

June 2009 Resource Notice

Greetings! Although teachers in the southern US are already enjoying your summer vacations, June remains the final month of the academic year marked by my resource notices. My own attention is turning to the annual STUDY CANADA Summer Institute in Vancouver and Whistler so I am sharing some 2010 Olympics-related information below that I hope will interest everyone. There are also several opportunities for professional development listed below during the summer months in Washington State and in Canada.

For the majority of teachers who are still in classrooms, I hope these final weeks reaffirm and coalesce knowledge gained by students throughout the year. This end-of-the-year activity might interest some of you since it encourages students to reflect on what they've learned and experienced while also serving to help new students next year. It's always nice looking forward, too!

Have students write letters to those who will follow in their footsteps as outlined at http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/02/lp268-01.shtml. Creating videos or scrapbooks are other possibilities. The letters might include favorite memories of topics taught and information learned, advice about how to be successful in the class, what to avoid and so on. Of course, it is important for them to be positive since their messages are designed to help calm the jitters students often feel during the first days of a new school year. (If you did this activity the previous year, remind students of how they felt when they read the letters left behind by the previous year's students.) Store student letters in a safe place until the first day of the next school year. Then post a selection of the letters on a bulletin board, place a single letter on each student's desk, or share a selection of the letters/videos/scrapbooks.

Of course, I hope that Canada figures in their memories as students move forward to the next grade and beyond. Many thanks to all of you for bringing Canada into your classrooms as you do! Have a wonderful summer. Tina Storer

Please ensure your server accepts group messages. Notify me if you receive duplicate notices or wish to be removed from the Canada Listserv. Western Washington University and University of Washington jointly perform K-12 STUDY CANADA 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) VANCOUVER OLYMPICS TIMELINE

CBC Canada offers a great website about everything Olympic. The "Road to the Games" covers recent news stories, a Vancouver Olympic timeline, athlete blogs, events calendars and much, much more! The timeline is especially useful for teachers since it provides a historical facts with poignant images that can serve as a structural basis for a unit on Canada and the upcoming Winter Games. The site even offers videos, and a countdown that can be shared with excited students. This site is available in English, <http://www.cbc.ca/bc/features/roadtothegames/> and French http://www.radio-canada.ca/regions/colombie-britannique/Dossiers/detail.asp?Pk_Dossiers_regionaux=125

2) VANCOUVER 2010 LESSON STARTERS

For the first time in the history of the Olympics, there will be four First Nations tribes who—from the outset—have been part of the 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games. The "Four Host First Nations" have figured prominently in development and plans and will share their cultures not only in various ceremonies but also through increased participation in the games themselves. To encourage athleticism and Olympic ideals in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians, the Vancouver 2010 Olympics Committee created a poster series that celebrate Aboriginal athletes and three lesson "starters". The latter provide teachers with developed ideas for lessons that they can modify to suit their particular classroom needs. Developed in collaboration with the BC Ministry of Education and Aboriginal teachers from across the province, the lesson starters can be used in a number of curriculum areas such as language arts, geography, science, social studies, health, career education and drama. Visit <http://www.vancouver2010.com/en/culture-and-education/education/feature-programs/-/61732/33978/wncg46/vancouver-2010-aboriginal-educ.html> .

3) MIDDLE SCHOOL LESSON PLAN: THE ALL CANADIAN TREE

The Canadian National History Society has granted an award to Owen Ferguson for work in developing his "All Canadian Tree" lesson plan. The project helps motivate middle school students to do meaningful research while accommodating individual students' personal interests. The "All Canadian Tree" helps students first

develop ideas and symbols of Canadian history and then encourages them to share what they have learned with their community. The lesson can be adapted to American classrooms while retaining a focus on Canada and includes two projects that can be done in conjunction with one another or separately. Do take a look at the awarding-winning curriculum at: <http://www.historyociety.ca/kayak/ezine/LP/Ferguson.pdf> .

