

## MAY-JUNE 2010: STUDY CANADA E-RESOURCE NOTICE

**Greetings!** Like you, I am amazed at how quickly another school year is coming to an end. This is the final resource notice from me this year but, in case your study of Canada is still ongoing (or you are looking ahead to curriculum on Canada for the fall), there are a dozen items below that will appeal to you.

I am pleased to report that, later this month, a first-ever national conference on “**Canada and the American Curriculum**” will bring together leading educators from a variety of educational organizations across the nation to discuss efforts to improve attention to Canada in K-12 classrooms. The conference is being organized by the Center for the Study of Canada, State University of New York College at Plattsburgh, whose partners in the effort include the Canadian-American Center, University of Maine; the Center for Canadian-American Studies, Western Washington University; the Canadian Studies Center, University of Washington; and the Embassy of Canada. The long-standing relationship between the U.S. and Canada is vital to both nations’ political, economic and social welfare, yet the singular importance of Canada to the United States is a subject rarely considered in American classrooms. I am hopeful that new directions are in store and will report briefly to you on conference outcomes next fall.

I am also pleased to note that participants from nine different states (CA, CO, MI, MT, OH, OR, SC, WA, and VA) have filled up this year’s “STUDY CANADA” workshop. Those of you who have been waiting for news about next year’s program can now mark your calendars and know that it will be held July 3-8, 2011 at the Westin Ottawa, in the nation’s capital! There may even be a daytrip to Montreal included. I will gladly share further details about the *33rd Annual STUDY CANADA Summer Institute for K-12 Educators* with you in the fall.

If not attending “STUDY CANADA” in Vancouver/Whistler or the “Quebec Dimensions” workshop offered by the Eastern NRC on Canada in Montreal/Quebec City [see <http://www.umaine.edu/canam/teachingcanada.htm>], I hope that you have a chance this summer to travel in Canada. Regardless, I wish you *bonne vacances* and best wishes until I send the next resource notice in September. 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 USDOE-funded National Resource Center for Canada in the US. Annual Embassy of Canada grants also provide support.**

### **1) SING A SONG OF CANADA (Songbook and Supplemental CD)**

Kim Soleski Ward, a Canadian who teaches music at Gates and Merriam Elementary Schools in Acton, MA, composed nineteen songs that teach the history, geography and culture of Canada. She has generously provided copies for use in the K-12 STUDY CANADA Resource Valise loan-kits and I am happy to do so because it’s a wonderful resource! For all the reasons stated below, I’d also like to encourage all who use music in their classrooms to order it.

“Sing a Song of Canada” is a complete curriculum unit for students from Kindergarten to Grade 6. It has a Performance/Accompaniment CD and reproducible activity pages. All of the songs and activities have been kid-tested in the classroom by classroom teachers and music specialists. Several of the songs are suitable for other curriculum units such as habitats, First Nations culture, and French language. It is a unique way to integrate music into the regular classroom and to use the power of music to teach facts about Canada. Sing on, eh?

The supplemental CD contains supplemental materials to be used with the Songbook including lesson plans which correspond to the MENC National Standards and PowerPoint slides with song lyrics, instrumental arrangements, piano accompaniments and choral arrangements. To order, contact Leslie Music Supply [[sales@lesliemusicupply.com](mailto:sales@lesliemusicupply.com)].

### **2) CANADA E-BOOK**

Much like the rest of the world, Canada is still developing as a nation. To make sense of this ever-changing country, the Canada e-Book uses sound, images, tables, graphs and both analytical and descriptive text to look at “Canada—The Land”, “The People”, “The Economy” and “The State”. Visit [http://www43.statcan.ca/r000\\_e.htm](http://www43.statcan.ca/r000_e.htm).

### **3) TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK!**

To thank the world’s teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week from May 3-7, [www.LearningA-Z.com](http://www.LearningA-Z.com) is opening up all six of their PreK-6 Learning A-Z websites — for free. Sites include Reading A-Z, Raz-Kids, Writing A-Z, Science A-Z, Vocabulary A-Z, and Reading-Tutors. Nearly 50,000 teachers took advantage of their Open House last year and pre-registration for this year is now open. Just go to <http://www.learninga-z.com/openhouse> — and then pass it on to your friends and colleagues!

