Canadian Grade 5 & 6 Curriculum Connections

English Language Arts | Science | Social Studies
2026-27 School Year

Scope	All 10 provinces and 3 territories; Grades 5 and 6
Curriculum status	Verified against current provincial/territorial education information for 2026-27
Alignment standard	Direct connections separated from supporting connections; non-connections omitted

Prepared as a teacher-reference guide for Pen Pals for Water. Curriculum statements are concise summaries for alignment purposes and are not represented as verbatim provincial/territorial outcomes unless an outcome code is explicitly shown.

How to Use This Guide

This document is designed to help Grade 5 and 6 teachers quickly identify where Pen Pals for Water can legitimately support required curriculum learning in their jurisdiction. It is intentionally conservative: a connection is included only when the program meaningfully addresses or reinforces the curriculum.

Connection Strength

Direct connection

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- The lesson content or student task meaningfully addresses the curriculum knowledge, skill, or competency identified.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **What this means for teachers:** The program can be used as a legitimate learning context for this part of the curriculum, while recognizing that a single lesson may not cover every dimension of an outcome.

Supporting connection

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- The program reinforces a related skill, context, competency, or concept but does not directly teach the complete curriculum expectation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **What this means for teachers:** The activity may complement classroom instruction, but should not be treated as full curriculum coverage.

If no meaningful connection was identified, the area is omitted rather than stretched to fit.

Program Lesson Reference

- Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives
- Lesson 2 - Water in Canada’s History
- Lesson 3 - Freshwater Ecosystems
- Lesson 4 - Watersheds
- Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action
- Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing
- Pen Pal Exchange - classroom-to-classroom communication and comparison of local freshwater experiences

Scope Notes

- This guide focuses on English-language public-school curricula. New Brunswick is mapped to the Anglophone sector; Quebec is mapped to the English-language sector; Nunavut ELA uses the English First Language curriculum.
- Curriculum wording is summarized for readability. Teachers should use the official curriculum document for complete wording, outcome codes, indicators, and assessment requirements.
- Curriculum status was checked against official provincial/territorial education information available on August 25, 2026.
- Because several jurisdictions use cycle-based, integrated, or locally adapted curricula, the document explains those structures where they affect interpretation.

Jurisdictions Included

1. **Alberta**
2. **British Columbia**
3. **Saskatchewan**
4. **Manitoba**
5. **Ontario**
6. **Quebec (English-language sector)**
7. **New Brunswick (Anglophone sector)**
8. **Nova Scotia**
9. **Prince Edward Island**
10. **Newfoundland and Labrador**
11. **Yukon**
12. **Northwest Territories**
13. **Nunavut**

Each jurisdiction includes a 2026-27 curriculum-status note, followed by Grade 5 and Grade 6 connections in English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies.

Alberta

CURRICULUM STATUS FOR 2026-27

For 2026-27, Grade 5 and 6 use the renewed English Language Arts and Literature curriculum and renewed Science curriculum. The new Grade 4-6 Social Studies curriculum becomes mandatory province-wide in September 2026.

Alberta Education and Childcare curriculum implementation information (verified August 2026).

Grade 5

English Language Arts

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.
- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.
- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Scientific Observation and Evidence

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Develop understanding of scientific investigations, evidence, observations, and communication of scientific information.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 3 - Freshwater Ecosystems:** Students make and communicate observations about freshwater environments.
- **Lesson 4 - Watersheds:** Students use a model or demonstration to make predictions, observe processes, and discuss evidence.

Grade 5 Science is not primarily a freshwater/ecosystem course; this is a skills-based supporting connection only.

Social Studies

Geography and Environment

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Examine how geographical features and environmental conditions influenced settlement and movement in the Grade 5 study of ancient civilizations.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1, 2 and 4:** Students examine relationships among freshwater, place, travel, settlement, and landscapes using Canadian examples.

These lessons reinforce geographic thinking but do not teach the required ancient-civilizations content.

Informed Citizenship

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Develop knowledge and skills associated with informed citizenship and responsible participation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students use freshwater learning to identify realistic actions and consider responsibility toward water.

Grade 6

English Language Arts

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.
- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.
- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Ecosystems and Biodiversity

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Examine characteristics and components of ecosystems and relationships among biotic and abiotic factors.
- Investigate biodiversity and relationships within natural systems.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 3 - Freshwater Ecosystems:** Students investigate freshwater habitats, biodiversity, and relationships among living and non-living components.
- **Lesson 4 - Watersheds:** Students consider interconnected systems and how changes in one part of a watershed can affect other areas.

Climate Change and Human Action

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Investigate factors that affect climate and climate change, including the effects of human activities and possible personal actions.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 4 and 5:** Students connect water systems with environmental change and identify conservation/stewardship actions.

