The human story is a huge tapestry made up of the countless stories of billions of people. It stretches back to the beginning of human life on Earth. Each of our lives is one thread in that tapestry. When we start to follow our own thread, it reaches back, further and further, to a long ago world. When we study the past, we are learning about our place in the human story.

Why do we study the past? How do we know what we think we know about the past? Could what we think we know be wrong or incomplete? Have we found everything there is to know about the past? How are we connected to the past?

Why should we care?

The Ancient World to the 7th Century

Pearson Canada is proud to present learning resources that demonstrate our commitment to honouring the histories, cultures, worldviews, and knowledge of Canada’s First People’s communities.

Here are some samples of Indigenous content contained in the Inquiring Minds, custom social studies series for British Columbia.

Inquiring Minds: The Ancient World to the 7th Century explores the idea that in studying the past, we can discover human experiences that are universal across time, place, and cultures. This text uses five themes to explore how we are all connected to the past. These topics (language and interactions, place, beliefs and worldviews, social organizations, and economy and trade) include Indigenous perspectives. Examples from First Peoples in Canada are included where possible.

Historical thinking concepts—evidence, significance, cause and consequence, ethical judgement, continuity and change, and perspective—are used to explore content examples. These historical thinking concepts provide a specific focus to the curricular competencies.

Integration of First Peoples Principles of Learning allow students to make connections between the information and their own knowledge and experiences.

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Humans come into contact with each other through trade, travel, conflict, and cooperation. Indigenous Peoples use story as a way of passing on cultural beliefs, traditions, and knowledge. Pages 32–33

All humans live in a place in the world. How they interact with and adapt to their environment determines their way of life. Indigenous Peoples see the land as the provider of all life. Pages 44–45

Humans live in groups, from families to societies. Among the Haida, hereditary chiefs and matriarchs made decisions about resources and settled conflicts. Pages 146–147

Beliefs help humans understand how they fit into the world and explain their ways of life. Indigenous Peoples’ traditional stories pass down the wisdom and knowledge of their ancestors. Pages 112–113

When people need something, they create a demand for a product or service. At least 10 000 years ago, trade occurred among Indigenous Peoples in North America. Pages 196–197