

Lesson Plan

Title

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Polling Station

Audience

Grades 5 – 12

Overview

This project is designed to enhance students' interest in the election process in British Columbia by bringing important dates in electoral history to life.

Objectives

- Students will gain a better understanding of what 'suffrage' and other vocabulary relating to the electoral process mean
- Students will gain an appreciation for the right to vote in the province
- Students will gain a better understanding of citizenship and its history in the province
- Students will improve presentation skills
- Students will learn to work in groups

Activities and Methods

- For this project, a list of important advances and changes to B.C.'s electoral laws (1871-present) is provided for students to research and then bring to life through a variety of mediums.
- This project can be done as an entire class or in smaller groups.
- The groups then choose five dates of interest from the list provided and decide upon how to explain the importance of each date.
- Some examples of presentation methods include acting, videos, tableau/skit, mime walk, storyboard, news articles, raps, montage, propaganda poster, cartoon strips, photo story etc.

Preparation (by teacher and by students)

- Teachers need to make sure they have the relevant dates chosen in B.C.'s electoral history.
- Groups should be chosen based on similar learning styles.
- Vocabulary relating to the electoral system need to previewed.

Duration of Activity

This could be a month-long unit touching multiple learning styles or a single class lesson with follow-up activities based on the presentations.

Learning Outcomes

- It is expected that students will apply critical thinking skills – including questioning, summarizing, drawing conclusions, and defending – to a range of issues, situations and topics
- It is expected that students will demonstrate effective research skills, including:
 - accessing information
 - assessing information
 - collecting data
 - evaluating data
 - organizing information
 - presenting information
- It is expected that students will demonstrate communication skills using oral, graphic, written and visual skills
- It is expected that students will demonstrate skills and attitudes of active citizenship, such as ethical behaviour, open-mindedness, respect for diversity, and collaboration
- It is expected that students will describe B.C.'s electoral system and processes
- It is expected that students will describe the legal rights and responsibilities of individuals, groups and organizations in Canadian society
- It is expected that students will apply skills of civic discourse and dispute resolution, including consensus building, negotiation, compromise and majority rule

Materials & Resources

- **Elections BC: “Important Dates in BC Election History”** www.elections.bc.ca
- Optional period costumes (mime/skit), poster board (storyboard, propaganda poster), video camera or digital camera (tableau, montage, video)
- Textbooks and other electoral resources
- Computer (slide show presentation)
- Photo story software (if applicable)

Evaluation of Activity

- Student created rubric
- Peer assessment using participation, presentation, and achievement criterion
- Self-evaluation included
- Follow-up written response referencing vocabulary learned
- Response journals regarding favourite dates in BC electoral history

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