Energy and Resource Management

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Consider scientific, environmental, and economic factors in the management and use of energy resources.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students consider responsible resource use and decision-making through a freshwater context.

The program supports resource-management thinking but does not teach the full Grade 6 energy outcomes.

Social Studies

Civic Participation

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Examine formal and informal civic participation within the Grade 6 study of democracy.
- Consider how citizens participate, communicate, and contribute to communities.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students identify ways individuals can act on an issue that matters to their community.
- **Pen Pal Exchange:** Students communicate perspectives and experiences with peers in another Canadian community.

Decision-Making and Diverse Perspectives

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Examine democratic decision-making and consider perspectives within civic life.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5 and Pen Pal Exchange:** Students discuss freshwater issues, compare experiences, and consider how different communities may make different choices about shared resources.

The program does not teach the historical/government structures that make up the core of Grade 6 Social Studies.

Official Sources Consulted

Alberta curriculum subject areas: https://www.alberta.ca/curriculum-subject-areas

K-9 Social Studies Subject Overview (2025): https://curriculum.learnalberta.ca/cdn/ciihub/docs/k-9-social-studies-subject-overview.pdf

Grade 6 at a Glance (2026): https://curriculum.learnalberta.ca/cdn/parent-space/prints/at-a-glance-6e-en.pdf

British Columbia

CURRICULUM STATUS FOR 2026-27

British Columbia's redesigned K-9 curriculum remains the applicable curriculum in 2026-27. Grade-specific learning standards are published through Building Student Success.

BC Ministry of Education and Child Care curriculum portal (verified August 2026).

Grade 5

English Language Arts

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.
- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.
- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Natural Resources and Sustainable Practices

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Examine Earth materials as natural resources and the nature of sustainable practices around resource use.
- Consider First Peoples knowledge and perspectives related to sustainable practices.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1 and 5:** Students examine freshwater as a resource and consider conservation and responsible use.
- **Lesson 4 - Watersheds:** Students build understanding of connected water systems and human influences on them.

Scientific Inquiry

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Make predictions, observe, measure, record data, identify patterns, and communicate findings.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 3 and 4:** Students make observations and use models, maps, or investigations to develop freshwater understanding.

Social Studies

Natural Resources, Geography, and Canada

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Examine how natural resources continue to shape the economy and identity of different regions of Canada.
- Use maps and inquiry skills to investigate geographic features, resources, and issues.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1 and 4:** Students investigate freshwater, place, and watersheds.
- **Lesson 2 - Water in Canada's History:** Students examine how waterways shaped travel, trade, settlement, and community development.

Civic Action

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Identify opportunities for civic participation and develop/implement action related to a problem or issue.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students identify practical actions they can take to care for freshwater.

Grade 6

English Language Arts

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.

- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.
- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Scientific Inquiry and Communication

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use scientific inquiry processes to ask questions, plan investigations, analyze evidence, and communicate findings.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 3 and 4:** Students observe freshwater systems, work with models and information, and communicate what they learn.

Grade 6 Science content centres on body systems, mixtures, forces, and the solar system; freshwater is therefore a supporting inquiry context rather than a direct content match.

Social Studies

Global Issues, Resources, and the Environment

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Examine global issues, including environmental issues and the management/use of natural resources.
- Consider access to resources such as water and the consequences of human activity.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1, 4 and 5:** Students investigate freshwater systems, human-water relationships, and conservation.
- **Pen Pal Exchange:** Students compare how water is experienced and managed in different Canadian communities.

Civic Participation and Perspectives

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use inquiry to examine issues from multiple perspectives and consider actions that contribute to communities.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 and Pen Pal Exchange:** Students consider action, exchange perspectives, and communicate about a shared environmental issue.

Official Sources Consulted

BC Curriculum - English Language Arts: https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/english-language-arts

BC Curriculum - Science: https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/science

BC Curriculum - Social Studies: https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/social-studies

Saskatchewan

CURRICULUM STATUS FOR 2026-27

Saskatchewan's published Grade 5 and Grade 6 curricula on the provincial curriculum portal remain the applicable curricula for 2026-27.

Saskatchewan Curriculum portal (verified August 2026).

Grade 5

English Language Arts

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.
- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.
- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Scientific Inquiry and Weather

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use scientific inquiry skills to ask questions, collect and interpret evidence, and communicate conclusions.
- Explore weather and related Earth-system processes.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 3 and 4:** Students observe, ask questions, interpret information, and communicate freshwater learning.

  Freshwater ecosystems are not a core Grade 5 Science unit, so this is a supporting skills/context connection.

Social Studies

People, Land, and Water in Canada

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Analyze the historic and contemporary relationship of people to land in Canada.
- Assess how the environment affects the lives of people in Canada, including bodies of water, resources, migration, and settlement.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1, 2 and 4:** Students examine water, people, place, travel, settlement, and watersheds in Canada.

