



Canada

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Grade: K-12

Materials

- Computer with CD ROM drive
- CD ROM discs: Picture Atlas of the World; The Software Toolworks World Atlas; World Fact-book; Grolier Encyclopedia of the World.
- **Books** - See List on last page.
- Classroom Atlases, almanac; maps, textbook

Key Question

What can we learn from maps and literature about settlement patterns in Canada?

Preassessment:

Determine prior knowledge:

1. Give students 5 minutes to write down what they already know about Canada.
2. Using an overhead, compile a class list of their knowledge. Keep both of these in a class folder.
3. View "Lay of the Land" (side 1, Chapter 1) from the laser disc, GTV: A Geographic Perspective. Materials needed: GTV: A Geographic Perspective laser disc; laser disc player; computer; overhead projector; transparencies

Investigation:

Students will use a variety of materials to gather material about one of the provinces or territories of Canada.

Procedure:

1. Students will be divided into 12 groups (2-3) students per group.
2. Each group will receive one of the 12 political divisions of Canada as their assignment.
3. Each group will discover as much as they can about their assigned topic using the computer, the classroom materials and at least one piece of literature.

Questions to explore as they work:

- What are the physical features of their province?
- Where is their province located in relation to the rest of Canada?
- When and why did people first come to this area?
- What natural resources are available here?
- Where are this province's centers of population now?
- On what is their economy based?

Confirmation:

Students have learned from maps and literature about settlement patterns in Canada and specifically those relating to their province or territory.

Application and Assessment:

Students will create a class dodecahedron of Canada with each group reflecting as much of their research as they can in their "frame."

1. Each group will receive a 9" paper plate on which to depict their assignment. At least these things should be shown: map (can be computer generated) of their region; name of region; capital city; physical features (mountains, lakes, rivers, etc.); natural resources; economic activities; population. Each "frame" should be done colorfully, using symbols as much as possible.
2. When completed, each "frame" will be folded on the edge in 5 places to form a pentagon. Each of the 12 "frames" will be fastened together at the folds to make the ball-shaped dodecahedron.

3. Presentation to class will be video-taped. The camera will zoom in to show their "frame" of the dodecahedron so the class can see this on the t.v. screen as students make their oral presentation.

Materials needed:

- Paper plates
- "Art" materials
- Video camera and television

Extensions:

- This lesson would be an excellent prelude to discussions or continued investigation on migration patterns (why were/are the Prairies, the Rockies and Northern Canada such formidable barriers to movement?), transportation networks, economic development patterns, patterns of population distribution, similarities to the United States, and conflicts related to the use of French and English.
- A fitting finale might be the showing of the film *White Fang* or the *Call of the Wild*.

Literature:

- *O Canada*, Harrison, Ted; New York, Ticknor and Fields, 1993. Includes the author's paintings and brief descriptions of the various provinces and territories in Canada.
- *Hatchet*, Truss, Ian; New York, Anteneum, 1983. Deals with survival in the Yukon after a plane crash.
- *The Night of the White Deer*, Paulsen, Gary; Nashville - T. Nelson, 1978. A 12-year-old girl is befriended by an Indian in the Canadian wilderness.
- *The Root Cellar*, Lann, Janet; New York, Scribner, 1983. This book is science fiction. The boy is able to communicate with early settlers in Canada.
- *Canada's Incredible Coasts*, National Geographic Society, 1991.
- *The Call of the Wild*, Jack London, 1963, Scholastic, Inc.
- *White Fang*, Jack London, 1988, Tom Doherty Associates, Inc.
- *Mrs. Mike*. The story of a Canadian girl who marries a mounty.

