

## March-April 2010: K-12 STUDY CANADA E-Resource Notice

Greetings! I hope that you not only enjoyed watching coverage of the 2010 Winter Olympics last month but also enjoyed using the Games to connect your classrooms to Canada. NBC's Olympic coverage earned the network its best Olympics viewership ever...and I am proud to admit that being there in person is a memory I will cherish forever. As John Furlong, said in his Opening Ceremony speech, the Olympics and torch relay offered the rest of the world "an epic, unforgettable journey of discovery across a land visually blessed, rich in history and all the better for its myriad of cultures, micro-cultures, languages and peoples."

Despite a tragic start, Vancouver 2010 was a wonderful showcase for Canada and sport. To see logistics that helped make Vancouver 2010 such a success, visit [www.vancouver2010.com/olympic-news/n/news/the-vancouver-2010-olympic-winter-games-by-the-numbers-297556Ko.html](http://www.vancouver2010.com/olympic-news/n/news/the-vancouver-2010-olympic-winter-games-by-the-numbers-297556Ko.html). For Americans, these Games will go in the record books for the most medals won at a Winter Olympics. For Canadians, these Games will mark their achievement in earning the most gold medals ever [an impressive feat considering that the initial goal was winning its first gold on home turf!] and as a definitive moment in Canadian history for uniting the nation with unprecedented spirit.

**Sidenote:** *A favorite television moment for me was Tom Brokaw's 6-minute segment on the importance of the Canada-US relationship. It struck a chord with many Americans [and Canadians] when it aired as part of NBC's pre-Opening Ceremony broadcast. If you missed it (or want to see it again), be sure to visit [www.nbcolympics.com/video/assetid=66bc3109-6008-47ee-ae30-4f8c9696384d.html](http://www.nbcolympics.com/video/assetid=66bc3109-6008-47ee-ae30-4f8c9696384d.html).*

I hope that the story of Canada and the beauty of the region has tempted some of you to learn more and to register for our 6-day ***STUDY CANADA Summer Institute for K-12 Educators***. There are ten spaces still available and this year's program is the last one to be offered in Vancouver and Whistler for the next few years. Be sure to visit [www.k12studycanada.org/scsi.asp](http://www.k12studycanada.org/scsi.asp) to discover why teachers rate this program so highly each year and to contact me if you'd like me to hold a spot for you!

In the meantime, I hope that the resources below—ranging from “The Beaver” to information on the Prairies to student activities and a Nanaimo Bar recipe—intrigue and assist you with classroom connections to Canada. Best wishes!  
Tina Storer

Please ensure your server accepts messages and notify me if you receive duplicate notices or wish to be removed from the 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.

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### **1) THE BEAVER BECOMES PART OF CANADA'S HISTORY**

It's both comical and sad that Canada's premier mainstream history publication, *The Beaver*, announced in January that it will rename its publication: *Canada's History Society*. According to a Reuters report, "Canada's second-oldest magazine, *The Beaver*, is changing its name because its unintended sexual connotation has caused the history journal to become snagged in Internet filters and has turned off potential readers." The magazine's website at <http://www.historysociety.ca/bea.asp> is an excellent resource for teachers planning units on Canada.

Open [www.historysociety.ca/content/en/pdfs/Brune4.pdf](http://www.historysociety.ca/content/en/pdfs/Brune4.pdf) to see, for example, how Ontario historian/educator Nick Brune based his lesson plan "Dilemmas" on Christopher Moore's article "Redressing History's Horrors" (April/May 2003). Although this particular lesson is intended for senior level classrooms, many others are also available at no cost for grades K-2, 3-4, 5-6 and so on. Lesson plans can also be found according to era or theme such as: First Nations, Politics, Provinces, Military, etc. All lessons are downloadable for free with Adobe Acrobat.

### **2) ORIGINS OF CANADA'S GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES**

Teachers often use place names to start off a geographical unit of study. Canada/Kanata is a prime example of this though teachers need not stop there! Nature Resources Canada compiles information on the names of Canada's provinces, territories, and capital cities, as well as origins of some Aboriginal community names. Any teacher who is interested in teaching about Canada's geography can use this data base to enhance lessons plans with a variety of articles provided on interesting names across Canada. See [http://geonames.nrcan.gc.ca/education/index\\_e.php](http://geonames.nrcan.gc.ca/education/index_e.php).