Sustainable Resource Use

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Examine responsible and sustainable use of resources and consider the consequences of resource-management choices.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students investigate personal water use and identify conservation actions.

Grade 6

English Language Arts

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.
- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.
- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Diversity of Living Things and Aquatic Ecosystems

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Recognize, describe, and appreciate diversity of living things in local and other ecosystems.
- Document diversity in terrestrial and aquatic habitats such as rivers and ponds.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 3 - Freshwater Ecosystems:** Students investigate freshwater habitats, organisms, biodiversity, and ecological relationships.

Social Studies

Sustainability and Responsible Action

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Examine local and global interdependence and consider actions related to environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students consider freshwater stewardship and identify meaningful action.
- **Pen Pal Exchange:** Students compare experiences across Canadian communities and consider shared environmental responsibility.

Official Sources Consulted

Saskatchewan Curriculum portal: https://curriculum.gov.sk.ca/

Social Studies 5 - DR5.1: https://curriculum.gov.sk.ca/CurriculumOutcomeContent?id=168&oc=83700

Science 6 - Diversity of Living Things: https://curriculum.gov.sk.ca/CurriculumOutcomeContent?id=59&oc=69308

Manitoba

CURRICULUM STATUS FOR 2026-27

In 2026-27, Manitoba's renewed K-10 Science curriculum moves to full implementation. The renewed Social Studies pilot has been moved to 2027-28, so the existing K-8 Social Studies framework remains prescribed. For ELA, renewed K-8 materials are in pilot/voluntary implementation in 2026-27; this guide uses the currently prescribed ELA framework/practices and notes the transition.

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning implementation updates (verified August 2026).

Grade 5

English Language Arts

Manitoba ELA is in a transition period in 2026-27. The program strongly supports the established ELA practices of sense making, exploration/design, language as a system, and power/agency through authentic reading, discussion, and writing.

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.
- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.
- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Water Systems, Water Cycle, and Conservation

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Explain how weather systems involve interactions among the atmosphere, water systems, and landforms.
- Demonstrate understanding of the water cycle and its relationship to weather and living things.
- Consider water pollution, conservation/protection of water, and Indigenous knowledge related to water within science-technology-society-environment contexts.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1 and 4:** Students investigate local freshwater and watershed systems.
- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students examine water use and identify conservation actions.

Scientific Inquiry

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Conduct scientific investigations, gather and analyze evidence, and communicate scientific understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 3 and 4:** Students make observations, ask questions, use representations/models, and communicate findings.

Social Studies

The Land: Places and People

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Explore relationships among people, land, resources, and geographic features within the Grade 5 study of Canada to 1867.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1, 2 and 4:** Students examine freshwater, place, watersheds, travel, trade, and settlement in Canadian history.

Historical Connections

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Investigate First Peoples, early contact, the fur trade, and development of Canada to 1867.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 2 - Water in Canada's History:** Students examine the role of waterways in Indigenous life, travel, trade, exploration, and settlement.

Grade 6

English Language Arts

Manitoba ELA is in a transition period in 2026-27. These connections are framed around the currently prescribed ELA practices and remain compatible with the direction of the renewed pilot materials.

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.
- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.
- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Scientific Inquiry and STSE

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use inquiry and engineering-design processes and examine how science interacts with society and the environment.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 3 and 4:** Students make observations, analyze information, and use freshwater contexts to practise scientific thinking.

The renewed Grade 6 Science content focuses on forces, energy/electricity, Earth-Moon-Sun systems, genetics, and evolution; the program does not directly teach those units.

Social Studies

Citizenship and Contemporary Canada

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Develop active democratic citizenship, communication, critical thinking, and understanding of Canada from 1867 to the present.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students connect knowledge to responsible action.
- **Pen Pal Exchange:** Students communicate across communities and learn about different Canadian experiences.

Pen Pals supports citizenship and Canadian-community learning but does not teach the core historical sequence of Grade 6 Social Studies.

Official Sources Consulted

Manitoba curriculum implementation update - Spring/Summer 2026: https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/docs/sector_coms/newsletters/department_newsletter_spring_2026.pdf

Renewed Grade 5 Science: https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/framework/english/science/science_gr5.html

Renewed Grade 6 Science: https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/framework/english/science/science_gr6.html

K-8 Social Studies Framework: https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/framework/publications/socstud/framework/docs/k-8framework.pdf

Ontario

CURRICULUM STATUS FOR 2026-27

For 2026-27, Ontario uses The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: Language (2023), Science and Technology (2022), and Social Studies, Grades 1-6 (2018, with current revisions/supports as published by the Ministry).

Ontario Ministry of Education Curriculum and Resources portal (verified August 2026).

