

A Living Archives Lesson Plan

Created by Rachel MacKay B.Ed 2008

Class	Social Studies	Grade	7
Topic	<i>In Coming! Immigration to Canada and PEI</i>	Required Time	Three 45-minute lessons
Materials	Access to <i>A Living Archives</i> site (www.livingarchives.ca). Handout of the news article from <i>The Daily Examiner. Peddler's Accounts</i> handout. Graphic Organizer handout. Access to http://www.gov.pe.ca/immigration for general information.		
Prerequisite Skills/ Knowledge	- Knowledge of the term 'immigration' - Ability to classify information based on specific criteria		
Learning Outcomes	Social Studies: 7.4.4 Analyze the struggle for empowerment by new cultural groups immigrating to Canada between 1870 and 1914 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ identify the various cultural groups that came to Canada between 1870 and 1914▪ describe the conditions these groups faced in Canada		
Learning Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hook: Article from <i>The Daily Examiner</i>. Read article to class, or give as a handout. Talk about what it would have been like for immigrants who travelled two weeks on board this ship to get to Canada.2. Research individually or in small groups some of the different groups that immigrated to Canada during the period 1870 to 1914. Include <i>A Living Archives</i> as part of your research, focusing on the information presented in the articles <i>Peddler Facts</i> and <i>Context: Peddlers and Catalogues</i>. You can also use the supplementary handout <i>Peddler's Accounts</i> for additional information.3. Describe the conditions that immigrants encountered when they came to Canada and classify them according to the headings: physical, environment, cultural, economic, and social. Focus on the conditions that Peddlers experienced when they came to PEI. (See <i>A Living Archives & Peddler's Accounts</i> for information). Record your results on tables or graphic organizers. Discuss the results.4. Plan, design, and produce (in small groups) advertising poster campaigns like the ones that officials would have used to attract immigrants at that time. Also have a few groups work to produce similar campaigns for attracting immigrants today.5. Discuss and debrief the activity by asking questions: What are some similarities and differences between the two campaigns? Who is the target audience in each campaign?		
Assessment	-Assessment of campaign posters -Write a diary entry for an immigrant who is travelling to Canada. Reflect upon the decision to leave your homeland and what you think it will be like to live in Canada.		
Notes			

Peddler's Accounts

We never really knew where he (the peddler) came from; for example, that he was Lebanese. I never knew that till years later. He was described as a Syrian.... I remember a discussion one night as to whether a Syrian was a Jew or not--and this was not any prejudiced discussion. It was you know, just a matter of interest; and that was a mystery which, as far as I can recollect, was never fathomed in our time. We never really settled that.

I can see him coming yet with the box hanging down in front here and the bag on his back. One balances the other...I have a picture in my mind. Poor old fellow, stooped pretty well, you know, I mean, just how would you put it? Like a tree that bends with the wind...It looked natural for him to be coming along there with the shoulders down. You know, you have a kind of warm feeling for the old fellow in your heart, to think that he would have the guts to go out with a load like that. Start out of Charlottetown--I mean, you know, he was going out into the unknown. I don't know that many people who would do that today walking. I never heard anybody speak unkindly of him, not Tommy Michael. My memories of Tommy were all good.

Tom Michael came here regular. And that was an event. He had what seems to me now--I would give anything to have a picture of this to show you what it was really like--but to me looking back in my mind's eye--he had this enormous pack that, oh, unfolded would be the area of the kitchen floor. I know that wasn't so because he, the man, had to pack it up and carry it. But to my eyes it was--it was enormous. And there were all sorts of things: combs, brushes, needles, ointments--you name it, and he had it.

Joe Mayme was a short, stocky man who walked the roads. He carried two huge square leather packs, one in front and one on his back--to balance him. He, like most of them, had his own customers and places to stay overnight. He did not call at our home. Stories he told about his homeland I heard from my school friends at whose houses he slept. The peddler who called at our house was Tom Zaib. He was usually called "Tom the Arab". He was a small dark-skinned man. More white showed in his eye.

I can ever recall seeing in anyone else's before or since. A look in our direction terrified us as children. He dislike both dogs and children. He made that fact known clear. If Dick, our dog, barked at him as he landed (Zaib was a wagon peddler), he came into the house with angry words. My brother and I hid when we saw him coming--but usually within ear-shot. If we didn't manage to get out of the kitchen, we got under the table or behind an open door. He carried clothing such as shirts, sweaters, underwear, pants, socks, and braces for men. For women he had clothing also, such as sweaters, stockings, underwear, and sewing materials such as flannelette were available. Small household items that included pins, needles, tape, scissors, and thimbles he sold too. Salves, liniment, cold cures, and tonics he supplied too. Also, he had a few toys and children's clothing in his pack. When he came you had to buy something or other. If you didn't he would be cross and he would let you know it. One time he came to out place after spending time in hospital. He came in pretending to be talking to himself and saying, "Tom died. Tom went to hell. Hell full of doctors and lawyers. No room for Tom, Tom had to come back for another while." Why he was tolerated I never questioned. I expect his "bark" which terrified us as children, wasn't so bad in the mind of adults--who understood him and his problems. They likely looked upon him as an honest man who was trying hard to make a living under more difficult condition than they themselves were experiencing.