4) **CONSERVATION NORTHWEST ARTICLE: THE CANADIAN CONNECTION, WHY WE NEED CANADA**

Conservation Northwest is a quarterly publication that advocates the protection of old growth forests and other wildlife areas in the Pacific Northwest. The spring 2009 Issue includes an article that serves as a great resource for teachers and students examining the roles both countries play in environmental protection of wildlife. Let it be clearly stated here first that, although each country has made great strides in conservation, both still have a long way to go. The article points to the need for joint cooperation of both countries to protect many species as animal habitats know no borders. The article is available online at: <http://www.conservationnw.org/library/newsletter/newsletter-pdfs/Spring-CNWQuarterly-2009.pdf> .

5) **IROQUOIS WEAVING ACTIVITY FOR WIRED CLASSROOMS**

Courtesy of Les Buell (NY)

Since Aboriginal Peoples of North America also knew no boundaries, studying native cultures is often a way that many classroom teachers bring Canada into the curriculum. The Iroquois, for example, inhabited the northeastern US and southeastern Canada and have borne witness to both nations taking possession of their native lands. The culture and crafting skills of the Iroquois can easily be brought to your classroom with the resources available at <http://www.nativetech.org> . According to the homepage: It is an internet resource for indigenous ethno-technology focusing on the arts of Eastern Woodland Indian Peoples, providing historical & contemporary background with instructional how-to's & references.

Weaving a virtual Iroquois wampum belt is one example. See <http://www.nativetech.org/ beadwork/wampumgraph/index.html> . As Les Buell, historian and teacher extraordinaire pointed out in a recent email to teachers in New York State, "the beads were originally made from Quahog (purple) and Whelk (white) clam shells. The belts were often used to describe treaties...and later in time used for decoration. The Hiawatha Wampum Belt, for example, was originally to show the unity of the Five Nations (later six) of the Iroquois. Today this belt has become the symbol of the Iroquois Nation and is the basis for the Iroquois flag." I hope some of you have the opportunity to have fun creating these electronic crafts in your classroom this June!

6) **2009 WaGA SUMMER GEOGRAPHY INSTITUTE**

Society and Nature in Puget Sound County (July 6-10 – Kent, WA)

The Washington Geographic Alliance is still accepting applications for its 2009 Summer Geography Institute that includes a presentation from WaGA Vice-President (and STUDY CANADA Teacher Associate) Meghan Hoyer. The program involves a combination of fieldwork and classroom-based activities that incorporate geography into social studies, reading, math, and science education.

Participants have the option to earn 3 credits or 35 WA-State issued clock hours granted through Seattle Pacific University. The Institute itself, however, is held on the Kent campus of Green River Community College. Participants can stay at the Best Western in Kent, WA as guests of the WaGA while those who prefer to drive to Kent each day for the workshop will be reimbursed for mileage and gas. As many of you know, the Washington Geographic Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization operating under the support of the National Geographic Education Foundation.

To download an application or for more information, please visit the Washington Geographic Alliance at <http://www.washgeo.org>. Contact Tim Scharks with questions at (253) 833-9111 (x4380) / tscharks@greenriver.ed.

7) GEOTECHNOLOGIES SUMMER INSTITUTE IN CANADA

To enhance environmental education in geography & environmental studies, July 2-4 2009 - Toronto, ON, Canada

The Department of Geography at Ryerson University in Toronto is holding a summer institute at their campus in downtown Toronto during the first week of July. The workshop targets Grades 7-12 social studies and geography. The 3-day intensive program includes workshops on how to use GIS environmental applications, data collection in the field using GPS and a panel of guest teachers. The cost is \$999, and includes on site laptop use and software that participants keep for their own classrooms. Contact Mark Lowry at mark.lowry@tdsb.on.ca for registration information.

8) CRITICAL THINKING THROUGH A GEOGRAPHICAL LENS

August 18-20 2009, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) - Toronto, ON, Canada

This summer institute is offered by The Critical Thinking Consortium and the Ontario Association for Geographic and Environmental Education. The program targets social studies and geography teachers with a passion for environmental issues. The institute focuses on enhancing critical thinking and geo-literacy skills of students through hands on learning and the use of visual and spatial technological aids. The cost of the institute is \$250, and includes a free text copy of "Teaching about Geographical Thinking". For more information or to register please visit, www.tc2.ca.

