

## June 2008 Resource Notice

**Greetings!** I'm excited to let you know that **Canada is Coming to NCSS!** at the **2008 Annual NCSS Conference** in **Houston, Texas, November 13-16.**



If you are already a member of this largest group of social studies educators in the US, you may have noticed advertisements for the program in *The Social Studies Professional*. Ads will also appear in upcoming issues of *Social Education* (as well as several articles for teaching about Canada's aboriginal peoples in K-12 classrooms).

Betsy Arntzen (University of Maine) and I have led this effort, on behalf of our two National Resources Centers for Canada in the U.S. and the National Council for the Social Studies, to broaden international perspectives of NCSS members by offering a strand of almost twenty sessions in the conference program that focus on Canada or are presented by Canadians who are part of NCSS' International Visitors Program. We requested, and received, special grant funding from the Government of Canada to involve participation of sixteen stellar Canadian educators at the conference and, like us, they are excited to build networks that Canadian and American classrooms. You can expect to find more resources on Canada in the exhibit halls and a gamut of excellent sessions that include the full range of formats,

including a pre-conference clinic, a 2-hour workshop, multiple classroom and poster sessions. In addition, there will be a special pre-conference workshop the week before for Houston area teachers with support from the Consulate of Canada in Houston and we are working with the Québec Government Office in Atlanta to ensure that the Saturday night "main event" is a cultural event that will impress *all* conference attendees.

**We hope you will join us in Houston for the conference for this unique opportunity to learn from and network with Canadian teachers! Visit [www.ncss.org](http://www.ncss.org) to learn more.**

With all that said, I will leave you explore the even-dozen resources below. If you are slated to teach at a new school next year, be sure to let me know your new email address so that you don't miss the next resource bulletin in September. Have a wonderful summer! Tina

**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.**

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### 1) GR. 7 CURRICULUM - THEMES OF GEOGRAPHIC INQUIRY

Developed for Grade 7 teachers in Ontario, this page offers "motherlode" access to useful information for teaching the five themes of geography. Much of the information is about Canada but also involves other subject areas/regions of the world. Visit [www.gecdsb.on.ca/d&g/ss1/ss/social\\_s/7g1.htm](http://www.gecdsb.on.ca/d&g/ss1/ss/social_s/7g1.htm) and have fun exploring!

### 2) LESSON PLANET

Although this resource notice and your own Web explorations can uncover numerous curriculum plans and ideas, sometimes it's more convenient to access members-only material. Lesson Planet is a member-supported and ad-free search engine that makes it easy to find lesson plans that have been reviewed by credentialed K-12 teachers that are appropriate for different subject areas and grade levels. A \$29.95 annual membership fee is required to search among Lesson Planet's collection of over 150,000 lessons but free trials are available by visiting [www.lessonplanet.com](http://www.lessonplanet.com). It certainly sounds tempting, doesn't it?

### 3) ATTENTION PUGET SOUND TEACHERS

The annual *Washington Geographic Alliance Summer Institute* will be held in Kent, WA and focus on the theme of "Society and Nature in Puget Sound Country". Best of all, the institute is **free!** The Washington

Geographic Alliance provides for your hotel room (family members are welcome to share your room) or pay for mileage if you commute daily. The WGA also provides several meals and covers costs related to field trip expenses. The institute features:

- 45 clock hours for continuing ed and pre-service teachers
- Field trips to sites around the Puget Sound region
- A chance to visit and collaborate with your peers from across the social studies
- An emphasis on land-use planning and the environment

For more information and an application, please visit <http://www.washgeo.org> or contact Tim Schultz at [President@washgeo.org](mailto:President@washgeo.org). Applications received before June 10 will receive first consideration.

