

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2013 - K-12 STUDY CANADA E-RESOURCE NOTICE

Happy New Year! to everyone and welcome to all who joined the Canada listserv at the 92nd Annual NCSS conference in Seattle. You represent 43 US states and Puerto Rico, 4 provinces in Canada, and 6 other countries (China, Hong Kong, Hungary, Korea, Singapore, and the UK)! I hope the resource recommendations following this introduction are helpful.

Before sharing specific resources, I'd like to note that NCSS 2012 certainly opened windows on the world – as promised by the conference theme—and especially on Canada! It was my honor as co-chair to ensure participation by Canadians in the region and content on Canada in the conference program. Although our National Resource Center (NRC) has worked with NCSS before to increase the profile for Canada among social studies educators, no other conference has provided so many opportunities! Indeed, almost everyone was impacted by the effort when attendance at 34 Canada-related events is considered (including the joint NRCs on Canada exhibit as well as receptions/scholarships supported by Canadian sponsors). Almost 700 educators gained significant new knowledge about Canada directly through professional development sessions and meetings while more than 350 new listserv members are reading this today. If you are among them, I appreciate your participation and interest in teaching Canada.

To advocate for greater inclusion of Canada in U.S. classrooms, the two NRCs on Canada in the US collaboratively presented “Canada and the American Curriculum: A National Approach to Canadian Studies” to the Council of State Social Studies Specialists (CS4) at their associated group meeting. This presentation stands out from the rest because it holds great potential impact for curricular reform at a time when state leaders nationwide are determining next steps for the revision and/or adoption of Common Core Standards and the soon-to-be-released C3 Frameworks for the Social Studies. We hope that the importance of teaching about Canada is recalled when decisions are made.

In total, 27 Canadians, 3 Canadians who now reside in the US and 8 Americans presented additional sessions on Canada at the conference. It was wonderful learning from them and meeting so many other participants from across Canada!

I'd like to give special thanks to a few people who helped make the Canadian components of the conference such a success ...my outreach colleagues Nadine Fabbi (UW), Betsy Arntzen (UMaine), Amy Sotherden (SUNY-Plattsburgh), and Ruth Writer (Western Michigan University) as well as Canadian associates Brenda Ball (Crofton House School – Vancouver, BC), Adam Woelders (Trinity Western University – Langley, BC), and Mike Perry-Whittingham (McMath Secondary School – Richmond, BC) who worked diligently on the northern side of the border to support the effort!

I must also acknowledge two teacher associates from Monroe, WA – Carol Gnojewski and Kindra Kilgore – who worked diligently to perform outreach on my behalf at the NRCs on Canada exhibit booth. You were both fabulous hosts and I am forever grateful for your help.

If you are an NCSS member, please know that you can help shape next year's conference in St. Louis by:

- 1) **Submitting a proposal.** NCSS is now accepting proposals to present at the 93rd NCSS Annual Conference in St. Louis, November 22-24, 2013. With the conference theme, "Gateway to the Core of Learning," NCSS is looking for a variety of proposals across all grade levels and subjects. The submission deadline is **February 25, 2013**. Please visit: www.socialstudies.org/conference/proposals.
- 2) **Becoming an online proposal reviewer.** As a reviewer, you will evaluate 10 to 15 proposals matched to your main area of interest. Your scores will be averaged with other reviewers' to help produce the best possible program. To volunteer, go to: <http://2012.ncss.org/review/signup.php>

Lastly, I wanted to let you know that the annual *STUDY CANADA Summer Institute for K-12 Educators* offered by Western Washington University in Ottawa, ON and Montreal QC is being postponed until June 2014. Instead, a 2-day *STUDY CANADA Workshop for Washington State Educators* will be offered this summer at North Seattle Community College. More details will follow in the March-April newsletter.

In the meantime, however, please consider registering for the 2013 summer program offered by the Northeast NRC on Canada called *Québec Dimensions: Historical, Geographic and Cultural Explorations*. This program, held June 23-28, 2013, begins and ends in Montréal with travel to Québec City. Additional details, including the downloadable registration form, can be found online at <http://umaine.edu/teachingcanada/professional-development-2/summer->

[institute-for-k-12-professionals](#). Please feel free to contact Betsy Arntzen [barntzen@umit.maine.edu] with any questions you might have about the program.

Best wishes for teaching Canada in 2013 and beyond!

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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 US Department of Education-funded National Resource Center for Canada in the US. Annual Embassy of Canada grants also provide support.

1. A RESOURCE TOUR OF CANADA'S ARCTIC

Interested in teaching a unit on Canada's Arctic but don't have adequate classroom resources? I have compiled "A Resource Tour of Canada's Arctic" that introduces you to a treasure trove of worthy materials. This 28-page guide is posted at www.k12studycanada.org (link provided on the homepage). It will hopefully encourage development of a unit on Canada's Arctic in elementary, middle and high school classrooms. The guide recommends textbooks, novels, picture books, and multimedia resources that can combine to tell the rich story of Arctic lands and peoples. There are also handy references to websites with curricula if seeking help or inspiration when creating your own. The guide also includes resources on global geopolitical issues that concern everyone, such as climate change.

2. BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Since 1978, February has been celebrated as Black History Month in Canada--just two years after the US first adopted the annual commemoration. Since Canada has played a crucial role in the history of African American freedom (often the end-of-the-line for the Underground Railroad) and became home (at least for a while) for many former slaves, I encourage you to look northward in your classrooms, too. Although Black Canadians have a unique perspective, their struggles and success merit attention and their story can be a significant way to connect to the shared history of Canada and the US. Explore differences and similarities of experience by using the education guide offered by the Historica-Dominion Institute with an illustrated timeline and discussion/research questions at: <http://www.blackhistorycanada.ca/education.php>.

If you'd like more resources for teaching about Black Canadian history, the K-12 STUDY CANADA website has plenty to offer, too! To learn more, also visit http://www.k12studycanada.org/links_resource_links.html

3. THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

While 2012 was an election year in the United States, across the border in Canada and across the ocean in England, people celebrated a different political occasion: Queen Elizabeth II's 60-year reign as the Queen of England (and when in Canada as the Queen of Canada). Taking the crown at age 25 in 1952, Queen Elizabeth II has ruled over the Commonwealth with quiet strength and to honor her role, the Historica-Dominion Institute has put together a webpage filled with resources and activities to commemorate the past 60 years. The site has an interactive timeline highlighting the Queen's interactions with Canada, along with a 12-page educational guide. The educational guide includes connections to primary resources, critical questions, and activities that help students understand the Queen's role in Canada's history. Visit <http://diamondjubileecanada.ca/index.php> to learn more.

5. 101 THINGS CANADIANS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CANADA

What people, places, and things are most representative of Canada? After doing a national survey of Canadians in 2008, we have the answer! Believe it or not, the Maple Leaf came in at number one, followed by hockey and the Canadian flag. The list continues, including Canadian figureheads (such as Wayne Gretzky and Pierre Elliott Trudeau), critical Canadian places (like Ottawa and the Great Lakes) and, of course, things that are quintessentially Canadian (snow, Tim Horton's and the "loonie"). While the list is titled "101 Things Canadian's Should Know," it is

always interesting to see what people identify with the most and how much you know yourself about all things related to Canada. Check out the full list with your students: <http://www.101things.ca/index.php>.

6. ARCTIC ANIMAL PICTURES FOR ELEMENTARY CLASSROOMS

Did you know that polar bears can eat up to 100 pounds of blubber in one meal? Or that the musk ox got its name from its smelly fur? This site has a number of amazing pictures of arctic animals in their natural habitat, captioned with facts and tidbits to go along with each picture. See <http://animals.howstuffworks.com/animal-facts/arctic-animal-pictures1.htm> and discover something new with your students.

7. USING POLITICAL CARTOONS TO TEACH CANADA

Having middle and high school students analyze political cartoons as part of any historical study is commendable. The exploration always involves critical thinking and sometimes invites classroom discussion or additional research to fully appreciate the references and humor. Consideration of continuity and change also plays a vital role in the analysis and helps make students' historical enquiry even more relevant. Pop culture and history is a great combo!

For inspiration, consider the book *Great Political Cartoons, 1946 to 1982* by Charles and Cynthia Hou. According to the most recent edition of the magazine *Canada's History*, it is a welcome addition to any bookshelf. In fact, the review states "Remove the dates from the book's title, and these cartoons could be ripped from today's headlines." This book is the third in an excellent series of volumes by the Hous dealing with political cartoons in Canada. According to a review in *Alberta's History*, "Like the earlier volumes (1820-1914 and 1915-1945), this book looks at the nation through cartoons depicting humour, pathos, inspiration, and anger. For example, a 1948 cartoon, dedicated to Thanksgiving, shows how Canadians have plenty while there are queues for food in Britain, postwar devastation in Germany, conflicts in China and Palestine, earthquakes in Japan, government instability in France, and Stalinism in Russia....Included too are cartoons [on] American domination, Quebec separation, the "flower power" movement, bilingualism, and the expansion of social services. Native people get their share of attention including attacks on the Canadian government for its callous attitude towards their plight. And always present is Pierre Trudeau with a face that seemed to have been created for the cartoonist. The volume ends with the passing of the Constitution Act in 1982 and (hopefully) the demise of Canada's colonial mentality. What a great book!"

Special Note: I'm pleased to point out that Charles Hou was among those who offered a presentation at the 92nd Annual NCSS Conference in Seattle. PowerPoint presentations related to his session as well as other presentations at NCSS 2012 can be found at the following website: http://www.k12studycanada.org/resources_pps.html. Access to these PowerPoints is the next-best-thing to having been there in person!

