

**Aboriginal Studies 10/20/30**

Jurisdiction: Alberta

Contact: Jane Martin

Level: K-12

Theme: Curriculum/materials

Description of Practice:

- Aboriginal Studies 10–20–30 provides a conceptual framework for all learners to enhance understanding of the diverse Aboriginal cultures within their region, Canada and the world. The goal of Aboriginal Studies 10–20–30 is to increase the knowledge of the learner about the past, present and future of Aboriginal peoples. Students examine how Aboriginal peoples are striving toward maintaining and promoting cultures and identities that reflect values based on respect for the laws of nature and a continual pursuit of balance among individuals, the family unit, the larger community and global community context. The term "Aboriginal" refers to First Nations, Métis and Inuit.
- The Aboriginal Studies 10-20-30 course is optional for high school students and can be offered for either 3 or 5 credits depending upon instructional hours.

Background:

- The Aboriginal Studies 10-20-30 Program of Studies was first piloted in 2000. *Aboriginal Perspectives - Aboriginal Studies 10* was the first of three textbooks published (August 2004) followed by: *Peoples and Cultural Change - Aboriginal Studies 20* (February 2005) and *Contemporary Issues- Aboriginal Studies 30* (May 2005).
- On June 2, 2005 Les Editions Duval Inc., with its partners: Kainai Board of Education, Metis Nation of Alberta, Northlands School Division, and Tribal Chiefs Institute of Treaty 6, hosted the official launch of the Aboriginal Studies 10-20-30 student textbooks at Amiskwaciy Academy (Amiskwaciy Academy is a public school that offers enriched curriculum by offering options courses that reflect Aboriginal traditions and values) in Edmonton, Alberta. The launch highlighted the diversity amongst Aboriginal groups from across the province, in which First Nations and Metis leaders and various performing groups from the Aboriginal communities participated.

Development:

- Aboriginal Studies was developed in partnership with elders, educators, and Alberta Education staff. The textbooks have included "first hand" oral stories from the different Aboriginal communities, which relates to infusing traditional teachings from an Aboriginal worldview. Three teacher's resource manuals to support the three student textbooks are presently under development.
- *Earth Voices Video Series* to support Aboriginal Studies 10-20-30. This collection of videos features interviews with Aboriginal Elders, athletes, artists, activists, businesspeople, educators, journalists, musicians and politicians, most of whom are from Alberta. The interviews are organized according to the following themes: worldviews, organization, symbolism, Métis, treaties, legislation, schooling, self-government, land claims, peoples and issues. The videos are part of the Earth Voices Video Series I and II, and are licensed by Alberta Education from Earth Magic Media for exclusive use by Alberta teachers, students and parents. A user ID and password is required in order to access this collection.

Evidence:

- In May of 2005, *Aboriginal Perspectives-Aboriginal Studies 10* was awarded the Alberta Publishers Award for Educational Book of the year.
- The *Earth Voices Video Series* has generated very positive responses from the field and enabled the building of relationship of trust with Aboriginal communities to continue collecting authentic voices.

Adaptability:

- Aboriginal groups across the province worked collaboratively in creating a course in which Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students could learn and appreciate the diversity and complex histories of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit groups across Alberta. This project has allowed the FNMI groups to focus on a common goal and work toward improving education for all students in the province. The process is highly adaptable for other jurisdictions because of its emphasis on collaboration and local perspectives.

Further Information:

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- To further support the implementation of the Aboriginal Studies 10-20-30 Program of Studies, an authorized annotated resource list of student support and teacher resources is posted on the Alberta Education Web site.
- Information on the Program of Studies, Program Rationale and Philosophy, and a list of Program Resources is available on the Alberta Education web site at:  
[http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/k\\_12/curriculum/bySubject/aborstdy/default.asp](http://www.education.gov.ab.ca/k_12/curriculum/bySubject/aborstdy/default.asp)