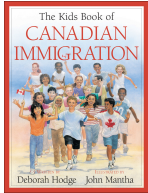


CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES FOR

THE KIDS BOOK OF CANADIAN IMMIGRATION

BY DEBORAH HODGE



Use the following classroom activities to accompany your reading of *The Kids Book of Canadian Immigration* by Deborah Hodge. The activities are designed 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. Free to print and share these activities with your colleagues. Thank you for your interest!

LANGUAGE ARTS

Ask your students to:

Imagine you are a passenger travelling to Canada from Europe on a ship across the Atlantic in the early 1800s. Write a journal entry describing your travels.

Imagine you are a newcomer to the Canadian prairies in the early 1900s. Compose 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 emigrate to.

Interview a family member or friend who came to Canada from another country. Ask about their experiences of moving from one country to another. What were the benefits? What were the challenges? Were there any surprises? Present your findings in an oral or written report.

Ask your parents or other family members about your background. Where is your family from? Make a family tree.

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. The characters might include: immigration officials, medical doctors doing health checks, and volunteers assisting the newcomers. Dress up in costumes, create passports and immigration documents.

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

SOCIAL STUDIES

Research why one cultural group came to Canada and what their early experiences in Canada were like. (For example, many early Irish immigrants were fleeing the potato famine.) 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 immigrants settled in the early 1900s.

Hold a class discussion on discrimination or racism. Brainstorm ways to make newcomers feel welcome.

Host a multicultural day. Cook food from other countries or set up a potluck, inviting students and their families to bring traditional dishes of their home countries.

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) over time and present your findings in a written or oral report.

Use an atlas to compare temperatures and precipitation for Canada and another country of the world that people emigrate from. Consider how Canada's weather and climate might affect the newcomers.

MATH

Create a graph or pie chart showing Canada's cultural mix (numbers of people from various regions of the world).

Make a chart comparing the above figures with numbers from the early 1900s.

FINE ARTS

Paint or draw a scene from an early immigrant ship or homesteader train.

Design a brochure or poster advertising Canada to other parts of the world. What might attract people to Canada?

Using modeling clay, build a model-sized sod house or prairie homestead.

Sing, play or listen to traditional music from other countries.

Create a multicultural mural.

Make a collage that shows something meaningful about you and your heritage.

Create an illustrated book that shows the immigration journey of someone in history or yourself. (See *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan for an example.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on Deborah's books or school visits, please see her website. Thank you for your interest!

WWW.DEBORAHHODGE.COM