

On the Road on the Trans-Canada Highway

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Description:

Students will work in groups to complete a trip across Canada using the Trans-Canada Highway and a road map of Canada. Along the way they will find various facts about the geography of Canada and its provinces. They will complete a log sheet for each province as they travel through it. They will document the major physical and cultural features they encounter on their trans-Canadian journey.

Grade Levels:

Grades 5-8

Subject(s):

Social Studies/ Geography

Duration:

Five 50 minute sessions

Goal:

Students will get an overview of the geography of Canada and learn to appreciate the geographical diversity of this large neighbor nation.

Objectives:

The student will:

- Describe the major geographical features of the Canadian provinces.
- Use a road map and tour guide books to obtain information about the Canadian provinces.

Standards:

This lesson meets the following Arizona state social studies:

- 3SS-E4. Demonstrate understanding of the characteristics, purposes, and use of geographic tools to locate and analyze information about people, places, and environments.
- 3SS-E5. Describe natural and human characteristics of places and use this knowledge to define regions, their relationships with other regions, and their patterns of change.

Background Information:

Students will have completed a skill lesson on using road maps. They will have had an opportunity to practice using a road map. They will also have been introduced to travel guide books and will have reviewed finding information in an encyclopedia.

Materials:

- AAA or some other type of road map of Canada
- AAA Tour Books or other commercial guide books on Canada
- Encyclopedias
- Log sheets to record geographical and trip information

Procedures:

1. Working in groups of three, students will study the road map of Canada, looking at the map key to learn the symbols used on it. Discuss the symbols as a whole class.
2. Students will receive a log sheet for each of the ten Canadian provinces, a road map of Canada or maps of the provinces, tour guides, and access to encyclopedias.
3. Starting in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, students will begin their trip west across Canada on the Trans-Canada Highway. As they travel through each province they will find the following information to be listed on the log sheet: provincial capital, major cities, major land forms, area and population, most important natural resources, language(s) spoken, important provincial or national parks. They will also find one important place of interest to visit for each major town or city they travel through on the trip.
4. Students will turn in all ten completed log sheets.

Assessment:

Students will be evaluated on whether they successfully completed the log sheet for each province. Students will be assigned a percentage grade.

Rubric:

Please refer to the attached document.

Additional Notes:

This activity was designed with fifth-grade students in mind. Many extensions for older students can be made. Some suggestions for use with older students:

- Students can be given a schedule to meet on their drive so they will have to plan on the amount of time they can spend along the way.
- Students can be given a budget for food, lodging, and other expenses. They can use the AAA TourBooks to select motels and restaurants.
- Students can keep a journal of their trip and/or write a story about their experiences on the Trans-Canada Highway.
- Students can explore other parts of the provinces perhaps using planes to reach more remote locations.

Trans-Canada Trip Log Sheet

Name _____

Name of Province:

Provincial Capital:

Major Cities:

Language(s) Spoken in the Province:

Major Land Form:

Area of the Province:

Population of the Province:

Important Natural Resources:

Important Provincial and National Parks:

Cities Visited and Points of Interest There:

Notes: