

## LESSON #1 - MAP OF CANADA

### Student Objectives and Activities

- Students use atlases or a large wall map to complete a political map of Canada showing the territories, provinces, capital cities and oceans.

### Suggested Teaching Strategies

- As a fun way to kick off the unit, challenge students to draw a *freehand* map of Canada on a piece of scrap paper in only five minutes. The difficult activity is a bit frantic and although some students are totally helpless, it works as a great motivator. (Try it yourself)
- Before beginning the map activity, hand out a copy of the "Map Rules" page to each student. Students cut out the rules and glue them to the inside of the cover of their social studies notebook for future reference.
- Explain the rules and the reasons for them. (If you already have a format for maps, disregard these rules)
  - 1) Name in top righthand corner.
  - 2) All labels must be *printed in pen*.
  - 3) All labels must be *horizontal*. (except for rivers) Use a ruler!
  - 4) Do not colour entire ocean blue. A *thin blue border* is all that is needed.
  - 5) Colouring is to be done in *pencil crayon* using *light shading*. (No markers please)
- Give each student a blank photocopy of the map of Canada and write the names of the places students will be expected to know on the board. Students copy this list onto the back of their map before starting the map. (Previously, I used to leave the place names on the board overnight for students who did not have time to finish with a P.L.O. (Please Leave On) sign boldly showing. Apparently however, the caretaker confused this sign with a group of people trying to liberate Palestine and invariably the list was erased the next day)
- Students then begin labelling the map by first drawing light horizontal lines in pencil where a label must go. ("*Horizontal* lines go the same direction as the *horizon*" is a way to help students remember) The teacher should demonstrate how lining a ruler up with the edges of the page is used to make a horizontal line.
- After labels are printed on (in pen) the lines can be erased. (Some students like to first print the labels in pencil, check with the teacher and then overwrite them in pen later)
- Students colour the map, using light pencil crayon. Dark pencil crayon and marker should be avoided since labels will be impossible to read.
- Atlases can be used for this activity but a large, modern wall map is best.

### \*\*\* Note For Teachers in Rural Schools \*\*\*

It is possible to determine how "modern" your school's supply of maps is by checking to see whether Newfoundland is a part of Canada yet.

## MAP RULES

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- 4) **Do not colour entire ocean blue. *A thin blue border* is all that is needed.**
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CANADA

