

FEBRUARY 2008 RESOURCE NOTICE

Greetings! There is a lot to celebrate in classrooms this month: from Easter and Passover to St. Patrick's Day and Women's History Month and, of course, the arrival of Spring! Portraits of Canadian women to note on Women's History Day (March 8) can be seen at <http://www.heroines.ca/history/march.html> and view important events in Canadian history on any day of the year at http://www1.sympatico.ca/cgi-bin/on_this_day. Please also explore new ways to include Canada in your curriculum via the ten resources noted below.

I also wanted to let you know that there is still ample space for teachers to register for the *30th Annual STUDY CANADA Summer Institute* (June 22-27) held in Vancouver and Whistler, BC. Because STUDY CANADA offers an experience that goes beyond average tourism, I'm also pleased to announce that the hotel in Vancouver will be the Terminal City Club Tower Hotel rather than the Delta Vancouver Suites. We will be updating our website soon to reflect the change but if you'd like to learn more about the club and hotel, visit www.tcclub.com. Course registration information and details are the same otherwise and available at www.k12studycanada.org/scsi.asp. I look forward to meeting you in Vancouver! Tina Storer

Please reply should you no longer wish to receive notices. They are also available 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 as a National Resource Center for Canada, funded by the US Department of Education. The Government of Canada also provides outreach support.

1) SMITHSONIAN FIELD TRIP TO CANADA!

Take your students to Canada! A fabulous 8-day itinerary that explores Québec City, Montréal, Ottawa & Toronto is offered through Smithsonian Student Travel whose tour-leaders have all been trained at the Smithsonian Institute. See www.smithsonianstudenttravel.com/tourshome/tour/itinerary.aspx?tourcode=CNH&touryear=2009.

Jennifer Hammer, an Oregon teacher, is looking for others interested in taking students there in 2009 so that a better group rate is possible for all. Please reply to this email if you are interested in pairing with Jennifer's students on the trip. I will gladly connect you. [NB: It doesn't matter what state you are from since the tour begins in Montreal/Québec City and departs from Toronto.]

2) GR 4-9 STUDENT RESOURCE BOOKS

Nelson Education Ltd./publishes two **InfoCanada** series: "Geographical Regions" and "Provinces and Territories". These eye-catching books are age-appropriate, informative 64-page texts. These student resources provide nonfiction reading material ideal for research projects and assignments, as well as for cross-curricular learning. Both series provide: pan-Canadian Social Studies content; Website with web links and activities for students, teachers, and parents at www.infocanada.nelson.com; accessible content for older students with varied learning abilities; and flexible packaging options for purchasing (six-pack, single copy, or classroom kit configurations).

Contact Bob Morton, Sales Director for Nelson Education at robert.morton@nelson.com, if interested in outfitting your district, school or classroom with these useful materials for learning about Canada.

3) NEWS FROM CONNECT2CANADA

If you feature current events in your classroom, sign up for Connect2Canada's **NewsCan** weekly summary of Canadian news. Each summary contains article links to both American and Canadian news sources that provide classes with important news and issues for social studies classrooms to consider. Visit www.connect2canada.com/signup to start receiving them in your e-mailbox. I'm a subscriber myself and always find something that interests me such as the following news about the *Canada Reads* program that, like Oprah in the US, encourages quality reading.

Canada Reads: Find out which book all of Canada will read in 2008! Five great works of Canadian fiction. Five celebrity panelists. One week of heated debates about CanLit. *Canada Reads* is a three-month celebration of books and reading and a week-long CBC radio special that celebrates books. Day by day, books are voted off the list, until one panelist triumphs with the book for Canada to read this year. You can subscribe to the podcast, learn more about the selected books, join the virtual book club discussion or vote in the People's Choice poll at www.cbc.ca/canadareads.

4) **KNIGHT'S CANADIAN INFO PAGES - ALL ABOUT CANADA**

Learn about Canada from A-Zed from **All About Canada** at <http://www.members.shaw.ca/kcic1>. This is a particularly handy site to bookmark for elementary and middle school teachers' use. It is a labor-of-love project managed by a member of Canada's National Historic Society and intended for teacher and student use. It's a goldmine for curriculum development ideas for teaching Canada.

5) **GOOGLE EARTH**

Are you using Google Earth in your classroom yet so that students can explore the world around them? If not, please check out the possibilities it offers by downloading it (FREE) at <http://earth.google.com/download-earth.html> to your desktop. Google Earth can transport your class to any global location and open your students' minds to the world around them. Explore Nova Scotia, for example, to learn more about the people, places and culture of the province. There is a lot of potential for educational applications with this fascinating computer tool that go beyond geography. There are a number of resources that can help in this regard, including User Guides, Tutorials and "layers" of interesting content using collections from Wikipedia, Discovery Channel, YouTube, Panoramio, Discovery Channel and more.

If you have already developed any curriculum on Canada, or hope to, using Google Earth, please let me know. I'd be happy to add related lesson plans/units to our website or feature them in an upcoming resource notice!

6) **THE SHAMROCK AND THE MAPLE LEAF**

The Irish have played a prominent role in Canada's history and, in fact, one in five Canadians boasts Irish ancestry. The history of the Irish in Québec is particularly interesting... Did you know that five of Montreal's mayors were Irish? Or remember Prime Minister Brian Mulroney (from Québec) singing "When Irish Eyes are Smiling" with President Ronald Reagan?