#### 4) **PORTAL TO SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN**

Be sure to visit

[http://www.canadachannel.ca/champlain/index.php/Welcome\\_to\\_the\\_Samuel\\_de\\_Champlain\\_Portal](http://www.canadachannel.ca/champlain/index.php/Welcome_to_the_Samuel_de_Champlain_Portal). Like the John A. MacDonald portal that I mentioned last month, Northern Blue Publishing and the Civics Channel are allowing open public access to this educational wiki-Website to mark the 400th anniversary of the founding of Québec. The pages are dedicated to celebrating the life and career of the founder of New France and all the material within can be used for non-profit educational use. With its growing slate of supporting resources and activities, the site can be particularly useful for student projects and book reports. You'll note that chapter content and texts are locked against changes but users are encouraged to share resources they think appropriate. To contribute to the Champlain Portal, you must apply for a UserID and Password (with a note on what you want to add). I look forward to seeing student work when a new open area featuring their efforts is set up soon.

#### 5) **ONEWORLD CLASSROOMS**

The [www.oneworldclassrooms.org](http://www.oneworldclassrooms.org) website connects classrooms around the world (for a small fee) and allows FREE access to Travel and Learn Online content that includes "classroom packages" for teachers about Canada's Arctic, China, Africa, and Latin America. The material offers a new way of learning about world cultures -- by traveling inside your own classroom. Once you sign up (free), open [www.oneworldclassrooms.org/travel/arctic/index.html](http://www.oneworldclassrooms.org/travel/arctic/index.html) and select from a variety of teachable information. Students can adventure on a curriculum-connected 'tour' of an Arctic village (Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, Canada), practice writing the Inuktitut language with a Primer, learn about Arctic animals, play Inuit games and even get involved in an art exchange with students from the Arctic.

#### 6) **CANADA AT A GLANCE**

*Canada at a Glance* is a free booklet that contains over 50 tables from Statistics Canada. You can view all the information online at [http://www45.statcan.gc.ca/2008/cgco\\_2008\\_000-eng.htm](http://www45.statcan.gc.ca/2008/cgco_2008_000-eng.htm) or order **free** classroom sets for students' use. I frequently share these booklets as conference "giveaways" because they're such a handy resource for teachers and students alike. You can also find lesson plans for using the booklet in class at <http://www.statcan.ca/english/kits/glanc1.htm> (Intermediate Level) and <http://www.statcan.ca/english/kits/quality/quali1.htm> (Secondary Level).

#### 7) **BC CELEBRATES 150 YEARS**

British Columbia turned "150" this year and the province is celebrating with a year-long festival. You can learn all about the history of BC through these websites: <http://www.bc150.gov.bc.ca/bc150.aspx?page=home> and <http://www.cbc.ca/bc/features/150/index.html>

#### 8) **QUÉBEC'S 400th ANNIVERSARY - TORONTO STAR ARTICLE**

Québec celebrates their 400th anniversary with a series of festivals, performances, and exhibits. Read all about the many activities surrounding the celebration at <http://www.thestar.com/Travel/article/431715>.

## 9) ANNUAL SUMMER SEMINAR FOR EDUCATORS AT UW (SEATTLE)

The Outreach Centers at the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies invite Puget Sound area teachers to attend the annual **Summer Seminar for Educators on June 25-26** at the University of Washington. This year's seminar, "**Life Cycle Rituals and Traditions Across Cultures**" will focus on the major rites and rituals that underpin cultures around the world and that create community identity. With presentations featuring anthropologists, sociologists, historians, and political scientists this seminar will also encourage teacher-participants as they work together designing classroom strategies centered on the seminar's theme. The two-day seminar is designed for middle school, high school and community college educators and features a talk this year on indigenous whaling rights in Canada by Charlotte Côté, Professor of American Indian Studies who is also affiliated faculty with UW's Canadian Studies Center. To see the event flyer, visit <http://jsis.washington.edu/canada/juneseminar.pdf>. To download the registration form, visit <http://jsis.washington.edu/earc/downloads/08-ss-registration-form.pdf>. For additional information, contact Felicia Hecker 206-543-4227 or [fhecker@u.washington.edu](mailto:fhecker@u.washington.edu) **Registration Deadline: JUNE 16, 2008**

## 10) SPEAKING BOTH LANGUAGES, C'EST BON

Wednesday, April 16, 2008 - Don Butler wrote in *The Montreal Gazette* that young Canadians overwhelmingly agree that having two official languages enriches the country and helps to define Canada. But there's a clear linguistic divide with respect to their facility in and openness to the other official language. Young francophones are far more likely to be bilingual, to believe that knowing a second language is very important and to be interested in the other linguistic community's culture and history than their Anglophone peers. If this piques your interest, read the full story at <http://www.canada.com/montrealgazette/news/story.html?id=ba419b1d-4854-4f72-bab7-8b34424ec48e>.