Grade 5

English Language Arts

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.
- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.
- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Conservation of Energy and Resources

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Assess impacts of energy and resource use on society and the environment and identify ways resources can be conserved.
- Consider responsible use of natural resources and environmental impacts.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1 and 5:** Students examine freshwater as a shared resource, personal water use, conservation, and stewardship.

  The connection is strongest where teachers use water as the natural-resource context; the program does not cover the full energy strand.

STEM Investigation and Communication

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use research, experimentation, observation, and communication processes to develop and communicate scientific understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 3 and 4:** Students observe freshwater systems and use diagrams/models/information to develop explanations.

Social Studies

Responsible Citizenship and Government

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Examine ways citizens and governments respond to social and environmental issues and consider responsible citizenship.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students identify informed actions related to freshwater stewardship.

Early Canada and Relationships with the Land

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Investigate interactions among First Nations, Europeans, and communities in early Canada and consider how physical environment influenced life.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 2 - Water in Canada's History:** Students examine the role of waterways in Indigenous life, travel, trade, exploration, and settlement.

Grade 6

English Language Arts

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.

- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.
- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Biodiversity

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Assess human impacts on biodiversity and identify ways to preserve biodiversity.
- Demonstrate understanding of biodiversity and interactions among living things and their environments.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 3 - Freshwater Ecosystems:** Students investigate freshwater biodiversity, habitat, and ecological relationships.
- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students consider actions that support freshwater ecosystems.

Social Studies

Communities in Canada - Past and Present

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Examine diverse communities in Canada, their experiences, identities, and relationships with the physical environment.
- Compare perspectives and use inquiry to understand how communities change over time.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1 and 2:** Students examine how water shapes communities, cultures, history, and daily life.
- **Pen Pal Exchange:** Students learn directly from another Canadian classroom and compare place-based experiences.

Official Sources Consulted

Ontario Curriculum and Resources: https://www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/curriculum

Language, Grade 6 (2023): https://www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/curriculum/elementary-language/grades/grade-6/context

Elementary Social Studies: https://www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/curriculum/elementary-sshg

Quebec (English-language sector)

CURRICULUM STATUS FOR 2026-27

Grades 5 and 6 are Elementary Cycle Three in the Quebec Education Program. The same Cycle Three subject programs span both grades; schools sequence learning across the two-year cycle. This guide uses the current English-language Quebec Education Program applicable in 2026-27.

Quebec Ministry of Education, Quebec Education Program - Preschool and Elementary Education (verified August 2026).

Grade 5

English Language Arts

Quebec ELA is organized by Elementary Cycle Three rather than separate Grade 5 and 6 outcome sets. The program directly supports reading/listening to information-based texts, writing self-expressive and information-based texts, representing literacy in different media, and using language to communicate and learn.

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.
- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.
- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Scientific Problem Solving and Communication

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Propose explanations or solutions to scientific or technological problems.
- Use scientific tools, procedures, information, and language to investigate and communicate understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 3 and 4:** Students observe freshwater systems, ask questions, use models/maps, and communicate explanations.

  Cycle Three Science and Technology is organized by competencies and essential knowledge rather than a standalone freshwater unit; this is a supporting inquiry connection.

Social Studies

Society, Territory, and Environment

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Understand how societies are organized in their territories and interpret relationships between people, territory, resources, and change.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1, 2 and 4:** Students examine how waterways and watersheds shape place, movement, communities, and historical development.

  The prescribed Cycle Three societies/territories determine the core content; Pen Pals provides a contemporary Canadian freshwater context rather than replacing that study.

Grade 6

English Language Arts

The same Cycle Three ELA competencies apply across Grades 5 and 6; expectations deepen across the cycle. Pen Pals provides an authentic audience for information-based and self-expressive writing and sustained oral collaboration.

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.
- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.
- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Scientific Problem Solving and Communication

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Propose explanations or solutions to scientific or technological problems.
- Communicate using scientific and technological language and make use of appropriate tools and procedures.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 3 and 4:** Students investigate freshwater contexts, interpret information, and communicate observations and explanations.

Social Studies

Society, Territory, Change, and Diversity

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Interpret change in a society and its territory and be open to the diversity of societies and territories.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1 and 2:** Students examine relationships among water, community, culture, and historical change.
- **Pen Pal Exchange:** Students compare place-based freshwater experiences in different Canadian communities.

Official Sources Consulted

Quebec Education Program - Preschool and Elementary: https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/education/pfeq/Programme-prescolaire-primaire-AN.pdf

QEP Summary Table: https://cdn-contenu.quebec.ca/cdn-contenu/education/pfeq/Programme-tableau-synthese-presco-primaire-AN.pdf

New Brunswick (Anglophone sector)

CURRICULUM STATUS FOR 2026-27

For 2026-27, this guide uses New Brunswick's current Holistic Curriculum Framework for the Anglophone sector. Grade 5 sits in the Elementary Block (Grades 3-5) and Grade 6 in the Middle Block (Grades 6-8).