My father said when he had that horse and buggy, he was going through the country, and it was getting pretty late in Rustico. He said my god! I have to put my horse up somewhere. So he came to this French place, Doucette and his wife. They said, "No room, No room." Pop said, "I'm staying whether you want me or not", and he drove right into the barn with the horse. And from that day on, that's all he ever had

to do and the old fellow would see him coming. He would open up the gate, pop would drive right in, and he would stay there for the night. And when Sunday came, if he would happen to be away, pop would say "You go to church and I'll get the meal". Pop would cook and do everything and he had not trouble after that.

Each one turned him down until finally, he came to another home. They said, "Yes, you can stay here." They stalled the horse for him. He stayed there overnight....The next day was Sunday....So he went to church and you know the way it is in the country, the people all gather in the churchyard after the service talking....They were talking about the sermon, and Dad says, "Yes, it was a wonderful service...especially where he said, "If a stranger comes to your door--don't keep him!" Well, he found that after that he never had any trouble on the road. Every house wanted to put him up over night.

Well, half way up the road, we'd generally land there about noon hour. And there was a little old man and three sons lived there alone. They're all related on the road anyway. We'd go in this time of year, in fall. They'd strip off their summer clothes right there, and pop would pass those heavy overalls, great Derry jumbo-knit coat sweaters, each ,fleece-lined shirts, fleece-lined underwear, pure wool or whatever they wanted. They'd made the complete change right there.

Question: Would they wait for your father to come?

Answer: Oh yes! And then we'd do it all over again, with the light weight clothes, in the spring.

Question: Just one set of clothes?

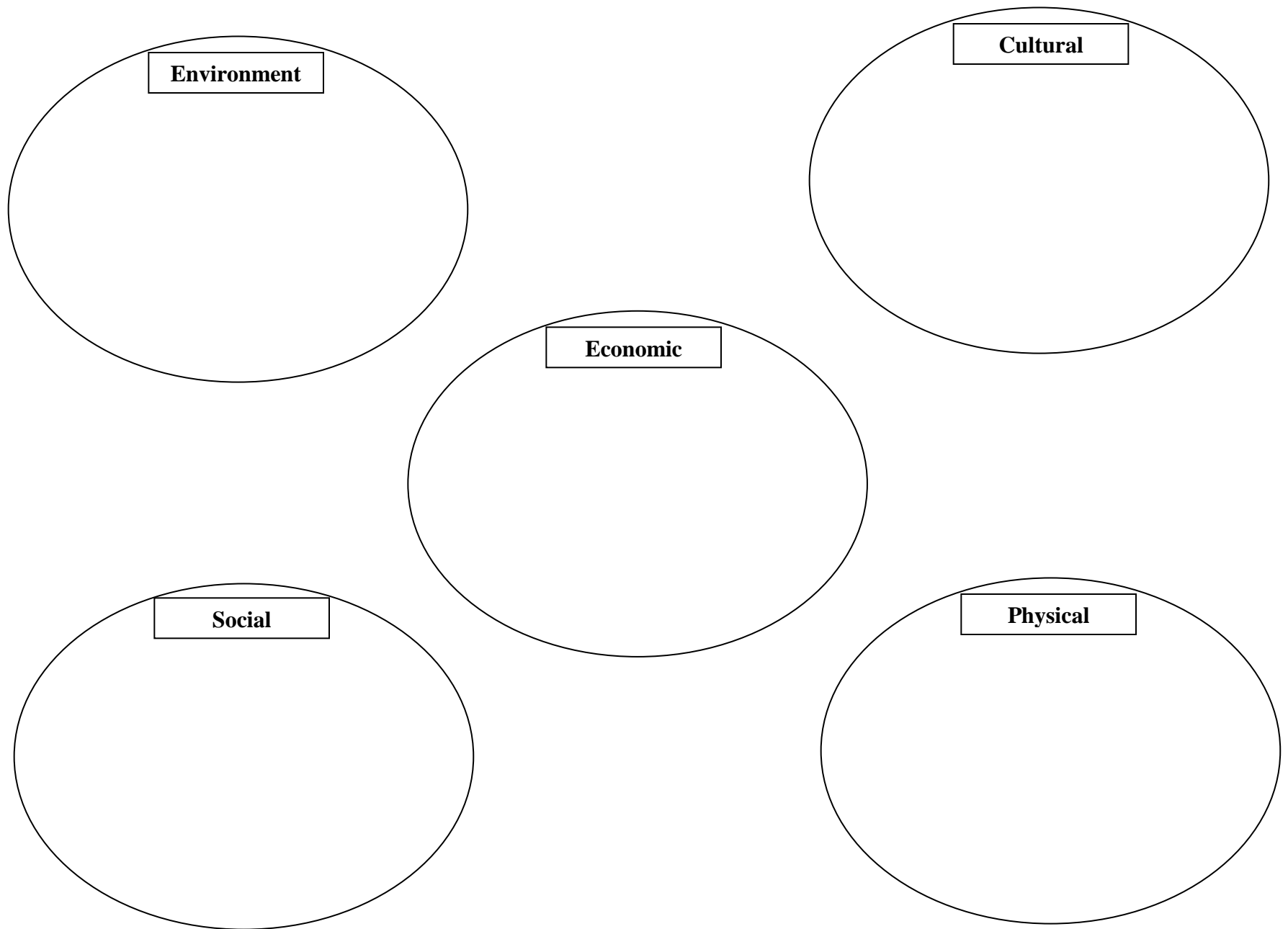
Answer: Each son would have a complete outfit, and the old man.

