

Hello Teachers of Canada! Did you know that teens think that Canada is *hof*? Not literally, of course, but according to my fifteen-year old daughter's *Seventeen Magazine*, Canada is the place to go--especially Whistler--to shop at *Roots* and *La Senza* and listen to the many Canadian recording artists who have infiltrated the US music scene. Although the 2-page spread actually offered little information, it was fun to see a teen perspective. I have kept this monthly notice brief because I know that you are all busy completing curriculum and preparing for finals or end-of-year activities. Nonetheless, I hope you'll keep the following resources in mind as you plan your teaching units in the fall--I'm sure they'll be a big help to many of you. Have a great summer everybody! I look forward to meeting those of you coming to our workshop at the end of the month! Tina

ONLINE SERIES ON CANADIAN PRIME MINISTERS - Video and audio material on Canadian PMs is available online at <http://www.primeministers.ca/>

CANADA'S FIRST PEOPLE: THE CANADIAN ABORIGINAL HISTORY PORTAL - Canada's first Aboriginal and Native Studies textbook and resource centre is now online. You can view sample content and chapter heads <http://northernblue.ca/canata/indexs.php>.

BUILDING A NATION - See <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/confederation/kids/h2-2000-e.html> for a lesson and activity that have been developed for the *Confederation for Kids* website. Suitable for ages 11+, this comprehensive teaching strategy allows students to learn about Canada's past and present as they renegotiate Confederation.

THE ULTIMATE NANAIMO BAR RECIPE - Nanaimo bars are a popular treat in B.C. and at our annual *STUDY CANADA Summer Institute*. The Dorchester Hotel's recipe (Nanaimo, BC) claims to be the "ultimate". Visit http://www.dorchesternanaimo.com/Nanaimo_Bar_Recipe.pdf to make this special treat before the school year ends for your family and students.

RUTH WRITER'S REVIEW OF ADULT FICTION - Stenson, Fred. *The Trade* (Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 2000). ISBN 1-55054-816-6

During the 1820's, the Hudson Bay Company joined the North West Company to form a giant fur trade monopoly in the lands of western Canada. Fred Stenson's novel explores this region through the lives of several key players. Although a fictional account, this story relates the many dilemmas faced by those who called the area of the Saskatchewan Rivers their home. One will also discover the culture of the Native Canadians in the region.

The fur traders were next to claim this region as their homeland. They struck deals with the Natives for the few furs left in the prairies and mountains. Many of these fur traders took Native wives and raised thriving families. One such trader was Ted Harriott, a clerk who fell in love with his own cousin. She was to be the wife of the Governor. Harriott and Cousin Margaret married only to suffer the cruelties of western life. Harriott was to raise their daughter with his second wife who suffered from consumption.

The early fur traders were followed by the missionaries—both Catholic and Protestant. These missionaries were at the mercy of the interpreters of the region. At times, the words of the faith translated to the Natives had different ideas than intended. Finally, the Canadian West became the subject of artists such as Paul Kane and writers who wanted to learn of the rich history of this unique landscape.

Stenson vividly captures the essence of the region while telling the story of those with power and those who believed they were in control. Any reader interested in the fur trade will find this to be an interesting and worthwhile book.

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