

Canada's Economy: Resources and Regions

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Date: 2002 STUDY CANADA Summer Institute

Description:

Students will compare the economies of Canada and the United States, notably the Pacific Northwest. A historical overview from "Furs" to "Computers" will enable students to analyze how an extraction, or resource based economy has contributed to each region's development, and how when resources are diminished, there is a pattern of adapting to our geographical circumstances.

Grade Level:

9th Grade: adaptable for 6 –12

Goals:

Students will gain an understanding of how various resources have contributed to the economy of the regions of Canada, and examine the historical aspects of resources-based economies. In the Pacific Northwest, students are familiar with the plight of loggers, farmers, fishermen, all occupations who directly make their living off natural resources. This lesson will connect the changing economies of our region to Canada.

Materials:

- An outline map of Canada with the provinces and territories for each student; large map of Canada in front of the room (I use an overhead transparency positioned to cover an entire wall); copied pages 34-36 titled, "The Canadian Economy" from *Canada Northern Neighbor*; Robert Service poem, "The Cremation of Sam McGee"- included where instructor deems appropriate
- The following items are not necessary for the lesson, but greatly enhance student engagement and understanding.
 - **Fur** representing the fur trade (I have a pelt). Visual cards of beaver, assorted fur bearing animal, or fur.
 - **Agriculture** - Visual cards of combine, agricultural goods. I made a small checkerboard representing the Prairie Provinces-just use brown and yellow construction paper and use this as an opportunity to explain why the fields look like a checkerboard-how one field sits fallow, restoring nutrients, while the adjacent field is planted
 - **Forestry** - Visual cards of trees, or loggers -I use about four pictures to scatter across Canada where applicable about 4"x4" size; I also bring in a piece of lumber
 - **Fishing** - Visual cards of fish to place on Atlantic Provinces and British Columbia
 - **Minerals** - Rocks painted gold, and visual cards of mining, gold rush, and a diamond corresponding to the recent discovery of diamonds in the Canadian Shield
 - **Oil and Gas:** Visual cards of oil and gas
 - **Manufactured Goods** - Visual cards of factories, or manufactured items representing industry and maybe some tools to pass around-point out how Canada manufactures vast amounts of airplane parts
 - **Technology** - Visual cards of computers representing technology

Subject(s):

Geography, Resources, Economics, History

Procedures:

- Students may be arranged in any position
- Instructor: Visual cards representing items, and actual items prepared, and accessible for instructor
- Large map of Canada in front of room
- Each student has notebook paper and an outline map of Canada
- Teacher lectures on the topic

Assessment:

Students will be required to complete the assignment from page 34-36 from *Canada Northern Neighbor* as well as a guided reading assignment.