



*Elementary and Secondary Social Studies  
Interjurisdictional Project for the 21st Century  
Learner*

AISI Conference Showcase Session

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## ***Interjurisdictional Collaboration***

**Interjurisdictional collaboration has increased in scale, scope, and quality:**

- Due to this, a common level of understanding about pedagogy and technology is emerging in the partnership
- Some units have been developed collaboratively, and others individually; all units are designed around a common template and are reviewed internally before sharing through the districts
- Curriculum leaders are developing materials based on resources submitted by teachers throughout the three divisions
- As a result of the shared nature of the project, the number and quality of the units available to teachers throughout the three divisions has increased

# ***Unit Design***

## **All units created from K-12 include:**

- Teacher slides with outcomes specific to unit from the Alberta Program of Studies, icons used in the unit and a reference page with direct links
- Student slides with “I can” statements, performance assessments and/or critical thinking challenges, textbook correlation pages, links to applicable websites, videos, worksheets, mapping activities, video conference ideas, fieldtrip ideas, internet software sites, webbing, blogging and interactive tasks
- Teacher Overviews containing: Big Ideas, essential questions, “I can” statements and outcomes specific for the unit from the Alberta Program of Studies, suggestions/ ideas for teaching per slide, reference page with links to the sites
- Student Booklets (intended to be downloaded and printed) containing: “I can” statements, performance tasks and/ or critical thinking challenges and rubrics, textbook correlation pages, applicable pictures, activities, graphic organizers, and other materials necessary to complete tasks and outcomes
- A common SMART notebook framework provides a template while allowing teachers to individualize to their own unique teaching style

## ***Mentorship and Professional Development***

- Providing professional development to enhance teacher's ability to use SMART notebook in their classrooms
  - Teachers are guided through the units, shown how to apply best practices in technology and unit design, and how to implement what they have learned.
  - They are encouraged to make changes to the units to fit their teaching styles.
- Revisions are made based on teacher and student feedback; units are enhanced through consistent feedback from teachers engaging with students
- Many units have been created at teacher request, based on teacher needs, and/or using teacher materials

## ***Lessons Learned***

Response forms, classroom observations and teacher interviews have and are being used to gauge teacher and student response to the units/activities:

- Teachers have expressed excitement about the extensive units, the level of engagement of their students and their ability to implement the material, regardless of their own personal level of technology knowledge and background using interactive whiteboards.
- General comments have been extremely positive and have revealed:
  - student interest and engagement
  - appreciation of unit design and layout
  - ease of use
  - requests for development and further collaboration
  - usefulness of assessments
  - an appreciation for recognizing diversity in needs or context
- Student response forms were designed for two levels of learners (k – 3 and 4 – 12) and will be accumulated when units have been completed.

## ***Contact Information***



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