.1 recognize how individuals and governments interact and bring about change within their local communities

- Recognize and respect the democratic rights of all citizens in Canada
- Value citizens participation in a democratic society
- Value the contributions of elected representatives in the democratic process

Knowledge and Understanding

6.1.4 analyze the structure and functions of local governments in Alberta by exploring and reflecting upon the following questions and issues

- How are representatives chosen to form a local government (i.e., electoral process)?
- What are the responsibilities of local governments (i.e., bylaws, taxes, services)?

6.1.6 analyze how individuals, groups and associations within a community impact decision making of local and provincial governments by exploring and reflecting upon the following questions and issues

- How can individuals, groups and associations within a community participate in the decision-making process regarding current events or issues (i.e., lobbying, petitioning, organizing and attending local meetings and rallies, contacting elected representatives)?
- In what ways do elected officials demonstrate their accountability to the electorate (e.g., respond to constituents, participate in local events, represent and express in government meetings the concerns of constituents)?

Skills and Processes

Dimensions of Thinking

6.S.1 develop skills of critical thinking and creative thinking:

- assess significant local and current affairs from a variety of sources, with a focus on examining bias and distinguishing fact from opinion
- critically evaluate ideas, information and positions
- re-evaluate personal opinions to broaden understanding of a topic or an issue
- generate original ideas and strategies in individual and group activities

6.S.2 develop skills of historical thinking:

- use historical and community resources to understand and organize the sequence of historical events
- explain the historical contexts of key events of a given time period
- use examples of events to describe cause and effect and change over time

6.S.4 demonstrate skills of decision making and problem solving:

- propose and apply new ideas, strategies and options, supported with facts and reasons, to contribute to decision making and problem solving
- consider multiple perspectives when dealing with issues, decision making and problem solving
- collaborate with others to devise strategies for dealing with problems and issues

Social Participation as a Democratic Process

6.S.5 demonstrate skills of cooperation, conflict resolution and consensus building:

- demonstrate the skills of compromise in order to reach group consensus
- work collaboratively with others to achieve a common goal

6.S.6 develop age-appropriate behaviour for social involvement as responsible citizens contributing to their community, such as:

- demonstrate commitment to the well-being of the community by drawing attention to situations of injustice where action is needed

Research for Deliberative Inquiry

6.S.7 apply the research process:

- determine the reliability of information, filtering for point of view and bias
- formulate questions to be answered through the research process
- draw and support conclusions based on information gathered to answer a research question
- include references in an organized manner as part of research
- formulate new questions as research progresses

Communication

6.S.8 demonstrate skills of oral and visual literacy:

- express opinions and present perspectives and information in a variety of forms, such as oral presentations, speeches or debates
- express reasons for their ideas and opinions
- use skills of informal debate to persuasively express differing viewpoints regarding an issue
- respond appropriately to comments and questions, using language respectful of human diversity
- listen to others to understand their perspectives

6.S.9 develop skills of media literacy:

- detect bias present in the media
- examine and assess diverse perspectives regarding an issue presented in the media
- analyze significant current affairs