

Lesson #10

Lesson designed by Stefan Superina

Grades: 6-8

Content Focus:

- a) Develop a collage of pictures that depicts how people in a province/territory adapt to their physical environment at different times of the year.
- b) Describe and compare the traditional ways of life of different groups of First Nations/Inuit people who live in different areas of Canada. Draw conclusions about how they adapt to natural resources available.

Lesson Plan:

This is an opportunity for students to gain an appreciation for northern First Nations and Inuit culture and lifestyle, past and present. The Coppermine Expedition had the opportunity to travel through territory with a rich and storied past. Through our journey, we were able to meet with, and learn from, people who were willing to share insight about their own culture and traditional practices. Many changes have taken place in Canada's north that have altered the way in which First Nations and Inuit are able to practice their culture and speak their native tongue. The reasons for these are varied and complex, and this lesson is not meant to comprehend fully the political, economic, and social components for these changes, but for students to gain an appreciation for the way in which northern cultures have adapted to their physical environment with a high degree of ingenuity.

Lesson Instructions:

1. Teachers can begin this lesson by showing three brief clips from the Coppermine River Expedition 2012 movie at:

www.coppermine2012.com

- a) 5:39-7:22
- b) 11:03-12:30
- c) 5:10-36:09

These individual clips will give students an introduction to a few of the many cultural landscapes we travelled through in the course of our expedition. Alternatively, if the teacher feels the clips are too segmented, it may be better to view the movie in its entirety from start to finish, as the clips do fit better within the context of the complete film.

2. Our journey from Yellowknife to Kugluktuk took us through the traditional lands of the Copper Inuit, Chipewyan Dene, and Yellowknife Dene. It was our intent to spend more time in these communities, but due to travel demands, we were unable to meet these expectations. However, our time spent in Kugluktuk and in the old Chipewyan Dene community of Reliance was both rewarding and intellectually stimulating. There was much to learn about the traditional lifestyles of these communities and the challenges they face at present being located in such remote areas of the country.

3. Divide your class up into three groups. Assign to each group one of the three First Nations/Inuit cultures on the following page. There are research links provided under each heading for the group to conduct research. As per the lesson plan above, each group will be responsible for:

- a) Developing a collage of pictures that depicts how their assigned First Nations/Inuit culture has adapted to their physical environment, both past and present. Include: clothing, shelter, food, etc.
- b) Describe and compare the traditional ways of life of different groups of First Nations/Inuit people who live in different areas of Canada. Draw conclusions about how they have adapted to natural resources available to them. (example - Haida/Plains Cree/Copper Inuit)

Encourage your students to be creative with this assignment. Have them collect or make artifacts that may accurately portray their assigned group, provide in class demonstrations on hunting or fishing techniques, craft-workshops, bannock making in the school-cafeteria, etc. There are many ideas.

a) **The Copper Inuit and Kugluktuk**

http://firstpeoplesofcanada.com/fp_groups/fp_inuit1.html

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/eppp-archive/100/205/301/ic/cdc/business/lect3.html>

http://lucy.ukc.ac.uk/ethnoatlas/hmar/cult_dir/culture.7838

<http://kitikmeot.edu.nu.ca/pdf/kugluktuk.pdf>

b) **The Chipewyan Dene and Lutsel K'e**

<http://landoftheancestors.ca/>

<http://www.denesolinecorporation.com/our-community/>

<http://www.practicenorth.ca/index.php?page=aboriginal-culture-en>

<http://cpaws.org/blog/thaidene-nene-whats-in-a-name>

<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/articles/chipewyan>

c) **The Yellowknife Dene**

<http://www.ykdene.com/index.html>

<http://dettahandndilo.lgant.ca/>

<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com/articles/yellowknife-band>