

Greetings! It's time again to share with you new resources for teaching about Canada. There are no tricks below, I promise. I say this in case your patience has been tested by mischievous students today! Please contact me anytime (see end of message) if I can be of further assistance. Best wishes teaching. Tina

Should you no longer wish to receive this email, simply reply with "Please remove my name from the Canada Listserv". These resource notices and the K-12 Resource Flyer are also available on the [K-12 STUDY CANADA](#) website under K-12 News. K-12 STUDY CANADA represents shared outreach by WWU's Center for Canadian-American Studies & UW's Canadian Studies Center which jointly form the Pacific Northwest National Resource Center for Canada, funded by a US Department of Education Title VI grant. Additional support is granted by the Government of Canada.

GRADE 11 SOCIAL STUDIES TEXT ONLINE - www.design4effect.com/soc11 provides access to a Grade 11 social studies textbook written and published in HTML by the teachers of the North Vancouver School District for use in schools. This text provides a unique opportunity for teachers in the US to teach about Canada and the world, too. The 137-page text includes five chapters--*A Global Village, Population, Rich and Poor, Resources, and Aid*--with *Prescribed Learning Outcomes* given at the start of each unit that can be readily adapted to social studies standards in all US states.

The text develops students' social studies and critical thinking skills by looking at the social, political, economic, environmental and cultural issues facing Canadians in a global perspective. Students recognize the importance of both individual and collective action in responsible global citizenship and assess Canada's role in world affairs. Students learn to identify elements that contribute to the regional, cultural and ethnic diversity of Canadian society and examine major Canadian social policies and programs for their impact on Canadian society. The five themes of geography are applied to relevant issues and the geographical forces shaping Canada's position among nations are also considered. Teachers may need to incorporate comparisons to the US but I highly recommend its use to high school teachers.

NB: Please provide feedback to the teacher-authors via kent@design4effect.com. Your feedback is important so that their school district will take a little more interest in projects like this.

STATSCAN LESSON ON ETHNICITY IN CANADA - www.statcan.ca/english/kits/social/iam.htm provides access to the article "I am Canadian" from the Spring 2005 issue of *Canadian Social Trends* and a lesson plan that asks secondary students to explore the concept of ethnicity and its relevance to their lives. Is the "cultural mosaic" becoming a "melting pot"? You may also want to look at a free online study entitled "Becoming Canadian: Intent, process, and outcomes" which explores the characteristics associated with becoming a Canadian citizen among immigrants who have resided in Canada for various periods of time. It is available at www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/050308/d050308a.htm.

ONTARIO HISTORY QUEST (Toronto Public Library) - Learn about Ontario's history - its people, their dreams, struggles and achievements by visiting <http://ohq.tpl.toronto.on.ca/home2.jsp>. Explore the past from images of original letters, diaries, pictures and other documents. Students can draw their own conclusions about social, economic and political change of the times. Suitable for students in grades 7-12 studying history from 1820-1970.

DICTIONARY OF CANADIAN BIOGRAPHY ONLINE - I've recommended www.biographi.ca/index2.html for student research on prominent Canadians before but it's worth drawing attention to the site annually. *The Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online* provides access to the 14 volumes already in print and to a selection of biographies from unprinted volumes. The biographies are fully searchable by keyword and some volumes are accessible by identity/profession and by geographic region.

2005-2006 SCHEDULE FOR K-12 STUDY CANADA LOAN-KITS AVAILABLE - Teachers have started requesting use of our teacher loan-kits for next year. To learn more about the **Resource Valise** and see its schedule, visit www.wvu.edu/depts/castudies/k12studycanada/valise.shtml. For information about the **Student Novel Collection**, visit www.wvu.edu/depts/castudies/k12studycanada/novel.shtml. To book either or both, simply send me an email requesting an available loan period.

RUTH WRITER'S REVIEW OF ADULT FICTION - Beatrice MacNeil. *Butterflies Dance in the Dark*. (Toronto: Key Porter Books, 2002). [ISBN1-55263-474-4 \$24.95]

Imagine living on Cape Breton Island in the early 1950's with a completely dysfunctional family. Mari-Jen Delene, the narrator of *Butterflies Dance in the Dark*, is a survivor of such a family. Her mother bore three children without the benefit of a husband, which made the family outcasts in the small Acadian community. The story begins when Mari-Jen is only five and enrolls in the local school. In school Mari-Jen has learning problems. Issues such as these were certainly not addressed in the 1950s and Mari-Jen was quickly labeled as "retarded" by the Mother Superior.

We learn about her academic struggles throughout her school years while her twin brothers cope with their family issues by excelling at their studies. Mari-Jen's mother, Adele, battles demons of her own--which leaves Mari-Jen even more vulnerable. To round out the family circle, there is an aunt with a debilitating illness who lives nearby with an uncle adopted into the family when his family abandoned him as a youth and is now a World War II veteran with issues of his own. Still another colorful character is Daniel Peter, a neighbor who is a displaced Jew from Poland. Daniel Peter takes the young members of the family under his wing to educate them about the world beyond Cape Breton Island.

As an educator, the treatment of Mari-Jen by some in the schools will make readers angry. Those who attended small rural schools during that time period will be able to relate to many of the events of Mari-Jen's struggle. Her triumph over the system and her own family will reaffirm the power of love, support and guidance. While much of the book is dark and depressing, the end of the novel is uplifting. Mari-Jen becomes a contributor to the small community in ways no one had envisioned when she began her school career.

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