Question: Was he able to pay with cash?

Answer: Oh yes, he always had paid cash. He always had a roll on him.

-Elsie Richard. 97 Years Old.

Retrieved from: <http://www.gov.pe.ca/cornerstore/htmlsite/peddaccts.htm>



CONDITIONS THAT IMMIGRANTS ENCOUNTERED...

A Living Archives Resource: The Daily Examiner News Article

The Daily Examiner, May 14, 1910, page 1

Immigrants for PEI Arrived Last Night

The fifty immigrants from England who arrived in the city by the S. S. Northumberland last evening were accorded a hearty reception upon their arrival. A large gathering of people assembled at the wharf to catch a glimpse of the new-comers, and hearty cheers greeted them, a welcome which was much appreciated and was hardly expected. The contingent included men, women and children, and ages ranged from eight months to forty years. They are a fine-looking lot of people, clean and intelligent looking and some of them highly educated. They were met at Pictou by Hon. John Richards, Capt. Wm. Richards and ex-Mayor Paton. . . . Different members of the party asked by Examiner representatives as to what they thought of the voyage out on the Carthaginian all gave the same reply in the one word, "Rotten!" Bad weather and fog marked the voyage which occupied two weeks, and the steamer, as already reported, was disabled while 450 miles from Glasgow as the result of one of her piston rods breaking and had to be towed back to Greenock where repairs were effected in thirty-six hours. The steamer had some 600 passengers on board.

A bad start often makes a good ending, and thus it seemed to be in this case, for the party all seemed to be in first-rate spirits last night and were at one in their praise of the kindness of Rev. Mr. Winfield, the Emigration Agent, the Captain and officers of the Northumberland and all the others so solicitous on their behalf. Mr. Holloway of the party, moving a vote of thanks to all these on the way over.

Most of the party are from Devonshire and Cornwall land and are all agriculturists in fairly good circumstances.

The party includes Mr. Hambly, of Bodwin, Cornwall, with his grown up son and daughter. Mr. Hambly's wife and the remaining members of his family stay in England until the end of the season, when they will join Mr. Hambly in this province.

Mr. J. Holloway, wife and two children of Bambery, Oxfordshire, a practical farmer who comes out in the expectation of buying a farm and settling here.

Mr. Shirley, wife and son, of Bristol - good farmer - and is here to purchase a farm.

Mr. Blyth Hurst, wife and three children, from Newcastle-on-Tyne, is here to buy a farm. He is a man of high education and intelligence.

Mr. Evans, with his wife and four children from Somerset, and are here to settle if they like the country.

Mr. Darcy, with his wife and six children, from Tavistock, Devonshire, to purchase a farm here.

Mr. Bert Yeo, of Holesworthy, Devonshire, is a young and excellent practical farmer, who hopes to stay in the country for some time, with a view of purchasing a farm.

Mr. Horace Jones, also of Holesworthy, and several others, who come to purchase farms and make their homes in Prince Edward Island.

In addition to these there are eighteen or twenty young farmers and farm laborers for whom places have already been secured in various parts of the country.

Subsequently others are coming from the Edinburgh district, several with capital to invest in farm lands.

Rev. Mr. Winfield will remain here for about a month, and then will go to Scotland, where he hopes to induce some Scotch farmers to emigrate to our Island home.