

Lesson #1

Lesson designed by Stefan Superina

Grades: 9-12

Content Focus:

- a) Influence of geographical features on the evolution of significant historical events and movements.
- b) Analyze the ways in which physical and human features have influenced the evolution of significant historical events and movements.

Lesson Plan:

In this lesson, students will work in groups to study early exploration and settlement of the Great Slave Lake region in the seventeenth and eighteenth century. They will understand why European explorers and settlers came to this region, analyzing both the positive and negative influences they had on Aboriginal inhabitants of the area. Both physical and human features influenced settlement in this area. This lesson should be done in conjunction with a class studying early exploration and settlement of Canada.

Lesson Instructions:

1. The teacher should facilitate an opening discussion to familiarize the class with Great Slave Lake. Please direct yourself to the expedition website at: www.coppermine2012.com, and click on the map displaying our route. Using this map, zoom in on the Great Slave Lake. Read the information bubbles about Great Slave Lake together as a class.
2. Show students the first ten-minutes of the video that focus on Great Slave Lake. This will give students an appreciation for the lake's magnitude, as well as a brief history of the area with respect to European exploration.

Great Slave Lake facts:

- a) Second-largest lake in the Northwest Territories (Great Bear Lake is the largest).
- b) Deepest Lake in North America (614m).
- c) Ninth-Largest lake in the world.
- d) Fourth Largest lake in the world formed from glacial scouring.
- e) Drained by the Mackenzie River.
- f) Much of the lake's water is received from the Rocky Mountains via the Slave, Peace and Athabasca Rivers, and from the Taiga Plain.
- g) The lake is frozen for the better part of eight months of the year
- h) Great Slave Lake, along with Great Bear Lake and Athabasca Lake, are remnants of a single postglacial pool.
- i) Its southern and eastern shores cut into the granite edge of the Canadian Shield; to the north and west lie the Barren Lands.

3. For this activity, students will be divided up into four groups, with each group being assigned a fort from the following page to research and present to the class. It is up to the teachers's discretion regarding the format they would like the presentations to be done in. In their presentation, students should address the following:

- a) Where was the fort located on a map?
- b) For what purpose was the fort built?
- c) What famous explorers occupied the fort?
- d) List some of the accomplishments of the explorers coming to the area who occupied the fort.
- e) What was their contribution to this area of Canada?
- f) What role did Aboriginal people of the area play in helping each explorer achieve their respective goals?
- g) Were interactions between your explorer and Aboriginal people positive, negative, or both? Why or why not?

On the following page is a list of four forts that were important locations for exploration and opening up of the the fur trade in the Canadian northwest. They are accompanied by links to help students navigate through their initial research process.

1. **Fort Providence**

- a) <http://www.pwnhc.ca/exhibits/nv/ftprov.htm>
- b) http://www.pwnhc.ca/programs/historicplaces/old_fort_providence.asp
- c) <http://fortprovidence.lgant.ca/community/history-and-culture-9>
- d) http://www.greatcanadianlakes.com/northwest/slave/his_page2.htm

2. **Fort Reliance**

- a) http://www.pwnhc.ca/programs/historicplaces/old_fort_reliance.asp
- b) <http://www.pwnhc.ca/exhibits/nv/ftrel.htm>
- c) <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=15724>

3. **Fort Resolution**

- a) <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=15669>
- b) <http://fortresolution.lgant.ca/community/history-and-culture-0>
- c) <http://www.spectacularnwt.com/wheretoeexplore/greatslavegateway/fortresolution>
- d) <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/articles/fort-resolution>

4. **Fort Rae**

- a) <http://www.tlichoc.ca/communities/behchoko>
- b) http://www.greatcanadianlakes.com/northwest/slave/cul_page3.htm
- c) http://www.assembly.gov.nt.ca/_live/pages/wpPages/mapBehchoko.aspx
- d) <http://data.nwtresearch.com/archaeology/2000-902>
- e) http://www.tlichohistory.com/treaty11_pictures.html