

ACTIVITY SEVEN: CANADA AND THE PACIFIC

Objectives:

- to become aware of the Pacific Rim
- to understand Canada's trade and cultural connections with the Pacific countries

Materials:

- Text, pp. XXX
- Figure Thirteen: Map of Pacific Rim
- Table Four: Leading Port of Vancouver Exports
- World globe or atlas

Procedures:

1. Brainstorm the names of Pacific Rim countries. Rank them in terms of:
 - a. length of Pacific shoreline
 - b. largest in land area
 - c. location north of the equator
 - d. a distance 5000 miles from Hawaii
2. Hand out Figure Thirteen: Map of the Pacific Rim. Have students identify countries on the map. Highlight the cities. Using the map and a globe/atlas assign students the following questions:
 - a. Which is the shortest plane flight? Jakarta, Indonesia to Sydney, Australia; Santiago, Chile to Los Angeles, California; Honolulu, Hawaii to Vancouver, Canada; Tokyo, Japan to Anchorage, Alaska.
 - b. Which is a longer trip from Singapore to Vancouver—a flight via Honolulu or one via Tokyo?
 - c. How many countries are within a 5000 mile radius of Vancouver?
3. Assign groups of students to be travel agents with the task of planning a trip for a Vancouver businessman to sell products in five of the cities shown on the map. Their task is to plan a travel itinerary according to the following conditions:
 - no repeat flights
 - must fly to at least one non-Asian city
 - must have a stopover in Honolulu
 - a flight cannot exceed 4000 miles
 - the total trip must not include more than seven cities

4. Hand out Table Four: Leading Port of Vancouver Exports. Compare and classify exports. Using library references, have students identify uses of Vancouver's leading exports. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages for British Columbia relying on resource-based exports. Compare the advantages and disadvantages of technology-oriented exports with resource-based goods.
5. Assign a city located on the map to students and have them prepare a poster indicating why it should be considered "the gateway to the Pacific." Prepare a prospectus explaining why an airline company, an international bank, a tourist company, a resource-export company or a high tech company should establish their head office in the city.

Notes for Teaching:

This activity introduces key countries and cities which are involved in the expanding Pacific Rim. Students should become familiar with cities, their location and trade connections each has established. The importance of Vancouver as a Pacific gateway for export of Canadian resources needs to be emphasized. Determining distances and plotting travel routes gives students a sense of the important location of Vancouver in the vast Pacific region. To determine the distance in 2a and 2b, have students use a globe and piece of string.

Examining Vancouver's exports provides students with an understanding of Canada's vast and diverse resource trade in the Pacific. It should be emphasized in class that a country like Canada can no longer depend on the export of resources that have low dollar value in an information-orientated world. Instead, industrialized countries must sell high tech information and goods that have high dollar value. In recent years, Canada has increased its exports of manufactured products including communications equipment, aerospace components and environmental technology.

The role play activity encourages students to realize the significance points of view play in international trade. Canada and the United States often compete for sales to countries on the Rim.