New Brunswick Curriculum Framework portal (verified August 2026).

Grade 5

English Language Arts

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.
- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.
- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Scientific Inquiry and Sustainable Application

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Plan investigations, collect/analyze evidence, construct explanations, and communicate findings.
- Apply scientific/technological knowledge with attention to sustainability and stewardship.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 3 and 4:** Students make observations, interpret evidence, and communicate freshwater learning.
- **Lesson 5:** Students apply learning to stewardship decisions.

Grade 5 content focuses on living/human systems and simple machines; the freshwater connection is to inquiry and sustainable application rather than core content.

Social Studies

Geography, Natural Resources, and Canada

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use geographic tools to describe natural and human landscapes and examine Canada's resources, population, transportation, and relationships with place.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1 and 4:** Students investigate water, place, and watershed geography.
- **Lesson 2:** Students examine waterways as transportation and trade routes in Canadian history.

Civic Responsibility

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Develop understanding of rights, responsibilities, governance, and civic engagement.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5:** Students connect freshwater knowledge to individual/community action.

Grade 6

English Language Arts

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.
- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.

- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Ecological Systems and Scientific Inquiry

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Investigate ecological systems within the Grade 6 "Wayfinding - Making Sense of Your World" context.
- Develop/use models, plan investigations, analyze data, and engage in evidence-based reasoning.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 3:** Students explore freshwater habitats, biodiversity, and relationships.
- **Lesson 4:** Students use watershed models/representations to investigate connected systems.

Social Studies

Climate Issues, Sustainability, and Participatory Citizenship

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Research and problem-solve enduring social and climate issues.
- Engage in participatory citizenship and consider sustainability, rights, perspectives, and interconnections among regions and peoples.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5:** Students investigate freshwater stewardship and identify action.
- **Pen Pal Exchange:** Students compare regional experiences and perspectives with another Canadian community.

Official Sources Consulted

NB Curriculum Framework: https://curriculum.nbed.ca/

Elementary ELA: https://curriculum.nbed.ca/learning-areas/elementary-block/english-language-arts/

Elementary Science: https://curriculum.nbed.ca/learning-areas/elementary-block/science/

Middle Science: https://curriculum.nbed.ca/learning-areas/middle-block/science/

Middle Social Studies: https://curriculum.nbed.ca/learning-areas/middle-block/social-studies/

Nova Scotia

CURRICULUM STATUS FOR 2026-27

Nova Scotia's current Grade 5 and Grade 6 curriculum pages remain applicable in 2026-27. Updated Grades 3-6 English Language Arts materials released for 2025-26 are used here, together with the current Science and Social Studies programs.

Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development curriculum portal (verified August 2026).

Grade 5

English Language Arts

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.
- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.
- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Weather, Water, and Human Impacts

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Investigate weather, including the role of water in weather systems and climate-related processes.
- Explore climate change, human impacts on weather systems, and effects on living/non-living things.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1 and 4:** Students examine water systems and environmental conditions.
- **Lesson 5:** Students consider human impacts and stewardship actions.

Scientific Inquiry

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Conduct investigations by defining problems, seeking answers, making plans, observing, collecting information, and communicating learning.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 3 and 4:** Students use observation, inquiry, models, and discussion to investigate freshwater systems.

Social Studies

Environment and Past Societies

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Investigate how environment influenced the development of an ancient society and examine diverse First Nations and Inuit societies in what later became Canada.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 2:** Students examine how waterways supported Indigenous life and influenced travel, trade, and settlement.
- **Lessons 1 and 4:** Students build understanding of relationships between environment, water, and communities.

  Pen Pals complements rather than replaces the prescribed historical societies.

Grade 6

English Language Arts

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.
- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.

- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Diversity of Life

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Analyze diversity of life in nature and significant relationships within the natural world.
- Investigate how organisms are adapted to environments and examine diversity/classification of living things.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 3 - Freshwater Ecosystems:** Students investigate organisms, habitat, biodiversity, and ecological relationships in freshwater systems.

Social Studies

Global Citizenship and Issues

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Analyze rights and responsibilities and take appropriate action demonstrating responsibility as global citizens.
- Examine issues and perspectives at local, national, and international scales.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5:** Students identify freshwater stewardship actions.
- **Pen Pal Exchange:** Students encounter perspectives from another Canadian community and communicate about a shared environmental resource.