9) CANADIAN RECIPE OF THE MONTH

The Canadian Family Cook Book: A Volume of Tried, Tested and Proven Recipes. Ed. Grace E. Denison. (Toronto: McLeod & Allen, 1914.) 538 pages.

There are so, so many interesting-looking recipes in this old cookbook! I was naturally drawn to the "sweets" as well as the recipes below that sounded fun for children to make (and eat, of course!) Happy cooking.

Apple Porcupine (p. 232)

Ingredients:

apples
sugar and water
blanched almonds
jelly, preserves or marmalade
cream*

[Portions and amounts will depend on how many apples are turned into porcupines.]

Directions:

- Make a syrup by boiling sugar and water in equal proportions. [Enough water and sugar to cover.]
- Pare and core the apples. Before the fruit is discolored by standing, immerse them in the syrup and cook until easily pierced with a straw. [Do not discard skins or cores.]
- Draw apples from the liquid and ornament the sides of each by piercing them with blanched almonds.
- Fill the cavities with jelly, preserved fruit or marmalade and serve hot or cold with cream.
- With remaining syrup, skins and cores, apple jelly may be made.

* Creams were clearly a common way to accent desserts and a wide variety of recipes are offered in this cookbook. In the introduction to the "Desserts, Custards, and Creams" section, Denison notes that "eggs should always be well beaten, separately, the yolks first, then the sugar added; beat again, then add the beaten whites with the flavoring, then the cooled scalded milk. The lighter the eggs are beaten, the thicker and richer the custard."

Pineapple Cream [Mould] (p. 233)

Ingredients:

4 eggs 3 oz sugar
½ pint milk ½ pint double cream
¾ oz gelatine

Directions: Take the pineapple and trim well, cut in half, cut one-half in dice, the other half pound in a mortar and pass through a hair sieve. Whip the cream, add the juice of pine, also the dice of pine; dissolve the gelatine in a gill [1/2 cup] of the pineapple syrup, add sugar; when cold add cream, and pour it into a decorated mould and set on ice.

Chocolate Cream [Mould] (p. 232) Ice Cream (p. 239)

Ingredients:

6 oz chocolate grated 6 oz sugar
Yolks of 6 eggs 1 pint cream
2 oz gelatine

Directions: Grate finely six ounces chocolate; put chocolate into a saucepan with cream, sugar, and yolks of eggs. Stir over fire until it thickens, run through sieve; add dissolved gelatine. Mix and fill mould and place on ice.

Ingredients:

1 quart milk 2 Tbsp cornstarch
2 C sugar Vanilla flavoring to taste

Directions: Put milk on to boil, dissolve cornstarch in two tablespoons of cold milk, stir into boiling milk; cook five minutes, strain, add sugar, flavor to taste. When perfectly cold, freeze. An excellent recipe that never fails.

10) RUTH WRITER'S REVIEW OF CANADIAN LITERATURE

La Guerre, Yes Sir! by Roch Carrier. (Toronto: Anansi, 1998.) ISBN 0-887-846-262

If you enjoy Canadian literature but have not yet read any works by Roch Carrier, now is the time to enjoy one of the best authors from our northern neighbor. Although most Canadians—and Americans—know his short story, “The Hockey Sweater” based on his own childhood, his adult works are fantastic as well. Some even compare his to William Faulkner since he explores the lives of those living in the unique ethnic and geographic region of Québec.

La Guerre, Yes Sir!, in particular, investigates conflicts within the francophone community during World War II. Anglophone Canada supported Britain when it joined the war but this story delves into the response of francophone Quebecers to the draft. Their “war” with the Catholic Church and within traditional family structures is also explored during a time when language laws in Canada were key issues. Even the title is bilingual and, if each half was translated, would read ***The War, Oui Monsieur!***

Imagine a small village in rural Québec with pristine white snow—and blood staining the perfect landscape. Well, that is exactly how Carrier begins this short novel which questioned authority when originally written in the late 1960s. His humorous depiction of the village, the people, their culture and the war quickly became required reading in literature courses on both sides of the border.

La Guerre, Yes Sir! is a book that will make readers laugh out loud while educating readers about all about rural life Québec over a half century ago. I hope you'll pick up a copy and enjoy this work by the former national librarian of Canada and “writer laureate”.

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