

## **Classroom Activities: The Kids Book of Canadian Immigration** by Deborah Hodge

Use these cross-curricular activities to engage your students in thinking about Canada's past and present, and about the people who have come here from many countries of the world.

### **Language Arts**

- I imagine you are a passenger travelling to Canada from Europe on a sailing ship across the Atlantic in the early 1800s. Write a journal entry describing your journey.
- I imagine you are a newcomer to the Canadian prairies in the early 1900s. Write a letter to your family describing the challenges of your new life.
- Make a list of reasons why people might leave their home country to come to Canada (past or present) and why Canada would or would not be a good place to come to.
- Interview a family member or friend who came to Canada from another country. Ask about their experiences of moving here. What was good? What was difficult? Present your findings in an oral or written report.
- Ask your parents about your background. Where is your family from? Make a family tree.
- I imagine (or remember) a journey you took from one country to another. Make a postcard with an illustration on one side and a message on the other describing your journey.
- Compile a list of immigration terms and define them. For example: passport, immigrate, refugee, settler and so on.
- Dramatize the historical arrival of people at Pier 21 in Halifax. Include immigration officials, health checks, and volunteers assisting newcomers. Create passports and immigration documents. Dress up in costumes.

- Read novels and other books that talk about the experience of emigrating to a new country. (A few examples are: Goodbye Marianne by Irene Watts; The Arrival by Shaun Tan; any books from the Dear Canada series)

## **Social Studies**

- Choose one particular ethnic group to research and find out why they came to Canada and what their early experience in Canada was like. Present your findings in a written or oral report, a drawing, or a dramatic presentation.
- Make a map of Canada showing where most newcomers settle today. Compare this with where they settled in the early 1900s.
- Hold a class discussion on racism and brainstorm ways to make newcomers feel welcome.
- Host a multicultural day. Cook food from other countries or invite students to bring food that is important to their heritage.
- Take a field trip to a museum to find out where people in your area came from and what their early days were like.

## **Science**

- Research the history and development of modes of transportation to Canada (ship, train, airplane) and present your findings in a written or oral report.
- Use an atlas to compare temperatures and precipitation for Canada and another country that newcomers arrive from. Consider how the weather and climate of Canada might affect the newcomers.

## **Math**

- Make a graph or pie chart showing Canada's cultural mix (numbers of people from various regions of the world).
- Make a chart comparing the numbers above in the early 1900s with today.

## **Fine Arts**

- Paint or draw a scene of an early immigrant sailing ship or a homesteader train
- Design a poster advertising Canada to other parts of the world
- Build a model sod-house or prairie homestead with modelling clay.
- Sing or listen to traditional music from other countries.
- Create a multicultural mural.
- Make a collage that shows something about you and your heritage.
- Create an illustrated book that shows the immigration journey of someone from history or yourself. (See Shaun Tan's book, *The Arrival*, for an example.)

## **Your Ideas**

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