Official Sources Consulted

Nova Scotia Grade 5 curriculum: https://curriculum.novascotia.ca/english-programs/grade-5

Science 5: https://curriculum.novascotia.ca/english-programs/course/science-5

Social Studies 5: https://curriculum.novascotia.ca/english-programs/course/social-studies-5

ELA Grade 6 At-a-Glance 2025: https://curriculum.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/documents/outcomes-indicators-files/English_Language_Arts_Grade_6_AAG_%282025%29.pdf

Prince Edward Island

CURRICULUM STATUS FOR 2026-27

Prince Edward Island published its Elementary Program of Studies and Authorized Materials for 2026-27. This guide uses the Grade 5 and Grade 6 programs and curriculum documents identified in that 2026-27 program.

PEI Department of Education and Early Years, Elementary Program of Studies 2026-27 (verified August 2026).

Grade 5

English Language Arts

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.
- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.
- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Weather and Scientific Inquiry

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Investigate weather and use scientific inquiry processes to gather, interpret, and communicate evidence.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 3 and 4:** Students observe, interpret information, and use models/representations in freshwater contexts.

Freshwater ecology is not the central Grade 5 Science unit; the strongest fit is inquiry and water-related weather context.

Social Studies

Past Societies, Environment, and Historical Inquiry

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Investigate past societies and consider relationships among environment, people, and historical development.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 2:** Students explore Canadian water history, including Indigenous relationships with waterways, travel, trade, and settlement.

Grade 6

English Language Arts

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.
- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.
- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Diversity of Life

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Investigate diversity of living things and relationships between organisms and their environments.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 3 - Freshwater Ecosystems:** Students investigate freshwater organisms, biodiversity, habitat, and ecological relationships.

Social Studies

Culture, Place, and Global/Community Perspectives

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Develop understanding of culture, communities, place, and responsible participation through inquiry and comparison of perspectives.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1 and 2:** Students explore how water shapes communities and cultures.
- **Pen Pal Exchange:** Students compare freshwater experiences with peers elsewhere in Canada.

Official Sources Consulted

PEI Programs of Study (2026): https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-early-years/programs-of-study

Elementary Program of Studies 2026-27: https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/publication/elementary-program-of-studies-2026-27

Grade 5 Curriculum: https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/education-and-early-years/grade-5-curriculum

Newfoundland and Labrador

CURRICULUM STATUS FOR 2026-27

As of August 2026, the province's current K-12 curriculum pages and elementary curriculum guides remain the latest prescribed public curriculum available for Grades 5 and 6. This guide uses those current provincial programs; no replacement for these elementary subjects was identified for 2026-27.

Newfoundland and Labrador Education and Early Childhood Development curriculum pages (verified August 2026).

Grade 5

English Language Arts

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.
- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.
- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Weather and Scientific Inquiry

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Investigate weather and climate-related processes and apply scientific inquiry skills.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 3 and 4:** Students observe, ask questions, use information/models, and communicate freshwater understanding.

Freshwater ecosystems are not a core Grade 5 Science unit.

Social Studies

Environment and Society

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Examine the influence of environment on society within the Grade 5 study of past societies and Atlantic history.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1 and 2:** Students explore how water influenced ways of life, travel, trade, and settlement.
- **Lesson 4:** Students build geographic understanding through watersheds and place.

Grade 6

English Language Arts

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.
- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.
- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Diversity of Life

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Investigate diversity of living things and relationships/adaptations within environments.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 3 - Freshwater Ecosystems:** Students investigate organisms, habitat, biodiversity, and relationships in freshwater ecosystems.

Social Studies

Culture, Physical Environment, and Global Issues

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Examine cultural regions, global issues, Indigenous cultures, and the influence of physical environments on culture.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1 and 2:** Students examine how freshwater shapes community, culture, history, and daily life.
- **Lesson 5 and Pen Pal Exchange:** Students consider a contemporary freshwater issue and compare perspectives/ experiences across communities.

Official Sources Consulted

NL Program of Studies/current curriculum: https://www.gov.nl.ca/education/k12/curriculum/descriptions/

Social Studies course descriptions: https://www.gov.nl.ca/education/k12/curriculum/descriptions/social-studies/

Curriculum support documents: https://www.gov.nl.ca/education/k12/curriculum/documents/

Yukon

CURRICULUM STATUS FOR 2026-27

Yukon schools use British Columbia's curriculum, adapted to Yukon context and including Yukon First Nations ways of knowing and doing. The BC K-9 learning standards therefore form the curriculum base for Grades 5 and 6 in 2026-27, with Yukon-localized content and resources.

Yukon Department of Education curriculum information and BC curriculum alignment (verified August 2026).

Grade 5

English Language Arts

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.
- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.
- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Natural Resources and Sustainable Practices

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Examine natural resources and sustainable practices, with learning localized to place and community.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1, 4 and 5:** Students examine freshwater as a local resource, watershed connections, and conservation/stewardship.

  Teachers should localize learning with Yukon First Nations knowledge and community-specific water relationships.