#### **4) NY SCHOOL INSPIRES WITH CULMINATING PROJECT ON CANADA**

Every now and again, I run across a teacher or--in this case--a class-created website that deserves attention and kudos. The 2002-2003 fifth grade class at Pocantico Hills Central School (Sleepy Hollow, NY) created an impressive website dedicated to Canada's history, heritage, land forms, and government. The website was developed as a culminating project to their study of the Americas. At [www.pocaticohills.org/canada/canada.htm](http://www.pocaticohills.org/canada/canada.htm), they invite other teachers and students to tour Canada's provinces and territories so I hope you take them up on the offer. You will be inspired, I'm sure!

#### **5) KIDS CLUB: ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT – AND CURRICULUM, TOO!**

Natural Resources Canada offers classrooms fun ways to learn about energy conservation and environmental issues at <http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/calendarclub/index.cfm?attr=0>. Click on "For Teachers" to explore the K-8 lesson plans from across Canada as well as the "Activity Books" icon to download some great resources for your students. From word jumbles to connect-the-dots and online cartoons that stimulate and encourage learning, students can have fun visiting this website, too.

#### **6) CANADIAN POLITICS ONLINE [e-TEXTBOOK]**

Northern Blue Publishing has just introduced another great online resource for teaching about Canada in high school classrooms. *Canadian Politics Online* (CPO) is a digital textbook and e-learning resource that provides pertinent information on the government and politics of Canada. The portal is divided into four sections with forty one chapters in total covering material from the federal government to current issues. The clarity of the writing and the engaging explanations of Canada's most complicated political issues makes this recent release a superb reference manual for students and teachers alike. Please note that while CPO is an open portal for personal educational use and research, institutions and schools must obtain a license from Northern Blue Publishing to use CPO as a teaching resource. Licensees are able to work interactively with the text, adding comments and illustrations that they can share with other online readers. Try it today! [http://www.northernblue.ca/cpo/index.php/Welcome to Canadian Politics Online](http://www.northernblue.ca/cpo/index.php/Welcome%20to%20Canadian%20Politics%20Online)

#### **7) CANADIAN POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES FOR H.S. CLASSROOMS**

The "Maple Leaf Web" at <http://www.mapleleafweb.com/front> is a portal to political news in Canada, with information of interest to high school classrooms that consider the importance of Canada-US relations—from government and law to political parties and current events. It is a University of Lethbridge (Alberta) website and designed to be a one-stop site for everything political. To pique high school students' interest in international relations, it always exciting for them to discover the important issues beyond our borders—particularly those that offer a new perspective on topics that impact both Canada and the US.

#### **8) KIDS' ZONE**

Statistics Canada offers a great web site for students who are interested in learning about Canada. The Kid Zone offers eight different kinds of activities that are both fun and educational. Crossword puzzles, word searches, maps, coloring pages, and quizzes make great supplementary material for any unit on Canada. As the summer nears and attention spans shorten everywhere, fun activities like these can help to liven up students' learning experiences and keep students motivated. This website can also be accessed by students from their home computers, enabling students to continue their education all summer long. [http://www.statcan.gc.ca/edu/zone/edu02a\\_0000-eng.htm](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/edu/zone/edu02a_0000-eng.htm)

#### **9) "CANADA DAY" CRAFTS FROM KABOOSE**

Summer is almost here, and that means Canada Day (July 1) is just around the corner. Celebrate the end of the school year with some fun Canada-themed crafts. Kaboose offers something for everyone, from simple maple leaf decorations to more elaborate projects for older learners. Kaboose also offers a "Canuck Coloring Page" and great BBQ recipes for your Canada day celebrations. All of these great resources can be found on their "Celebrate Canada Day" page at <http://holidays.kaboose.com/canada-day/index.html>