The Shamrock and the Maple Leaf is an online exhibition of Irish-Canadian documentary heritage held by Library and Archives Canada. You will discover photographs, letters, books, music and other evidence of Ireland's vital influence on Canadian history and culture. The exhibition also recounts the complex and compelling experience of the Irish in Canada through the words of leading contemporary scholars in Irish-Canadian Studies at www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/irlande/index-e.html. Students can also learn more about the Irish in Canada at www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=A1ARTA0004055

7) **RICK MERCER'S "TALKING TO AMERICANS"**

Jay Leno talks to Americans on *The Tonight Show* frequently but I thought some of you might want to view Rick Mercer, Canada's most acclaimed (notorious) political satirist doing so. The montage of humorous interviews from *The Mercer Report* may test your own knowledge of Canada. Visit http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BhTZ_tgMUdo (and note my disclaimer that the opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect my own!)

8) **PASSAGES TO CANADA**

High School History and English teachers interested in exploring the immigration experience to Canada are invited to download an excellent classroom resource booklet called **Passages to Canada** at www.passagestocanada.com/passages_teacherresources.asp. Through the first-person stories of six leading authors who immigrated to Canada - Michelle Berry, Shyam Selvadurai, Ying Chen, Alberto Manguel, Dany Laferrière and Ken Wiwa - this guide challenges students to go beyond the history and geography of immigration in Canada and start thinking about the immigrant experience as a personal search for identity and belonging. Some ideas for the classroom include:

- Find excerpts from the **Passages to Canada Short Story Series** on Pages 4-15 and activities that encourage students to explore their meaning and themes. Photocopy all 12 pages or select one for comparison.
- After reading these excerpts, use the **Critical Thinking Activities** on Page 16 to engage your students in a discussion about the key issues of immigration in Canada.
- Students can become Digital Historians! Find **Web Projects** on Page 16 and use www.passagestocanada.com in the classroom. Access the original short story series and have your students share a story of immigration or an interview online.

9) CANADIAN RECIPE OF THE MONTH

To mark St. Patrick's Day through cuisine, try the following recipe to taste a bit o' Irish savory potatoes.

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

It is said that the potato first reached Ireland in 1588, washed up on Irish shores from the wreckage of ships in the Spanish Armada. The first Europeans to really embrace this tuber; the Irish came to depend on it for both food and security. The potato crops started to fail in the early 1800s, and by 1846 the Irish were suffering a full-fledged famine. Almost two million Irish – 40% of the population- fled Ireland or were sent abroad, with hundreds of thousands coming to Canada. With them came boxty, champ, colcannon and many other wonderful potato dishes. Colcannon has changed over the years from a simple mash of cabbage and potatoes to a boiled hash of as many as eight vegetables, white ones being preferred. Typically enjoyed on All Hallows' Eve, traditional colcannon was served with hidden trinkets to tell the future; discovering a ring meant marriage, whereas a thimble of button meant celibacy.

Ingredients:

2 median rutabagas, peeled and cubed
2 parsnips, peeled and cubed
3 median potatoes, peeled and cubed
1 median onion, sliced
½ cup (125 ml) butter, divided
Water or light vegetable stock as needed
½ cup (125ml) sour cream
1 tbsp (15ml) minced fresh thyme
1 egg lightly beaten
Sea salt and fresh ground pepper
1 package Boursin cheese, any savory flavor
2/3 cup (150ml) fresh parsley

Directions:

Combine all vegetables in a saucepan with one Tbsp (15ml) of butter. Cover with water or light vegetable stock and simmer 10 to 15 minutes or until tender. Drain, reserving enough liquid to make a smooth puree when cooked vegetables have been mashed. Fold in remaining ingredients, reserving some parsley for garnish.

10) RUTH WRITER'S REVIEW OF ADULT CANADIAN LITERATURE

Late Nights on Air by Elizabeth Hay. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 2007. [ISBN 978-0-7710-3811-2]

Imagine a small village radio station in the far reaches of the Canadian North in 1975. What type of individuals would travel there seeking jobs and new lives? A varied group of unconventional men and women from across the globe form the characters of this Elizabeth Hay novel. Compared to Annie Proulx, Alice Hoffman, and Isabel Allende, by publishers and reviewers alike, Hay's **Late Nights on Air** provides a window on an era before Internet and cell phones.

In 1927, a small group of men lead by John Hornby canoed into the Barrens of the Mackenzie Valley. There these Englishmen starved only to become a part of Canadian history and folklore. Hay's story combines the history of the Hornby group and Mackenzie region fifty years prior to the fateful summer of 1975, now a generation ago. This time after working together and forming friendships at the CBC, two men and two women decide to learn for themselves the region traveled by Hornby. After writing of the unique stories of four eccentric transplanted residents of the small village, Hay weaves the story of their canoe journey replicating Hornby's expedition into history.

Readers gain a glimpse of love and longing in the far reaches of the Barrens. The only link to the outside world is a plane, which will pick up the four travelers on a specified day at a prearranged site. We also learn about the controversial gas pipeline. The potential threat to the Arctic wilderness would displace the Natives from their land.

Elizabeth Hay's fiction includes **A Student of Weather**, a finalist for The Giller Prize and the Ottawa Book Award, and **Garbo Laughs**, winner of the Ottawa Book Award and a finalist for the Governor General's Award. In 2002, she received the Marian Engel Award. Hay worked for CBC Radio in Yellowknife, Winnipeg, and Toronto, which gave her an interesting frame of reference for her passages about what it was like to broadcast on the CBC in the Canadian North. Since Canadian politicians are once again debating the fate of the Canadian North, this timely book becomes "a must" read intriguing novel.