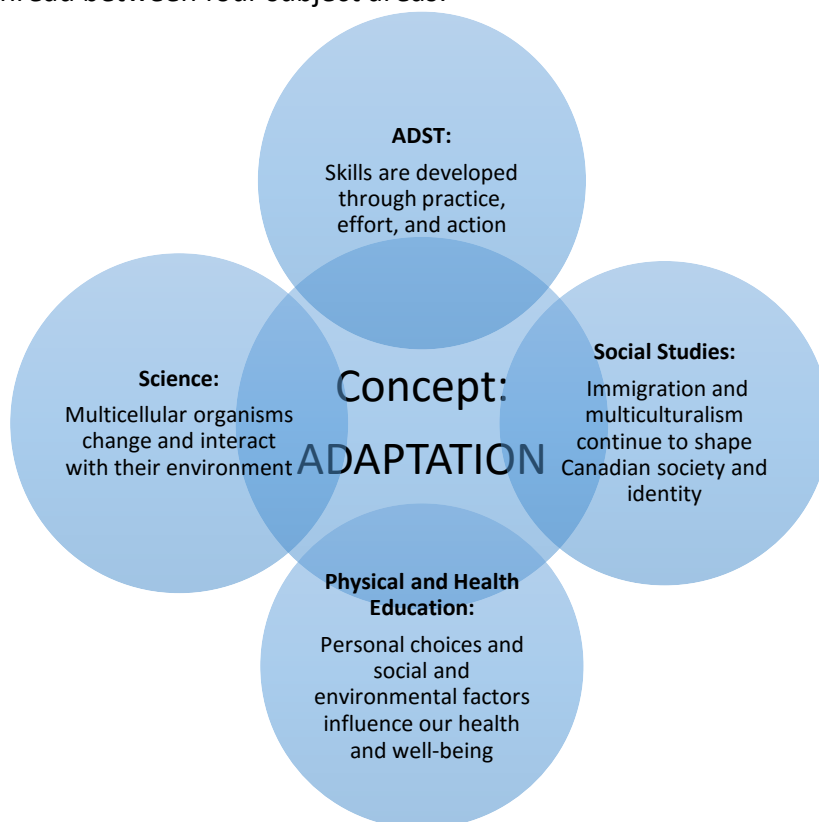


WHAT IS CONCEPT-BASED TEACHING



Concepts are **generalized ideas or notions** that can give teachers a lens or perspective with which to explore the facts and skills in a chosen subject area. Concepts are at the center of what facts and skills are taught in the classroom. Concept based teaching lends itself very well to **transferring knowledge and skills** through various disciplines as it creates a common thread through the subject areas. According to the work of Lynn Erikson (2011), concept-based teaching "facilitates the transfer of understanding through time, across cultures and across situations" (p.99).

The diagram below depicts how a grade 5 teacher may use the concept of **adaptation** to create a common thread between four subject areas:



BENEFITS OF CONCEPT-BASED TEACHING:

- Creates an easy point of entry for teachers to link various disciplines through one common lens
- Encourages students to be more flexible with their thinking
- Provides an opportunity to explore topics in non-traditional ways
- Helps students move toward deeper conceptual understanding
- Encourages students to think critically