

Social Studies 7

Chapter 1 notes:

Empowerment

- Having the ability to make choices and change your world if you think something needs to happen
- Ex: you can decide what career you want to have

Authority

- The right to make decisions in a particular situation
- Ex: Personal Authority: the right to decide what happens in your own life
- Ex2: Legal Authority: the right to decide which laws all citizens must follow

There are FIVE
types of
Empowerment
:

- 1.Economic
- 2.Political
- 3.Cultural
- 4.Societal
- 5.National

1.Economic

- Economics – how communities share wealth and resources they have
- How to gain economic empowerment:
 - Figure out what types of work will be needed in the future
 - Make sure you have the skills needed to take part in that economic activity

2. Political

- Politics – the way we organize the authority that we give our governments
- Ways to be involved in politics:
 - Vote
 - Write letters to politicians
 - Call talk shows to express your opinion

3. Cultural

- Canada is a multicultural country. This means that there are people from many different countries living in Canada. These people are encouraged to keep parts of their own culture.
- Ways for cultural groups to ensure they get their fair share of power and authority:
 - Individuals stay active in their culture
 - Be proud to share their traditions with others so that they will understand the culture

4. Societal

- Society – involves everything people do when they live, work and play together in communities.
- Societal empowerment means making sure everyone in our community is treated fairly.
- When people think unfair situations are occurring, they should:
 - Take the power the law gives them
 - Speak out about the problem

5. National

- National empowerment – countries making sure they have the power to make decisions for themselves.
- Important decisions nations need to be able to make:
 - Make its own laws
 - Decide what to do with their natural resources
 - Decide for itself if it should go to war if there are conflicts in the world

- As you get older, the law will give you the authority to have more power in your life. BUT, having more power means having more responsibility.
- Ex: At 16 years of age, you can get a driver's license. You have the power to drive but you must accept the responsibility of driving safely.

Personal Empowerment

- Being able to do something about your own needs, wants, opinions, beliefs and feelings.
- There are many ways to increase your personal empowerment:
 - Learn all you can
 - Work
 - Volunteer
 - Know your rights and responsibilities
 - Know where to go for help
 - Make friends

Disempowerment:

- People who are disempowered feel they have no control or say in their lives. They are not able to make choices about things that matter to them.