

February 2008 Resource Notice

Greetings! It may be cold outside but I know that, inside your classrooms, you're busily warming students' minds with knowledge.

The eleven resources identified below include ways to celebrate Black History Month with profiles of prominent black Canadians, a new toolbook that offers 100+ lesson plans for teaching about Canada, a few regional events that consider Aboriginal children's literature in Canada and social/environmental sustainability plans for the 2010 Winter Olympics, teachable articles that shed light on Canada-US economic ties and, of course, this month's Canadian cuisine and literature recommendations.

I hope there's ample fuel for the fire among the curriculum and resources on Canada. And, in keeping with the spirit of international education, I extend my best wishes to all educators/students celebrating the TET lunar new year and Year of the Rat! Tina Storer

Reply with "Please remove me from the Canada Listserv" should you prefer to see them at www.k12studycanada.org under *K-12 News*.
K-12 STUDY CANADA represents shared outreach by WWU's Center for Canadian-American Studies & UW's Canadian Studies Center that jointly form the Pacific Northwest National Resource Center for Canada, funded by the US Department of Education (Title VI).
The Government of Canada provides additional outreach support.

1) BLACK HISTORY MONTH

A fun way for students to learn about important historical figures is to teach them first about the persons' childhoods and have students forecast how they became famous. There are many notable black Americans like Jackie Robinson, Paul Robeson or Hattie McDaniel (see the free lesson plans at <http://www.performance-education.com/lessons.php?sbj=>) and black Canadians like Rev. W.A. White, Mary Ann Shadd, and Oscar Peterson (see Historica's informative site at <http://blackhistorycanada.ca/topic.php?id=158&themeid=7>).

2) NFB FILMS FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The National Film Board of Canada has several films that you might want to consider adding to your school's collection that celebrate Black History Month. Their award winning film *Black Soul* by Martine Chartrand, for example, is a beautiful animated journey through Black history using the technique of paint on glass. Visit www.nfb.ca to learn more.

3) SOME MISSING PAGES: THE BLACK COMMUNITY IN THE HISTORY OF CANADA AND QUEBEC

This resource is a direct result of a request made by a class of Canadian high school students who questioned the general absence of Blacks from school textbooks. Blacks have continued to make a positive impact on Canadian society and, though largely missing from popular texts and public documents, their contributions can be verified by a search through the records. The Quebec Ministry of Education responded by collaborating on "Some Missing Pages" and your students, too, can benefit from the many valuable primary and secondary sources that add black communities into the historical picture of Canada. The material is appropriate for a variety of subject areas and grade levels. See www.learnquebec.ca/en/content/curriculum/social_sciences/features/missingpages/.

4) TEACHER'S TOOLBOOK - WORLD REGIONS: CANADA

I recently ordered this resource by Performance Education because it contains an impressive 133 lessons on a range of topics about Canada's geography, history, economy, political system and culture. Each lesson offers a fresh approach to teaching Canada that incorporates a range of techniques--from lectures, transparencies and graphic organizers to Internet (think youtube), debates, and games. You'll see what I mean if you download the free 23-page sample lesson from the book called *Is it Snowing in Canada?* ("Geography Club" category at <http://www.performance-education.com/lessons.php0>). The curriculum takes a humorous look at Canada's climate and clearly makes learning a fun, exploratory experience for students. I love how this lesson encourages students to check out live webcams across Canada to check the weather (with website URLs provided!)

Although registration is required to access sample lessons, it is well worth the minute to do so since the collection includes a wide variety of social studies topics. It's a win-win marketing tool since the curriculum shared often leads

educators like me and you to buy products. **The World Regions: Canada** toolbox is currently on sale for \$24.95 (plus 15% off for first purchases). 1-800-539-1607.

5) CANADA - US ECONOMIC TIES IN THE FACE OF RECESSION

For high school social studies teachers who consider economics in their classrooms, I recommend the CTV news article at

http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20080118/recession_outlook_080118?s_name=&no_ads that considers how the current US economic downturn affects Canada (eg "If the United States sneezes -- will Canada will take to bed with bronchitis?") This article helps students understand how intertwined Canadian and US economies are and why currencies fluctuate as they do in relation to one another (or not).

