

SOCIAL STUDIES

Grade – 4





SCHOOLIO ONTARIO CURRICULUM

GRADE 4 SOCIAL STUDIES



– TABLE OF CONTENTS

Unit 1: Early Societies to 1500CE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 Why is it important to learn History?2 Intro to Mayans3 Daily Life4 Society5 The Fall6 Presenting your Map7 Intro to Ancient Rome8 Daily Life9 Society10 The Colosseum and Gladiators11 Circus Maximus and Chariot RacingTime Travel Agent12 Intro to Ancient EgyptAncient Egyptian Society Hierarchy13 Daily Life14 Society15 Mummies and The Book of the Dead16 Intro to Ancient Inuit Peoples17 Daily Life18 Society19 Inukshuks and Transportation
Unit 2: Physical & Political Regions of Canada and the Effects of Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 Provinces and Territories2 Introducing the Physical Regions of Canada3 Cordillera4 Cordillera Work Day5 Interior Plains6 Interior Plains Work Day7 Canadian Shield8 Canadian Shield Work Day9 Great Lakes- St. Lawrence Lowlands10 Great Lakes- St. Lawrence Lowlands Work Day11 Appalachians12 Appalachians Work Day13 Hudson Bay Lowlands & Arctic Lands14 Hudson Bay Lowlands & Arctic Lands Work Day15 Canadian Industry and the Environment16 Canadian Industry and the Environment
Unit 3: Assessment	




EARLY SOCIETIES TO 1500CE

Lesson 1: Why is it important to learn History?


To Understand Our Past:



-  Learning your own personal and family history helps you understand your lineage and where you came from. It creates a family connection when you learn the stories of your past.
-  Learning the history of your country and culture helps you understand why adults make some of the choices they do, why certain beliefs are held, and what life was like both where you live now, and where your ancestors came from before you were where you are now.

Cross-Cultural Connections:




-  Understanding the history of other people, what experiences they've had, and what they've been through, helps us to learn empathy and have understanding for people and communities outside our own.
-  We make more connections with people outside our community and culture when we understand their background and history.
-  We can understand why adults, governments, and other authorities make the decisions they do, when we understand the background those decisions are rooted in.

Learn Important Lessons:

-  Understanding how things worked in the past- society, technology, government, etc. helps us make choices about how we want things to work today and in the future.

-  Mistakes and successes of the past help us make decisions today.
-  Significant events of the past, what led to them, how they were handled, and how they were resolved, can give us guidance when confronting significant events today and help us make important decisions.

Activity: Tell a Story of your History

-  Interview a Family Member and ask them to tell you a story from your family's past that they think is important for you to know and remember. It can be in your lifetime or before.
-  OR Interview a Community Member (religious, ethnic, cultural, etc, any community you feel significantly a part of) and ask them to tell you a story of your community's past that they think is important for you to know and remember.
-  Write the story in your own words, then write 4-5 sentences about why it is/may be important for you to know and remember this story going forward in your life.

Lesson 2: Intro to Mayans

Intro: Two thousand years ago, the Maya created one of the most sophisticated civilizations of the Americas. It's estimated there were more than 100 cities and they had a complex social and architectural structure.

Location: The Mayans inhabited a large area of Mesoamerica. They were located in parts of what is now modern-day Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and El Salvador.



Architecture:

✎ The Mayans are famous for their amazing architecture. Many pyramids, palaces, and other buildings are still standing today.

- ✎ The Mayans built two types of pyramids, both in the stepped-stair design.
 - ✓ One type had stairs on one side, these were meant for priests to climb to perform important religious ceremonies at the top, like sacrifices to the Gods
 - ✓ The second type did not have stairs, and these were not meant to be climbed or touched by humans. They were built as a form of worship to the Gods.
- ✎ Mayan cities would have a large palace for their king, and the palace grounds could include several buildings and courtyards.
- ✎ The Mayans also built ball courts with two long stone walls in their cities. Some cities even had multiple courts.



This is a pyramid style with stairs. You can see how even without stairs, the design is “stepped-stair”. Mayan pyramids always had 9 levels.

This pyramid is El Castillo in the city of Chichen Itza.

A palace structure, you can see a tall watchtower in the centre, multiple buildings, and courtyards.



Political Structure and Hierarchy:

- ✎ Mayan civilization was made up of many independent city-states.
- ✎ Each city-state had its own King and government.
- ✎ King and royal family: The Mayans believed the King was chosen by the Gods to rule, and acted as an intermediary between the Gods and the people. Kingship was inherited.
- ✎ **Nobles:** Members of the Noble class made up a council that ran the government and the city.
- ✎ **Priests:** Because religion was very important to Mayan life, priests held high stature in the community. The King often sought advice from the priests, so they had a hand in how the city was ruled.
- ✎ **Commoners:** Commoners had to pay taxes to support the King, Nobles, and city. Commoners also had to serve as warriors whenever the King commanded.

Importance to History/Contributions:

- ✎ The Mayans developed a written language in hieroglyphs (symbols)
- ✎ Invented the mathematical concept of zero
- ✎ Used their skills in mathematics and astronomy to develop complex calendar systems including the Long Count Calendar which lasted 5000 years.

Activity: Design a stair-stepped pyramid by cutting out the paper strips provided. Add embellishments, decorations, and hieroglyphs.