### 3) PEEL'S PRAIRIE PROVINCES

Peel's Prairie Provinces is a resource dedicated to assisting scholars and students in their exploration of western Canadian history and the culture of the Canadian prairies. This website contains both an online bibliography of books, pamphlets, and other materials related to the development of the Prairies as well as a searchable full-text collection of many of these items. Visit <http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/index.html> to learn more.

### 4) THE CANADIAN ATLAS: CENTRAL PLAINS

*The Canadian Atlas Online* provides a wealth of information on the central plains. It is *the go-to* resource when teaching about Canada's geography so it is worth bookmarking. When teaching about the prairies, in particular, be sure to explore [www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas/themes.aspx?id=central&lang=En](http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas/themes.aspx?id=central&lang=En). You'll discover an array of geography-related information as well as lesson plans and student games. "Wheat fields, grain elevators, and remote farmsteads on the rolling prairie endure as persistent images of the Central Plains. But, on close inspection, this natural region presents a more varied and complex geographic and economic picture." Students will learn, for example, that the prairies (Alberta's tar sands) hold over 70% of Canada's oil reserves.

### 5) THEMATIC PATHFINDER ON THE PRAIRIES

The 4<sup>2</sup>eXplore site at [www.42explore.com](http://www.42explore.com) offers thematic pathfinders for teachers/students of all ages. It started as an educational web project that provides "four to eXplore" for a range of over 200 themed topics. On each page you'll find definitions, activities, 4 key starting points, and many more links and resources for the thematic topic. In particular, definitions, information, and activities about the prairies at <http://42explore.com/prairie.htm>

The <http://epe.lac-bac.gc.ca/100/205/301/ic/cdc/soilandwater/default.htm#> site provides a great overview of the Western Canadian landscape and documents historical information on some of the challenges of agricultural development over the past century. It provides information on some of the major projects in the areas of water supply, land conservation, and irrigation, primarily developed by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, in response to those challenges. An Adobe Flashplayer can be downloaded from the site for best viewing.

### 6) THE MÉTIS

There are three primary indigenous groups in Canada: First Nations peoples from across the country, the Inuit of the North and the Métis of the Prairies. It was an important symbolic honor at the Opening Ceremony that they were first to welcome athletes and the world to Canada. The least known are the Métis Nation so I hope you include lessons about this unique aboriginal group if teaching about the Prairies or early Canadian history.

The Métis people do not all have the same ancestry, much less the same historical background, so summarizing their story is difficult; however, many Métis emerged from the union of Indian women and European men (primarily French fur traders/voyageurs). An event of particular importance to the Métis in Canada's history was the Northwest Rebellion of 1885. Upset with the Canadian government's violation of their land rights and withholding of food and supplies to coerce compliance, the Métis of Saskatchewan sent for Louis Riel, a Métis spokesman and hero who established Manitoba as a province (and, for his efforts, exiled to the USA). Riel, the Métis, and local Cree Indians rose up in armed revolt against the government and Canadian land abuses. The rebellion was short-lived and still controversial, but brought needed attention to the plight of native peoples in Canada. Riel, with eight other Indians, was executed for his role in the rebellion and he remains an icon of Métis pride and self-determinism to this day.

Learn more about the history of the Métis, their traditional territory, culture (song, dance, dress, national symbols, etc.), unique language (*Michif*), and foods by visiting [www.awchimo.net](http://www.awchimo.net). A very informative and student-friendly site!

### 7) TEXAS TEACHES CANADA, TOO!

Texas-based Education & Computer Connection (ECN) offers valuable information for educators, parents and students who use technology to enhance learning. The site provides opportunities for students to access the Internet to develop high-quality activities with hands-on use of current technology. See [www.nvo.com/ecnewsletter/canadaforkids/](http://www.nvo.com/ecnewsletter/canadaforkids/) to discover mazes, puzzles, coloring books and "Canada is for Kids" connections to other classroom projects.