6) ALBERTA: THE TEXAS OF CANADA

Download a useful pdf about the Alberta-Texas relationship at

<http://www.international.gov.ab.ca/documents/Texas-2006.pdf>. It's offered by Alberta's provincial government for teaching about these two important regions of North America.

7) ABORIGINAL CANADIAN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

I encourage all who teach in the PNW region and use children's literature in the classroom to attend the annual **Serendipity** conference on **Saturday, February 23** sponsored by the Vancouver Children's Literary Roundtable (VCLR). This year **Serendipity** will be held at the University of British Columbia's First Nations Longhouse and celebrate renowned First Nations writers and illustrators of Children's books. Visit <http://www.library.ubc.ca/edlib/table/> for additional presenter and registration information.

Regional educators have another opportunity to learn about aboriginal children's literature in Canada from Martha Dietz, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at the UW and instructor in the Academic English Program. She will be one of the presenters at the **WSCSS K-8 Educator Conference on Saturday, February 2 (8 a.m.-2 p.m., Loyola Hall, Seattle University)**. Information/Registration: <http://www.wscss.org/>

8) SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION IN THE 2010 OLYMPICS

A luncheon forum and discussion sponsored by the Network for Business Innovation and Systems (NBIS) is being held on February 6, 2008 followed by a workshop at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Seattle. The facilities being constructed for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Olympics demonstrate some of the most innovative community planning and socially sustainable projects anywhere. Learn about these projects and how they have been developed from those directly involved: Mayor Ken Melamed, Resort Municipality of Whistler, Greg Scott, Project Director, Richmond Speed Skating Oval, and Mr. Jody Andrews, Deputy City Manager and Project Manager, Southeast False Creek & Olympic Village, Vancouver. The program includes a luncheon forum followed by a workshop with the speakers and local respondents. Visit www.nbis.org for registration and additional information.

9) UW CELEBRATES WORLD LANGUAGES DAY

PNW regional educators should mark their calendars for **9 February 2008** because the University of Washington (Seattle campus) will celebrate **World Languages Day** with presentations about Canadian aboriginal languages and on Québec culture and language. Featured speakers include Cody Case, Master's Program, Ethnomusicology and 2007-08 FLAS recipient, who will present on "Hip-hop and Cultural Identity in Québec" and Tim Pasch, Doctoral Program, Communication, who will present "**An Introduction to Inuktitut - the Language of the Inuit.**" Visit <http://jsis.washington.edu/canada/events.shtml> for additional details.

10) CANADIAN RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Sourdough Hotcakes [from *The Canadian Cookbook: History, Folklore and Recipes with a Twist* (Edmonton, AB: Lone Pine Publishing, 2006)]

The first leavened breads rose through the actions of yeast naturally occurring on the grains and in the air. Before the advent of modern yeast packaging methods, people wanting to bake bread would keep a "starter" containing a proven yeast strain. Prospectors in the San Francisco Gold Rush discovered that their starters were unusually tangy,

and the term “sourdough” was born. The name was soon applied to the prospectors themselves, and they brought both their starters and the name along to subsequent gold rushes in Canada. The conditions of the Klondike were so harsh that the North-West Mountain Police would not allow anyone over the Chilkoot Pass without a year’s worth of provisions. Because it could breathe life into the most meager supplies during a time when food was even more important than money, sourdough was extremely valuable to these prospectors, and it is still popular as a leavening agent today.

Ingredients:

Quick Sourdough starter:

1 cup (250 ml) water
1 cup (250 ml) unbleached flour
½ tsp (2 ml) active dry yeast

Sourdough hotcakes:

2 cups (500 ml) sourdough starter (see above)
1½ (375 ml) unbleached or whole wheat flour
2 T (30 ml) sugar, maple syrup, or honey
3 T (45 ml) oil
2 eggs
½ tsp (2 ml) sea salt
1 tsp (5 ml) baking powder
1 tsp (5 ml) baking soda, diluted in 1 T (15 ml) warm water

Directions:

Quick Sourdough starter:

- The night before you plan to make hotcakes, mix ingredients well and set out on a countertop in a draft-free area, allowing starter time to develop its characteristic sour taste.
- Remaining starter can be left on counter for future use; it is best stored at 65-77°F (18-25° C).
- To strengthen and “feed” starter, add ¼ cup (60 ml) water and ½ cup (60 ml) flour every second day.