Scientific Inquiry

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Make observations, ask questions, use evidence, and communicate scientific understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 3 and 4:** Students investigate freshwater systems using observation, models, and discussion.

Social Studies

Natural Resources, Geography, and Civic Action

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Examine relationships among natural resources, geography, communities, and civic participation in Canada.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1, 2 and 4:** Students examine water, place, watersheds, travel, trade, and community development.
- **Lesson 5:** Students identify action related to freshwater stewardship.

Grade 6

English Language Arts

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.
- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.
- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Scientific Inquiry

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use scientific inquiry processes to gather, interpret, and communicate evidence.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 3 and 4:** Students make observations and use freshwater contexts to practise inquiry skills.

The underlying BC Grade 6 Science content is not primarily freshwater/ecosystem focused.

Social Studies

Global Issues, Water, Resources, and Civic Action

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Examine environmental/global issues, resource management, access to resources such as water, and civic participation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1, 4 and 5:** Students investigate water systems, resource use, and stewardship.
- **Pen Pal Exchange:** Students compare freshwater experiences and perspectives across Canadian communities.

Official Sources Consulted

Yukon curriculum information: https://yukon.ca/en/school-curriculum

BC Curriculum: https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/

Northwest Territories

CURRICULUM STATUS FOR 2026-27

Grades 4-6 implemented finalized NWT curriculum in all subjects in 2025-26 under the territory's curriculum renewal plan, so that finalized curriculum remains in force in 2026-27. The renewed NWT curriculum is adapted from British Columbia curriculum to reflect NWT communities, cultures, histories, languages, and Indigenous education priorities.

Government of the Northwest Territories curriculum renewal implementation plan (verified August 2026).

Grade 5

English Language Arts

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.
- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.
- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Natural Resources and Sustainable Practices

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Develop understanding of natural resources and sustainable practices within the NWT-adapted curriculum.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1, 4 and 5:** Students investigate freshwater as a resource, watershed connections, and conservation/stewardship.

  Connections should be taught through local NWT contexts and Indigenous knowledge; wording here summarizes the curriculum base rather than reproducing adapted outcomes verbatim.

Scientific Inquiry

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use inquiry, observation, evidence, and communication to develop scientific understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 3 and 4:** Students observe and model freshwater systems and communicate findings.

Social Studies

Land, Resources, Geography, and Citizenship

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Examine relationships among land, resources, communities, and responsible participation within the NWT-adapted Social Studies curriculum.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1, 2 and 4:** Students connect freshwater with place, history, movement, and watersheds.
- **Lesson 5:** Students consider stewardship and action.

Grade 6

English Language Arts

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.
- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.
- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Scientific Inquiry

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use scientific inquiry processes to ask questions, gather evidence, and communicate explanations.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 3 and 4:** Students use freshwater contexts to practise observation, interpretation, and communication.

Grade 6 content is not treated here as a direct freshwater match unless the locally adapted NWT program explicitly makes that connection.

Social Studies

Environmental Issues, Resources, and Civic Participation

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Examine resource/environmental issues, perspectives, and responsible participation within the NWT-adapted Social Studies program.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1, 4 and 5:** Students investigate freshwater systems and stewardship.
- **Pen Pal Exchange:** Students compare community relationships with water across Canada.

Official Sources Consulted

NWT curriculum renewal implementation timeline: https://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/sites/ece/files/resources/2022-10_-_fact_sheet_-_curriculum_renewal_implementation_plan_-_english.pdf

NWT Education, Culture and Employment: https://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/

Nunavut

CURRICULUM STATUS FOR 2026-27

Nunavut's made-in-Nunavut Kindergarten to Grade 6 curricula published in 2025 are the current curriculum base for 2026-27. This guide uses the 2025 English First Language, Science, and Social Studies curricula and their Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit-informed, land-based approach.

Government of Nunavut, Department of Education K-6 curriculum documents (verified August 2026).

Grade 5

English Language Arts

Nunavut English First Language (2025) includes oral communication, reading, and writing strands. Pen Pals directly supports discussion, response to information, personal/world connections, writing development, and communication for an authentic audience.

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.
- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.
- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Land Protection, Stewardship, and Inuit Ways of Knowing

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- 5.ES.1.6: Investigate how Inuit ways of knowing inform protection for the land in Nunavut, Canada, and the world.
- Share knowledge and practices related to changes to the land and environmental stewardship.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1, 4 and 5:** Students investigate local water/land relationships, connected watershed systems, environmental change, and stewardship actions.

  Local Inuit knowledge and community guidance should lead the contextualization of this learning.

Scientific Inquiry and Communication

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use observation, inquiry, evidence, and communication to learn about the natural world.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 3 and 4:** Students observe freshwater systems and communicate explanations using maps, models, and other representations.