8. FAMILY DAY IN CANADA

On the third Monday of February, three of Canada's provinces, Alberta, Ontario, and Saskatchewan, celebrate a holiday called "Family Day". This holiday celebrates the importance of families and family life to people and their communities. Many people plan and take part in activities aimed at the whole family, such as visiting art exhibitions, watching movies, skating on outdoor ice rinks, playing board games and/or taking part in craft activities. Some communities even plan special public events, and art galleries and museums may have reduced price or free entry. Most schools are closed, and many people have the day off from work. Starting on the *second* Monday of February, 2013, the province of British Columbia will also take part in celebrating this occasion. Wouldn't it be nice if this tradition spread to us south of the border? At the very least, we can join them in spirit by remembering by reaching out to our own families in a special way this February! <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/canada/family-day>.

9. RECIPE: TRADITIONAL CANADIAN PEA SOUP

Curl up on a chilly winter day with this recipe for pea soup. Commonly grown on Canada's east coast, peas were a staple in many Canadian diets. This recipe was a regular dish in the 18th century for Arcadian settlers. Taken from the Parks Canada website at http://www.pc.gc.ca/media/gourmand-gourmet/recettes-recipes/sec_06/recette-recipe26.aspx, be sure to try this recipe out when you need a warm and filling meal this winter:

Ingredients:

- 2 cups (500 ml) dried peas
- 12 cups (3 litres) water
- ½ lb (250 g) salt pork
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 1 cup (250 ml) potatoes, diced
- 1 tsp (5 ml) each salt and pepper

Method:

- Soak the peas overnight in cold water. In a separate bowl, soak the pork in cold water to remove salt.
- The next day, put the drained peas, the onions and the pork in a large pot with the 12 cups of water and simmer slowly for at least 2 hours. Add the potatoes and continue to simmer for another 30 minutes.
- Then remove the pork, cut into small pieces and place them in the soup.
- Season to taste. Serve with homemade bread.
- Special note: Add diced carrot and celery instead of potatoes to give the soup a slightly sweeter taste.

10. RUTH WRITER'S REVIEW OF CANADIAN LITERATURE

***The Freedom-Seekers: Blacks in Early Canada* by Daniel G. Hill (Agincourt, ON: The Book Society of Canada Limited, 1981.) ISBN 0-7725-5283-5** [NB: Although out of print, this must-have book can readily be obtained through a variety of used book outlets.]

Since February (Black History Month) is almost here, I felt it important to review one of my favorite resources: Daniel G. Hill's *The Freedom-Seekers: Blacks in Early Canada*. Dr. Hill provides an amazing look at those who escaped from their slave status in the southern American states and who eventually settled in Canada. The timeframe for his book begins during the era of New France, includes the Black Loyalists who arrived in Canada at the time of the American Revolution, and ends with the American Civil War.

In his first chapter, Hill focuses on those who owned slaves in both the French and English regimes of what is now Canada...until the efforts of John Graves Simcoe led to the elimination of slavery. Hill summarizes Simcoe's life works as well as others who advanced the concepts of abolition in Canada.

While virtually all U.S. students learn of the Underground Railroad, few know of the story of the fugitives once they reached the safe haven of Canada. Hill fills in this huge gap by providing detailed stories of their routes, their trials, and tribulations en-route to their Canadian safe havens (and beyond).

Readers will find individual biographies of noted Black Canadians such as Mary Ann Shadd, the first female newspaper publisher in North America, as well as journalists Henry and Mary Bibb. Hill also explains the role that John Brown, of Harper's Ferry fame, had on Black Canadians: "Their stories make dramatic reading, as they break the chains of slavery and struggle against all the limitations of their past..."

Although the total number of "freedom seekers" may forever be lost in history, Hill brings to life individual stories that definitely should be shared with students. One such biography befits a Hollywood script. In fact, Lou Gossett, Jr., portrayed one of them (James Mink) in the 1996 film *Captive Heart*. Mink, one of Ontario's wealthiest Black citizens at the time, who offered \$100,000 for a "respectable white husband" to marry his daughter. Unfortunately, Mink did not choose wisely as her new husband increased his profits by taking Mink's daughter, Minnie, to New York where he sold her as a slave instead. Fortunately, Mink eventually rescued his daughter and returned with her to freedom in Canada.

One of the most interesting aspects of *Freedom Seekers* is the in-depth study Hill provides of the communities settled by the newly freed slaves. Of particular interest is the story of Josiah Henson and the Dawn Settlement (for Black emigrants to Ontario) that he founded. He was the historic basis for Harriet Beecher Stowe's famous anti-slavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which was notably the best-selling book of the 19th century. Hill also informs us about, William King, a Presbyterian minister, who founded the nearby Elgin Settlement and Buxton Mission. While those in the Dawn Settlement were educated with vocational skills and job training in mind, those living in the Buxton Mission were provided with a more classic education and directed toward higher education. Many from the Buxton Mission went on to post-secondary schools which, in turn, prepared them to return to the US later as part of Black Reconstruction in the South. One entire chapter has education of Blacks in Canada as the focus.

Hill also explores themes of racism and justice in Canada by looking at the role of blacks in the armed forces, in the religious community, in cultural and benevolent societies, and within the labor force. One of the best parts of *The Freedom Seekers*, however, are the many visual aids included by Hill for readers such as maps, photos of the full citizens in their adopted homeland, and drawings from the era. They really bring the past into the present in a remarkable way.