Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway: Gateway to the World

Lesson Overview
Students will examine the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway to determine its location and the significance to Canadian industry, commerce and trade.

Grade Level
Middle School (Grades 6 - 8)

Time Required
90 minutes (1 - 2 lessons)

Curriculum Connection
The Ontario Curriculum for Social Studies (Gr. 6) – Canada’s Links to the World
The Ontario Curriculum for Geography (Gr. 7) - Themes of Geographic Inquiry
The Ontario Curriculum for Geography (Gr. 8) – Economic Systems

Link to Canadian National Geography Standards

**Essential Element # 3 (Grades 6 - 8) – Physical Systems**
- River systems of Canada and the world

**Essential Element # 4 (Grades 6 - 8) – Human Systems**
- Transportation and communications networks in Canada and the world

**Geographic Skill # 1 (Grades 6 - 8) - Asking Geographic Questions**
- Identify geographic issues, define geographic problems and pose geographic questions

**Geographic Skill # 5 (Grades 6 - 8) - Answering Geographic Questions**
- Develop and present combinations of geographic information to answer geographic questions

Principal Resource – Canadian Atlas Online
The Canadian Atlas Online > Explore by Themes > The People > Connecting Canada > Transportation – Waterways
Additional Resources, Materials and Equipment

- Student assignment “Fact Sheet” (attached)
- Map showing Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Seaway watershed (attached)
- High-speed internet connection, ideally in a computer lab setting
- Access to the following websites: (you may wish to investigate, in advance, the sites the students will visit for information)
  - St. Lawrence Seaway: Gateway to the World: http://archives.cbc.ca/IDD-1-69-637/life_society/seaway/ (Try clips 9 and 11)

- the ballad “Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald” by Gordon Lightfoot from the album “Summertime Dream” – 1987 Warner Bros. Records (also available from Apple iTunes Store at a cost of $0.99)

Educator’s note: The map of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River System for this lesson was taken from the Great Lakes Information Network Web site at http://gis.glin.net/maps/ It contains this disclaimer “These images can be downloaded without explicit permission and used by the public (including newspapers) but must be credited appropriately.” The source is included on each image. US Army Corps Engineers - Detroit

Main Objective

To identify the importance of the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Seaway system to industry, commerce and trade in Canada.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- identify the location of the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Seaway system
- explain how the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Seaway contributes to industry, commerce and trade in Canada
- explain how a canal lock works
- understand what a Fact Sheet is and how it is created

Lesson
### Lesson Extensions

- Encourage students to collect and discuss articles from the newspaper or other sources that relate to the canal systems in Canada (e.g. Rideau, Trent Severn, Welland) that are linked to the St. Lawrence Seaway system.
- On the provided map, have students locate places mentioned that have benefited from the completion of the St. Lawrence Seaway.
- Have students collect Fact Sheets from other sources in order to create a display.

### Assessment of Student Learning

- Evaluate the Fact Sheet for completeness and accuracy
Student Activity:
Creating a Fact Sheet

Objective:
To develop a fact sheet to inform Canadians about how the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway system (celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2009) contributes to industry, commerce and trade in Canada.

The purpose of a Fact Sheet is to provide a summary of information about one topic.

Activity:
Material should be stated clearly, briefly and presented on one side of a single piece of paper. Begin by posing 10 questions about the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway. For example:

Why is the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Seaway called the ‘Gateway to the World’?

Watch the internet videos indicated below to help answer your questions.

- St. Lawrence Seaway: Gateway to the World: http://archives.cbc.ca/IDD-1-69-637/life_society/seaway (Try clips 9 and 11)

Creating the Fact Sheet

- Your task is to gather and present information through answers to your 10 questions
- Make your one page fact sheet interesting and informative
- Keep the facts grouped by topic
- Write a short introduction for the top of the sheet
- Create an appropriate 50th anniversary logo and display it prominently on your fact sheet
- If possible, use a word processing or desktop publishing program to complete your fact sheet