

May 2008 K-12 STUDY CANADA E-Resource Notice

Greetings! May is always a curriculum wind-up month in preparation for the inevitable end of school in June. Final curriculum and evaluation plans are being put in place and, since many of you now include curriculum on Canada throughout the year, I hope the resources outlined below can assist you. If your "Canada" units are already complete for the year, be sure to save this resource notice for future reference.

I'd also like to take time now to publicly thank regional Consulates of Canada in the US for assisting teachers within their territory who registered for our annual **STUDY CANADA Summer Institute** by providing travel assistance to everyone participating. The funding (ranging from \$250-\$300 for each participant outside of WA State) offsets the high cost of their travel to Vancouver, B.C. and is much-appreciated "icing" on top of our program's "cake". In truth, we exceeded our usual 20-participant limit this year so that all teachers from AZ, CO, MT, OR, SC, TX, TN, and WA who applied could join us in marking the program's 30th anniversary. In case you're among those who'd like to attend *next* year, mark your calendars for the last week of June 2009 and let me know as early as possible about your interest. I am confident that similar consular support will be available next year.

Because today marks the first day of teacher appreciation week, I'd also like to thank each of you! Each one of you is an extraordinary everyday hero. I hope to see a surge of new bumper stickers on cars that praise educators--even simple ones like: "If you can read this, thank your teacher!" To discover 65+ ways to honor local educators, I hope all parents/administrators visit www.educationworld.com/a_admin/admin/admin308.shtml/. Teachers are indeed terrific!
Tina Storer

K-12 STUDY CANADA represents joint WWU-UW outreach as a US Department of Education-funded National Resource Center for Canada in the US. Annual Embassy of Canada grants also provide support.

1) MUST-HAVE VIDEO SERIES FOR TEACHING CANADA'S HISTORY

The Canadian History Series: 1939-2000 by Epoch Multimedia is an award-winning video history of modern Canada that I strongly recommend for high school/school district media libraries. I know that many of you have wanted access to archival footage and historical narrative that brings Canadian history to life so I'm happy to bring this set of nine 1/2-hour episodes to your attention! The series is a staple in over 12,500 Canadian libraries/high schools and, at a cost of \$99.99, it's affordable by all. Each 30-minute broadcast-quality program is chronologically structured and traces the key events and trends that forged distinct periods in Canadian history--with special attention to the Canada-U.S. relationship emphasized throughout. To order, contact epoch@travel-net.com or call 1-800-300-4261.

2) \$10 DISCOUNT - MAY 31 WORKSHOP AT UW ABOUT QUÉBEC

Enseigner le français : La société québécoise comme outil didactique is a professional development workshop conducted in French and is open to educators and students in teaching certificate programs or French-language programs. Like last year, the workshop will be lead by Professor Thierry Giasson, Université Laval, with presentations by Frederick Gagnon, WWU's Visiting Assistant Professor of Quebec Studies and UW graduate students whose research includes Québec. The content, however, will be different so that teachers interested in taking the workshop again will enjoy new perspectives. The program is being offered on Saturday, May 31 (9 am–3:30 pm) in the Walker-Ames Room of Kane Hall (225) at the University of Washington's campus in Seattle. The cost is \$50 per registrant (includes 6 clock hours and lunch).

3) RESOURCES ON CANADA'S ENVIRONMENT

Free lesson plans, programs and activities for teaching about Canada and the environment in all K-12 grade classrooms are available at www.ec.gc.ca/education/default.asp?lang=En&n=D3D10112-1. Also available is a student website for educational games and homework assistance. Note, especially, the website hyperlink that measures your own carbon footprint!

4) HISTORY OF CANADA ONLINE (HCO)

If you're a proponent of digital learning, then consider registering with HCO since it costs far less than the equivalent textbooks - [AS LOW AS 39¢ a Student FTE!](#) HCO has rebuilt its huge Canadian history research library from the ground up using Mediawiki, the same software that drives Wikipedia, but with superior quality

of content. Its rapidly growing slate of thousands of textual and image resources and activities that can be used for student projects and book reports turn classrooms into a complete research universe. Unlike Wikipedia, History of Canada Online chapters and resources are locked against change by students but the portal gives registered users free access to open areas where they can share Web links, learning objects, student activities and class projects. HCO can replace current textbooks entirely! Many students in the Net Generation prefer a flexible eLearning approach. They like the fact they can print out and mark up any chapters or pages, and don't have to haul around monster textbooks. And they can access HCO anywhere, anytime, on a home or school library computer, or wirelessly on laptops or devices like the iPhone or BlackBerry.

Moreover, HCO gives registrants:

- a full scale printable Canadian history textbook suitable for Grades 11 to College;
- a Junior (6-9 version) available June 2008, a middle school text available in late 2008, French version pending;
- access to Native Studies and Civics Canada textbook portals;
- free access to Canadawiki and the Encycloportal.

5. CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY

If interested in Canada's stance on global issues and Canada's role in the world, visit <http://geo.international.gc.ca/cip-pic/menu-en.aspx> (Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada). Key issues, video interviews and featured topics can be explored as well as interesting ediscussions about policy. Last fall, for example, Canadians were invited to share their views on *Canada's Role in North America*. In addition to the 407 postings to the eDiscussion, 14 policy position papers were submitted that can help your students get involved in "big picture" civic education.

