K-12 STUDY CANADA has many unit modules and lesson plans available for educators on its website. A series of educational modules entitled Linking: Connecting Canadian History to the US were written by Nadine Fabbi specifically for American educators and students. The modules assume very little background knowledge in the subject and provide as many comparisons to the US as possible.

Below are excerpts from the module Canadian Government and Politics for a complete copy of the module and for access to various other essay topics, see our website at: K12studycanada@wwu.edu

Introduction

Canada, like the US, is a democracy. In both countries there are provincial or state governments that take care of local concerns and federal governments that take care of national business. At the national or federal level, the government has a fair amount of power in Canada whereas the head of state has less than the American counterpart. This difference is best summed up by comparing the raison d'être of the two countries. In Canada, “Peace, Order and Good Government” is the motto, whereas the US Constitution reads, “Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.” The Canadian system is more oriented towards collective rights whereas the US system emphasizes individual rights.

Heads of State

The Queen of England is the most celebrated position in the UK while the Queen of Canada is called the Queen of Canada! Here is a fun fact – the Queen of England is not able to enter Canada because she is not a Canadian citizen. She lived and taught in Canada for 10 years (at the University of Toronto), Kim brings wealth of knowledge to the Center and a surge of energy and enthusiasm. Welcome Kim!

Meanwhile, K-12 STUDY CANADA has been very active this past spring and summer in bringing the study of Canada to almost 230 local educators and student-teachers. Teachers from five states - Washington, Colorado, Arizona, Texas and South Carolina - attended the program and celebrated its silver anniversary with a dinner cruise on the Burrard Inlet during the Vancouver field trip.

Canada has no Vice-President

Canada has no such thing as a Vice-President. At the party conventions a leader for the party is chosen but no vice-leader or vice-prime-minister is chosen. There is just one party leader. In the States, if anything happens to the President, the Vice-President takes over. Who takes over in Canada? If anything happens to the Prime Minister the Speaker asks the government (the party with the most votes) to select the member of government they think would best handle the leadership position until a new Prime Minister is chosen. This person will take the role of Prime Minister temporarily or until another leader is chosen at the next party convention.

Canada is the first country in North America to have a woman Prime Minister

This last spring, K-12 STUDY CANADA invited Drs. Ann George and Robert Balas (Seattle U) to present the Atelier on the Use of Quebec Documentary Film in Seattle. It provided a wonderful opportunity for French language educators to work in French and to learn about videos appropriate for their classroom use. A second spring workshop, Whales in First Nations Art and Culture, was offered in conjunction with the Burke Museum bringing together presenters from the arts and native whaling communities. Both events received such a positive response that they will be offered again in Spring 2004.

Our summer outreach began memorably with the 25th anniversary of the Annual STUDY CANADA Summer Institute for K-12 Educators. Teachers from five states - Washington, Colorado, Arizona, Texas and South Carolina - attended the program and celebrated this year was the silver anniversary of the K-12 STUDY CANADA Summer Institute. Educators from across the country travelled to Vancouver, B.C. as part of the Institute.

This is the future Queen of Canada! (Kamloops, BC)
Upcoming Presentations and Displays on Canada

Washington State Council for the Social Studies Fall In-Service
Saturday, October 11th, 7:30 am-3:00 pm, Edmonds-Woodway HS
Information: J. Jim Meadows, wcss@foxinternet.net
Includes Nadine Fabbi's presentation An Introduction to Canada's Far North: The Four Inuit Homeland in Canada.

4th Annual Vancouver International Writers Festival Field Trip - $225
Thursday, October 23rd-Sunday, October 28th
Information: Canadian Studies Center, (206) 221-6374 or canadada@u.washington.edu
Includes festival sessions and presentations by Tina Storer, Dr. Nancy Pagh & Nadine Fabbi.

4th Annual Documentary Film Workshop: Teaching Diversity and Cross-Cultural Understanding through Film - $40
Saturday, November 8th, 9:00 am-4:30 pm, UW Campus
Information: Canadian Studies Center, (206) 221-6374 or canadada@u.washington.edu
Includes a presentation by Nadine Fabbi on Canadian documentary film.

83rd National Council for Social Studies Annual Conference
November 14th-16th, Chicago
Information: http://www.socialstudies.org
Includes a 2-hour presentation entitled A Novel Approach to Geography: A “Case” Study of Canada by Tina Storer and Nadine Fabbi.

17th Biennial Association for Canadian Studies in the U.S. Conference
November 19th-23rd, Portland, Oregon
Includes several panels on teaching Canadian Studies at the K-12 level.

Canada in the Classroom: K-12 Teaching Resources

The Big Book of Canada: Exploring the Provinces and Territories by Christopher Moore (illustrated by Bill Slavin; ISBN 0-88776-437-6) This hefty classroom resource, published by Tundra Books of Northern New York, guides students province-by-province through the landscapes, important moments, locations, people and cultures of each region. As Janet Lunn states in the introduction, the student-friendly text “is not intended to be a comprehensive geography or history of the country” but instead adds “those quirky bits that we all treasure about places we live in, visit or just read about.” I like these cultural tidbits in particular. Students will love to learn how to write their names in Cree or discover that a bumblebee is a ‘dumbledore’ in Newfoundland.

From Far and Wide: A Canadian Citizenship Scrapbook by J. Bannatyne-Capnet (illustrated by Song Nan Zhang; ISBN 0-88776-443-6) Colorful illustrations honor the day that Xiao Ling Li and her parents become Canadians. It’s a sweet tale, a useful resource regarding the process of immigration in Canada (remember that approximately 20% of Canadians are new immigrants) and a wonderful starting point from which to examine the diversity of Canada’s population. (A related favorite is Paul Yee’s Tales from Gold Mountain: Stories of the Chinese in the New World, published by Groundwood Press - ISBN 0-88899-098-7.)

K-12 STUDY CANADA Teacher Loan-Kits
Teachers can learn all about K-12 STUDY CANADA loan-kits (including contents and availability) online at http://k12studycanada.wwu.edu
To make a request for either the Resource Valise or the Student Novel Collection, simply send Tina an email message with your contact/mailing information. Be sure to specify the loan period you wish to book and which loan-kit you would like to use. In the reply, your dates will be confirmed, you will be asked to complete a loan agreement form and you will be given mailing information so that you can ship the resources forward to the next teacher. Shipping the loan-kit forward is your only cost.
For more information about the resources contained in each loan-kit, visit our website and look under “Teacher Resources”.

Attention Grade 7-12 Teachers of Canadian History
HCO is Canada’s first full-scale history text available online and it makes full use of the medium - meaning it is clickable, browsable, searchable, printable, interactive, “googlish”. Preview Units can be viewed at www.ottres.ca/hconline/chapters/index.html and FAQs at www.ottres.ca/hconline/entry/FAQ.html.
Consider it for your school library: the list price is $39 CDN per single terminal standard license (based on total number of seats per library) and discounts are available for joint purchases and multi-year licenses.
Please contact Northern Blue Publishing (infonouats@sympatico.ca) for other educational, departmental or institutional pricing and any questions you may have.

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