

## A. The Rick Hansen Story lessons at a glance

### What are these lessons about?

Students learn about Rick Hansen: the journey he undertook for The Man In Motion World Tour (MIMWT), the story of Rick's spinal cord injury at age 15, and the reason Rick has come to believe that "anything is possible." In the process of learning about Rick and his experiences, students also develop understandings of the potential of persons with disabilities.

### What concepts and skills do these lessons focus on?

Students develop a variety of skills across the curriculum through activities related to the story of Rick Hansen. Students are encouraged to analyze environments from others' perspectives, empathize, problem-solve, collaborate with their peers, and communicate the importance of teamwork. Using Rick's famous Man in Motion World Tour as a focal point, students engage in learning about geography, weather systems, mathematical computation, teamwork, and reading comprehension.

### How do I assess my students' achievement for these lessons?

We have three Assessment Tools to gauge your students' achievement:

1. **Assessment Tool 1: Student Comprehension** (p. 16)
2. **Assessment Tool 2: Student Participation** (p. 17)
3. **Assessment Tool 3: Student Project** (p. 18) – to be used for the "Suggested Student Project" listed in each lesson. These projects are optional.

### How do I use the Appendices?

The Appendices include a variety of information about Rick's life, the MIMWT, and disability in Canada. Some of these materials also appear in lessons as student handouts. You can refer to these additional resources to help students build on their understanding of the content in these lessons.

## B. Lesson Materials

### What is included in each lesson?

Each lesson contains the following materials:

- A **"What's The Big Idea?"** page, which summarizes the lesson in a single statement



- A **Lesson Overview** page, which includes Learning Objectives, Materials, Lesson Length, Curriculum Links, Activity Overviews, Suggested Student Projects, and Assessments.
- A **Lesson Plan**, which gives you the play-by-play for each lesson
- **Student Handouts**, which you can use as desired (individual student copies, copies for small groups, or overhead copy). They can also be used as teacher resources to support student inquiry processes within lessons.
- **Teaching Tips**, which suggest ways to further students' understandings of the lesson or connect our lesson with other curriculum.
- **Multimedia teaching tools (optional)**: Introduce or build on a concept by showing a lesson-specific video and/or Prezi in your class.



**Video** – Our one-minute animation videos have been designed specifically with elementary students in mind and display engaging motion graphics.  
[www.rickhansen.com/SchoolVideos](http://www.rickhansen.com/SchoolVideos)



**Prezi** – Similar to Powerpoint, Prezi tells a story slide by slide. However, Prezi brings stories to life by presenting information on a virtual canvas. Curious? Visit [www.prezi.com](http://www.prezi.com).  
[www.rickhansen.com/SchoolPrezis](http://www.rickhansen.com/SchoolPrezis)

## C. Teaching the Lessons

### What are the Suggested Student Projects?

Each lesson has a “Suggested Student Project” that builds on the content and concepts in that lesson. Some projects are ideal as culminating projects to a week-long unit; others are more appropriate as homework assignments. Select a project you think best suits your students or give them the opportunity to choose a project that most interests them.

### Universal Design for Learning and Differentiated Instruction

The Rick Hansen School Program uses Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and Differentiated Instruction (DI) frameworks.

Universal Design for Learning is an educational framework based on research in the learning sciences that guides the development of flexible learning environments that can accommodate individual learning differences.<sup>1</sup>

Differentiated Instruction is effective instruction that is responsive to students’ readiness, interests and learning preferences. Teachers build a student profile using all three characteristics of the learner—readiness, interests and preferences—and use a repertoire of instructional and assessment strategies to meet the needs of different learners.<sup>ii</sup> The strategies are summarized in **Appendix K: Instructional Strategies**. They can be copied, cut and assembled on a ring for a planning and teaching resource.

The UDL and DI frameworks and other teaching strategies used in the Program can be accessed on the Rick Hansen School Program website at [www.rickhansen.com/UDL](http://www.rickhansen.com/UDL).

### How can I use these lessons in my class?

- **These lessons can be taught thematically.**

These lessons are 45 minutes in length, connect to a wide range of subjects and can be used to teach students thematically over the course of a week or month. You can teach one or two lessons each day of the week and select one of the “Suggested Student Projects” for your students to work on throughout the week. At the end of the week, students will have enjoyed in-class activities as well as completed a project of significance to them.

- **The lessons also function as stand-alone lessons.**

There are no prerequisites for any single lesson. If desired, you can introduce Rick Hansen to your students in a variety of ways:

- Students can read: **Appendix A: Biography of Rick Hansen, C.C., O.B.C.**
- Students can watch *The Journey*, a short video about Rick Hansen’s MIMWT: [www.rickhansen.com/SchoolVideos](http://www.rickhansen.com/SchoolVideos)
- You can show a timeline of Rick’s life from our website: [www.rickhansen.com/schools](http://www.rickhansen.com/schools)
- You can show students a map of Rick Hansen’s MIMWT: **Appendix B: Man In Motion World Tour Maps**
- Students can read about Rick Hansen’s MIMWT: **Appendix C: Tour Facts & Figures**

<sup>1</sup> *Universal Design for Learning in the Classroom: Practical Applications*, edited by Tracey E. Hall, Anne Meyer, and David H. Rose. Guilford Press, 2012. ISBN 978-1-4625-0635-4

<sup>ii</sup> *Reach Every Student Through Differentiated Instruction*, Ontario Ministry of Education, 2008. ([www.edugains.ca/resources/DI/Brochures/DIBrochureOct08.pdf](http://www.edugains.ca/resources/DI/Brochures/DIBrochureOct08.pdf))