6) CANADA vs U.S. HEALTH CARE STUDY

Americans spend something in the area of 14% of our GNP on health care and cover about half of all Americans. Canadians spend a bit over 9% of their GNP, and basically cover everyone. Interesting. If you're interested in learning more or want to direct high school students to research comparative health care systems, visit www.pnhp.org/canadastudy to open a pdf of the article "Access to Care, Health Status, and Health Disparities in the United States and Canada: Results of a Cross-National Population-Based Survey". The article was published in *The American Journal of Public Health* (July 2006).

7) GEOGRAPHY LESSON PLANS

Students can learn about the history of the Canadian boreal forest and aboriginal peoples of Canada at: www.wildernessclassroom.com/teacher_resources/members/lesson_plans/index.html. The curriculum includes attention to history of the region and focuses on aboriginal topics like shelter, Ojibwe art, songs/myths/legends, travel and food. A teacher's guide is even available! Another unit offers lessons ranging from Inuit sled dogs and winter travel to Cree culture and fort life.

8) ABORIGINAL STUDIES – AWARD-WINNING NFB DOCUMENTARY

The Invisible Nation is a 91-minute documentary that spotlights the sad reality of the Algonquin of Québec and brings their history to the screen for the first time. High school classrooms can discover how Algonquin traditions have been undermined and their natural resources plundered since the arrival of Europeans in the 16th century. Today, the barely 9,000 Algonquin left often endure abject poverty and are left suffering the threat to their very existence in silence. See www.nfb.ca/collection/films/fiche/?id=55672 to learn more about ordering the film.

9) CANADIAN RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Coconut-scented Butter Tarts [from *The Canadian Cookbook: History, Folklore and Recipes with a Twist* (Edmonton, AB: Lone Pine Publishing, 2006)]

Butter tarts mean as much –or more- to the Canadians as Yorkshire pudding means to the English, croissants to the French or haggis to the Scots, and they are just as much of a national symbol. Canadian butter tarts may have developed from the gooey, delicate, crusted treat called the Ecclefechan butter tart. This tart named after the town of Ecclefechan, Scotland, was brought to Canada by the Scottish immigrants, who reached

*Pictou, Nova Scotia, on September 15, 1773. Some people believe butter tarts are related to Québec's sugar pie, and there is no denying their similarity to southern Creole pecan pie. Whatever the origin, the recipe first appeared in a Canadian cookbook (Five Roses Cookbook) in 1915. Because of its common ingredients and simple procedure, it has endured in our hearts and recipe books. I consider coconut to be an improvement in most recipes, and butter tarts are no exception. **For an authentic butter tart recipe, use raisins or currants instead of the coconut, or omit them both for an "au naturel" version.***

Ingredients:

Pastry, enough for a double crust
1 cup (250ml) unsweetened coconut, toasted
2 eggs
1 cup (250) brown sugar
1 cup (250 ml) corn syrup
½ cup (125ml) unsalted butter
1 ½ tsp (8ml) pure vanilla extract
1 tsp (5ml) cider vinegar
¼ tsp (2ml) sea salt

Directions:

Preheat oven to 425°F (220° C). Lightly butter 12-muffin tin and line cups with pastry. Sprinkle coconut evenly into crusts.

In a bowl, beat eggs. Add remaining ingredients and stir gently just to combine; over stirring filling can make it bubble over during baking. Pour egg mixture over coconut to fill muffin cups ¾ full. Bake until just set, about 15 minutes. Serve at room temperature, garnish with chocolate shavings and fresh berries.

Tip: To toast coconut, preheat oven to 350° F (180°C), place coconut on a baking sheet and bake for 3 to 5 minutes, stirring often and watching carefully so it doesn't burn.

10) RUTH WRITER'S REVIEW OF CANADIAN LITERATURE FOR ADULTS - Louise Penny. *Dead Cold* (London: Headline, 2006). ISBN 978-0-7553-2893-2

Louise Penny, the award-winning crime writer, lives in a small village between Montreal and the U.S. border. Her novel *Dead Cold* [entitled *A Fatal Grace* for the U.S. market] revolves around a murder in just such a place called Three Pines. Imagine this sleepy village on Boxing Day when presents get put away, holiday trim comes down, and the traditional day-after-Christmas curling match comes to life. Three Pines quickly becomes the focus of another, non-typical event when a prominent but disliked woman dies from being electrocuted at the match.

How could this happen with so many curling spectators and no witnesses? Chief Inspector Armand Gamache, introduced in Penny's earlier novel *Still Life*, wants to know the answer to this homicide. Penny weaves the facts of this bizarre method of murder with the homicide of a homeless woman on the Montreal streets just prior to the holiday. In addition, readers will learn about the rules of curling, the lives of those in the free-spirited 1960's, and Inuit culture. Penny's style reminds me of the early Scott Turow's *Presumed Innocent* where I thought I had the murders figured out only to be thrown one curve after another. A fun read--I recommend Penny's works.

As the title suggests, one will indeed feel the bitter cold winds, blowing down across the lake in Three Pines. This mystery will cool down those basking in the summer sun. On the other hand, I first finished this book on Boxing Day and the cold winds were all too real outside the window.

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