## 11) CANADIAN RECIPE OF THE MONTH

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

*Sometimes called a "slump" this traditional Maritime dessert proves that summer evenings in Canada can be cool enough to enjoy a hot dessert. This dish, which "grunts" as it cooks away, probably came to Canada by way of the more than 30,000 New England loyalists who settled there during the American Revolution. Historically, dumplings were Northern Europe's answer to the pasta dishes of the South. The Mi'kmaq-favored blueberry became a natural match for the dumplings, although you can find grunts made with huckleberries or rhubarb. It has been speculated that, with the widespread availability of ovens, the cobbler and the pandowdy (dowdy) became popular baked variations using similar ingredients. The difference is that a cobbler has the dough as a crust on top of (or surrounding) the fruit, and with a pandowdy, the dough is cut into squares and layered in a patchwork pattern over the fruit, allowing some syrup to bubble over the pastry while baking.*

### **Ingredients:**

4 to 5 cups (1-1.25L) fresh blueberries  
1 cup (250 ml) sugar  
1 cup (250 ml) blueberry juice  
1 ½ cup (375 ml) flour  
2 tsp. (10 ml) baking powder  
2 tbsp (30 ml) grated lime zest  
½ tsp (10 ml) cinnamon  
1/8 tsp (.5 ml) freshly ground nutmeg  
¼ tsp. (1 ml) sea salt  
½ cup (125 ml) unsalted butter, frozen  
1 cup (250 ml) milk

### **Directions:**

- In a wide saucepan, combine blueberries, sugar and juice to make a sauce. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer for 10 minutes.
- Sift flour and baking powder into a bowl and add lime zest, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt.
- With a cheese grater, grate frozen butter into flour mixture and toss. Pour in milk and mix lightly to form a dough for dumplings.
- Let dough rest, refrigerate for 1 hour.
- Drop dumplings, 1 tablespoon at a time, into hot blueberry sauce.
- Cover and cook for about 15 minutes or until dumplings are cooked.
- Serve into bowls, and top with whipped cream or crème fraîche.

## 12) RUTH WRITER'S REVIEW OF CANADIAN LITERATURE FOR ADULTS

Vaillant , John. ***The Golden Spruce*** (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2005). [ISBN 0-393-32864-3]

My students marvel that any author could write an entire book about ice, snow, cod, lobsters, or any other narrow subject, let alone make that book interesting. Nonetheless I always encourage students to read such fascinating and thought-provoking books. I cannot wait to “sell” students on this book about a single tree and the man who cut it down in the protected forest! ***The Golden Spruce*** is an insightful look at a unique yellow gold spruce in the dark forest of Graham Island in Queen Charlotte’s Islands and John Vaillant won the *Governor General’s Literary Award for Non-fiction* with this amazing work.

The spruce tree that serves as the focus of the book is a Sitka spruce. Over one hundred and sixty feet tall, it developed from a seed the size of a grain of sand and grew for centuries into a one-of-a-kind giant. It stood tall even among the millions of trees in the Pacific Northwest. It stood out in the forest so much that it became part of the very culture of the Haida Natives in the region. They gave it a specific name: K’iid K’iyaas [Elder Spruce Tree]. “According to legend, it was a human being who had been transformed.” [p. 18]

Vaillant’s work is also interesting for classroom use because it provides an in-depth look at the geography of the Queen Charlotte’s Islands. Readers learn both physical geography and historical geography. Readers discover details about ceremonial potlatches and the role of the fish in the ocean and totems on the shore.

The focus of the book eventually turns to the destruction of the forest and the ultimate demise of the Elder Spruce Tree in 1997. The many details of the lumber industry contained in the pages of the ***Golden Spruce*** are fascinating for readers of all ages. Viewers of the new *History Channel* series “Ax Men” will revel in such details. ***The Golden Spruce*** should become a part of any Canadianist’s library.

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