Social Studies

Community Relationships with Land - Authentic Inquiry

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Investigate how relationships with land are changing and make wise land-use decisions.
- Use authentic inquiry to examine the relationship of one's own and another Canadian community to land.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1 and 4:** Students investigate their own community's relationship with freshwater and watersheds.
- **Pen Pal Exchange:** Students learn about another Canadian community and compare relationships with water and place.

  This is an especially strong fit with the Grade 5 Social Studies authentic-inquiry emphasis.

Stewardship and Decision-Making

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Consider responsible land use, environmental change, and collective decision-making.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5:** Students identify meaningful actions to care for freshwater.

Grade 6

English Language Arts

Nunavut English First Language (2025) continues oral communication, reading, and writing with increasing independence and complexity. The pen-pal exchange provides a direct purpose for communicating local knowledge, experience, and perspective.

Oral Communication and Collaborative Dialogue

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Communicate ideas, information, experiences, and perspectives through speaking and listening.
- Participate in collaborative discussion and respond constructively to the ideas of others.
- Adapt communication to purpose, audience, and context.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1-5:** Students discuss freshwater concepts, share observations and reflections, and build understanding collaboratively.

- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students discuss and organize their learning before deciding what to communicate to their partner classroom.

Comprehension and Information Literacy

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use comprehension strategies to make meaning from informational, visual, oral, and multimodal texts.
- Identify, interpret, and connect ideas and information from texts and other sources.
- Use prior knowledge, questioning, and evidence to deepen understanding.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 1 - Water in Our Lives:** Students connect freshwater information to their own experiences and prior knowledge.
- **Lessons 2-4:** Students work with historical information, informational text, maps, diagrams, and ecosystem/watershed content to build understanding.

Writing and Creating Texts for an Audience

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Create texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Develop, organize, draft, revise, edit, and communicate ideas clearly.
- Use appropriate text forms, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lesson 5 - Water Conservation & Personal Action:** Students reflect on and communicate ideas about freshwater stewardship and personal action.
- **Lesson 6 - Pen Pal Letter Writing:** Students plan, draft, revise, and produce a letter for an authentic audience in another Canadian community.

The authentic classroom-to-classroom exchange is the program's strongest and most consistent ELA connection.

Science

Scientific Inquiry and Environmental Context

SUPPORTING CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Use scientific inquiry, evidence, communication, and Inuit ways of knowing across science learning.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 3 and 4:** Students use observation, models, and freshwater examples to practise scientific inquiry.

Grade 6 Earth and Space learning includes habitability, extreme environments, and space; freshwater is not presented here as a direct Grade 6 Science content match.

Social Studies

Land Use, Human Impacts, Water/Ice Change, and Solutions

DIRECT CONNECTION

Relevant curriculum connections:

- Investigate land-use conflicts and the environmental impacts of human activity.
- Examine changes to land, climate, animals, water, and ice and use inquiry to consider solutions.

How Pen Pals for Water supports this learning:

- **Lessons 1 and 4:** Students investigate water systems and community relationships with place.
- **Lesson 5:** Students consider human impacts and develop stewardship actions.
- **Pen Pal Exchange:** Students compare environmental experiences and responses across communities.

Official Sources Consulted

Nunavut English First Language K-6 (2025): https://www.gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/publications/2025-04/EL1_Curriculum_English1stLanguage_2025.pdf

Nunavut Science K-6 (2025): https://www.gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/publications/2025-04/S_Curriculum_Science_2025.pdf

Nunavut Social Studies K-6 (2025): https://www.gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/publications/2025-04/SS_Curriculum_SocialStudies_2025.pdf

Verification and Interpretation Notes

This guide is an alignment resource, not a replacement for official curriculum documents. The following rules were applied consistently across jurisdictions:

- The curriculum version expected to be in force during the 2026-27 school year was identified before lesson mapping.
- Official ministry/department sources were prioritized for curriculum status and subject content.
- Direct connections were reserved for curriculum content or competencies that Pen Pals for Water meaningfully teaches or provides an authentic task for.
- Supporting connections were used when a lesson reinforces a related skill or context but does not teach the complete prescribed content.
- Where a curriculum has changed (for example Alberta Social Studies or Manitoba Science), the 2026-27 version was used rather than an outgoing framework.
- Where curriculum is organized by cycles or blocks (for example Quebec or New Brunswick), that structure is stated explicitly.
- Where a territory adapts another jurisdiction's curriculum (Yukon and Northwest Territories), the adaptation/local-context requirement is stated rather than presenting source-jurisdiction wording as verbatim territorial outcomes.
- No attempt was made to manufacture a Science or Social Studies match simply because a lesson is about water. Weak or irrelevant connections were omitted.

Status check date: August 25, 2026.