#### **10) END-OF-THE-YEAR FUN: "CRICKLERS" ON CANADA [Thanks, Marianne!]**

Marianne Kenney, a friend and colleague from Colorado, introduced me to "cricklers" that appear in *The Boston Globe* [and perhaps other newspapers] that can teach about Canada's provinces. If, like me, you don't know what a "crickler" is, I can now say they are "adaptive news puzzles". The crossword-like puzzles inform as well as amuse and the clues get easier as you complete words. You can try one at [www.boston.com/partners/crickler/crickler.html](http://www.boston.com/partners/crickler/crickler.html). I haven't yet figured out how to access archived puzzles (such as the one called "The Canadian Province of Ontario" that appeared on 3/29/2010) but I'm sure all students in computerized classrooms will enjoy this new approach to current events (or teachers adding this to morning routines and cups of coffee). Please email me if you'd like a copy of the one on Ontario that I made by hand.

## 11) CANADIAN RECIPE OF THE MONTH: MONTRÉAL-STYLE COLESLAW

Adapted from *The Canadian Cookbook: History, Folklore & Recipes with a Twist* by Jennifer Ogle (Edmonton, AB, 2006) ISBN # 9781551055688

Often regarded as a health food, cabbage has been cultivated since before recorded history although, at first, it was merely a few leaves and no head. Pythagoras recommended cabbage for longevity--and he lived to be over 80. He especially liked cabbage raw with vinegar, similar to Montréal-style coleslaw. Rich in vitamin C, which protects against scurvy, cabbage was an important crop for the pioneers both fresh and, more importantly, preserved, as in sauerkraut. Jacques Cartier has been attributed the honor of planting the first cabbage in New France during his third voyage, in 1542. The word "coleslaw" comes from the medieval Dutch *kool sla*, meaning "cabbage salad." Seeking to augment rural populations following World War II, the Canadian government wooed immigrants from the Netherlands, which had a surplus of farmers. Approximately 185,000 of these "preferred" immigrants arrived on Canada's shores between 1947 and 1970, settling largely in Ontario, Québec, Alberta, Manitoba, and British Columbia. Today, coleslaw graces nearly every Canadian picnic and barbecue [just as it does in the U.S.]

<u>Ingredients:</u>	<u>Directions:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 large green cabbage thinly sliced</li><li>• 3 carrots, grated</li><li>• 1 bunch green onions, sliced</li><li>• 3 Tbsp (45mL) flaked kosher salt</li><li>• 3 Tbsp (45mL) unbleached sugar</li><li>• 2/3 cup (150mL) white wine or champagne vinegar</li><li>• 3 Tbsp (45mL) olive oil</li></ul>	<p>Using mostly vinegar and only a touch of oil, this refreshing salad is sure to make your lips pucker. It goes well with grilled and roasted meats. For best flavor, make a day ahead.</p> <p>Toss vegetables and salt together, place in a colander and let sit for 30 minutes. Squeeze excess moisture out of vegetables and toss with remaining ingredients. Cover and chill overnight. Toss again before serving. Serves 6.</p>

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

*Old City Hall* by Robert Rotenberg (New York: Touchstone, 2009). ISBN #1-4165-928507.

If you enjoy a good murder mystery, Robert Rotenberg's novel *Old City Hall*, is a must-read. Set in Toronto where the author lives, Rotenberg ably describes the city with vivid detail. Anyone familiar with the largest city in Canada will easily find themselves transported to the locale of the story.

Since Rotenberg's background includes being one of the top criminal lawyers in Toronto, his knowledge of how the court system of Canada would handle a murder case is real. The scenario in the novel is especially intriguing where the husband's first whispered words in the novel are "I killed her, Mr. Singh, I killed her."

Rotenberg is a master at developing the personalities of his characters, an essential ingredient to a good mystery. To put an even stronger Canadian "stamp" to the story, he weaves the all-important Stanley Cup playoffs into the plotline. Can you imagine the popularity of having the Leafs in the playoffs again? Rotenberg did just that.

Best of all, the plots twists will keep you engaged to the very final page. Enjoy!

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