### 8) TEACHING CANADA FROM A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

The East Coast NRC on Canada offers great resources for teachers who are planning a lesson or unit for any K-12 level at <http://www.umaine.edu/canam/k-12outreach/resources/lessonplan.htm>. Clear lesson plans and unit

break downs are given with content divided into elementary, middle school, high school, and even college level lessons. Some of the lesson plans were written by Canadian teachers themselves. The site is very easy to follow and has lesson plans and units categorized in sections such as culture, Canadian geography, literature, native Canadians, pioneers and settlers, art, Arctic/Nunavut, government, Native Canadians/First Nations, and many others.

### 9) **CANADIAN RECIPE OF THE MONTH: GRANDMA TERRY'S NANAIMO BARS**

An old family recipe submitted by Mali Bickley (Barrie, ON, Canada)

If you Google "Nanaimo bars", you'll discover 145,000 sites that reference them. They're one of Canada's most popular and internationally renowned desserts. Named after the city of Nanaimo on Vancouver Island in BC, it seems fitting to include the recipe as a "taste of Canada" and souvenir of Vancouver 2010 forever. There are many recipes that claim to be the original or best but I have been promised by Mali, a distinguished educator and assistant coordinator of iEARN Canada, that her grandmother's version is "famous" in her family for being so tasty. Mali designs and facilitates many global education projects to integrate reading and writing strategies into projects that connect students globally so I'm especially delighted she is willing to spread international gastronomic joy as well!

#### **Bottom Layer Ingredients:**

- 1/4 C white sugar
- 2 C graham crumbs
- 1/2 C chopped walnuts
- 1 C desiccated coconut
- 3 Tbsp cocoa
- 1 beaten egg
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1/2 C margarine (not spreadable kind)

#### **Middle Layer Ingredients:**

- 1/4 C margarine
- 2 C icing sugar
- 2 T custard powder
- 2 T boiling water

#### **Top Layer Ingredients:**

- 1 T margarine
- 2 squares unsweetened chocolate

#### **Bottom Layer Directions:**

- Melt margarine, sugar and cocoa in a pan.
- Mix in remaining ingredients.
- Spread into an 8X8 pan and chill in refrigerator.

#### **Middle Layer Directions:**

- Mix well so that it will spread evenly.
- Spread over bottom layer & chill 5-10 minutes.

#### **Top Layer Directions:**

- Melt and spread over middle layer.
- Chill overnight, cut into 2" squares, and enjoy!

### 10) **RUTH WRITER'S REVIEW OF CANADIAN LITERATURE**

***Tsunami: The Newfoundland Tidal Wave Disaster*** by Maura Hanrahan. (St. John's, NL: Flanker Press Ltd., 2004.) ISBN 1-894463-63-3

It has been over five years since the disastrous 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean and only a few weeks since the terrible earthquake that shattered Haiti. These deadly natural phenomena are reminiscent of a much less well-known earthquake and tsunami eighty years ago that hit Newfoundland. In that instance, an earthquake happened along the Grand Banks and was felt by those living in the small out ports along the Burin Peninsula on the southeastern part of Newfoundland, over one hundred and fifty miles from the epicenter. The quake caused shaking for close to five minutes yet the residents quickly went back to their work.

Several hours later, a tidal wave struck with devastating results. Almost thirty people lost their lives that cold November night yet there were miraculous tales of survival as well. One child was discovered still in her high chair when rescuers entered a house that had been swept into ocean waters. Dozens of homes in over fifty island villages were destroyed; some of the out ports never recovered to see residents live there again.

Hanrahan's book recounts the experience through interviews of survivors, many of whom were well into their eighties or nineties. ***Tsunami: The Newfoundland Tidal Wave Disaster*** is a fascinating historical account that few people are familiar with. After reading this, you will be impressed by both the book and the resilience of those living along the shores of Newfoundland.

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](mailto:tina.storer@wwu.edu)  
Web: [www.k12studycanada.org](http://www.k12studycanada.org)