Sourdough Hotcakes:

- Preheat griddle or pan to medium-high heat.
- Mix ingredients, except soda, together.
- Gently fold in soda and cook cakes right away so as to not lose soda’s leavening effect.
- Serve hot with your favorite condiments.

11) RUTH WRITER’S REVIEW OF CANADIAN LITERATURE

Kevin Patterson. **Consumption** (Toronto: Vintage Canada, 2006). 393 pages [ISBN 978-0-679-31438-7]

Once again, critical acclaim arrives as the result of a Canadian author’s first attempt at a novel...and rightfully so. Kevin Patterson is a doctor who practices in both British Columbia and the Arctic. Born in Manitoba, he became a medical doctor, compliments of the Canadian Army. From these experiences and his memoirs of a sailing trip across the Pacific [*The Water in Between*], Patterson has created an exciting look at the dilemmas when cultures collide.

Any book, which starts with the words “Storms are sex”, is bound to pique the interest of the reader immediately. Patterson’s work never disappoints. **Consumption** explains the many contradictions facing those who live in the Arctic, both from an Inuit point of view and that of those from the warmer regions of Canada. Victoria, an Inuit born a half century ago, experienced the clash of culture first when she was sent to The Pas, Manitoba, for tuberculosis [consumption] treatment.

“Victoria had lived her life traveling with her family of four, and her uncle’s family of six; counting the summertime congregations on the coast, the nuns and priest and patients in Chesterfield Inlet, she had seen perhaps one hundred other human beings in her life. There were this many within her field of sight at any moment in the Eaton’s store.”

One can quickly sense the fears the ten-year old must have experienced. There she lived first in a hospital and later in a foster-type home for six years. There were many adaptations for Victoria in The Pas as she became a young adult. Upon her recovery, she returned to a small settlement on Hudson Bay. Her new mother in The Pas had taught her, “...the only way to get smart was to stay interested in the world.” She could recall little of her homeland but she remembered much of the world outside the frozen Arctic and she thirsted for the news. This is her story.

Victoria married Robertson, an outsider, and their children caught between two worlds are the focus of **Consumption**. The eldest son rejecting his father’s world learns from his grandfather Emo. He taught the teen about hunting, dog sledding, life on the tundra, and about one of the true delicacies of the Arctic, *qalluk*. [Qalluk is open mussels dug out of freshly killed walrus’s stomach.] They are still warm, bloody, and steaming. Thus, Patterson weaves a tale about the family and the interesting characters, in the small community including a doctor and priest from the non-Inuit world.

One learns so much of life in the Arctic and Hudson Bay region. There is a look at the transition to the western world lifestyle from Victoria's return from The Pas to the present. Even when violence racks the family, Victoria, her family, and the others in the community survive.

One of the most interesting and enlightening portions of the book is "The Diseases of Affluence," an "unpublished manuscript" by the fictional doctor Keith Balthazar. After reading this document, those of us in the U.S. might alter our diet and our habits.

I learned of this novel in various publications but was unable to obtain it for several months. I sought copies in my area, in New York City while on vacation, and even on-line. It was not until a recent trip to Canada that I was able to obtain my copy. A day later, **USA Today** reviewed this novel so I am confident U.S. bookstores will carry it soon. Do not hesitate to purchase and read this insightful and beautiful novel.

Tina Storer, Education and Curriculum Specialist
Center for Canadian-American Studies
Western Washington University
Canada House, Rm. #202, 516 High Street
Bellingham, WA 98225-9110
Phone: (360) 650-7370
Fax: (360) 650-3995
Email: tina.storer@wwu.edu
Web: www.k12studycanada.org