Connecting Canada: Transportation and Communication in Canada – An Overview

Lesson Overview
Students will see that technological developments have made Canada smaller in the sense that one can travel or communicate across it in much less time now than at its beginning. As well, they will look at the forms of transportation and communication available in Canada today.

Grade Level
Grades 6-8

Time Required
- Approximately 60 minutes for the main lesson.
- Students will also need about 15 minutes to study the bulletin board display. Then they will need 15 more minutes, perhaps as a homework assignment, to write their final note.

Curriculum Connection
Ontario, Grade 8 Geography

Link to Canadian National Geography Standards
Essential Element # 4 (Grades 6-8) – Human Systems
Geographic Skill # 2 (Grades 6-8) – Acquiring Geographic Information
- Use maps to collect and/or compile geographic information.

Geographic Skill # 3 (Grades 6-8) – Organizing Geographic Information
- Prepare various forms of graphs to organize and display geographic information.

The Canadian Atlas
All parts of this lesson require the map Connecting Canada on pages 36 and 37 of The Canadian Atlas. Teachers will use the diagram, Our Shrinking Country, as an introduction. Students will use different sections of these pages for individual research. You can also use the online version of the Atlas at www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas.

Additional Resources, Materials and Equipment Required
- overhead projector
- Student Activity Sheet: Transportation in Canada or Communication in Canada
- computer lab with access to The Canadian Atlas website at www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas
- outline map of Canada
- graph paper
Main Objective
The primary goal of this lesson is to introduce students to the modes of transportation and communication available in Canada and to help them realize the important concepts of distance and time to a vast country such as Canada.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:
- identify and discuss transportation and communication available in Canada
- choose and draw an appropriate graph to convey particular information
- transfer information from one map to another
- discuss the effects of technological advances on communication

The Lesson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher Activity</th>
<th>Student Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
<td>Display a copy of Our Shrinking Country from page 37 of the atlas on an overhead. (Copies can be made easily using a copier. Start with an outline map of Canada. Then use the reduction feature of the copier. 1935 is 78% of 1893. 1971 is 67% of 1935. 1930 is 30% of 1971. 1981 is 28% of 1930.) Do not include a legend. Ask students what the map might be attempting to say. Use their responses to bring out the idea that Canada is shrinking in the sense that it is continually getting faster to communicate across the country. Ask for reasons why this is true. Tell students that they will be researching to find out about transportation and communication systems in Canada today.</td>
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<td><strong>Lesson Development</strong></td>
<td>Assign students a research topic – either one of Communication, or Transportation: highways, waterways, airways, railways, Introduce students to Canadian Atlas or the website at <a href="http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas">www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas</a>. Tell them that this will be their only source of information. Hand out the worksheet. Stress that students are to use all parts of their atlas page to find information – maps, graphs, tables, written materials, etc.</td>
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The Lesson (cont’d)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Teacher Activity</th>
<th>Student Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Conclusion</strong></td>
<td>Create a bulletin board display using the completed worksheets surrounding the map of a shrinking Canada.</td>
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<td>Give students time to read the reports completed by fellow students. Using all of this information, have students write an overview of transportation and communication in Canada.</td>
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<td>Study the bulletin board display.</td>
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<td>Write a note on present state of transportation and communication in Canada.</td>
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Lesson Extension

The conclusion of the lesson as seen on the chart above, will require time for small groups to study the bulletin board display. The final note could be assigned as homework.

Assessment of Student Learning

a) Evaluate the worksheet completed by each student.
   - Is the paragraph clearly written and well edited?
   - Are all main ideas covered?
   - Is the map, or timeline, accurate, properly labelled and easy to read?
   - Is the type of graph appropriate for the information given?
   - Is the graph accurate, neat and properly labelled?

b) Include a question from this work on the unit test.
   - Discuss the effects of advancing technology on communication in Canada.
   - Discuss the importance of a good transportation system to a country’s economy.
Student Activity Sheet:
Transportation in Canada

You will be using the Connecting Canada map on page 37 of The Canadian Atlas to find information on your topic. To complete your report, you will need lined paper, an outline map of Canada and graph paper.

Your type of transportation: ________________________________________________

1. In point form, list all the information available on page 37 about your topic. Remember to think about what the map, graphs or tables are saying. Once you have closed the site, organize this information into a paragraph summarizing what you have learned.

2. Use the outline map to record suitable information available on this page that pertains to your topic. Remember to include a title, a legend and any appropriate labels.

3. Draw a graph to record some of the information that you were able to find about your topic. Think about the kind of graph that would be most appropriate. Remember to label your axes and to include a title. (Do not simply copy one of the graphs from the atlas.)
Student Activity Sheet: Communications in Canada

Your type of communications: ____________________________

You will be using the Connecting Canada map on page 36 of The Canadian Atlas (or the corresponding pages on the Atlas website at www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas) to find information on your topic. To complete your report, you will need lined paper and graph paper.

1. In point form, list all the information available on page 36 about your topic. Later, once you have closed the site, organize this information into a paragraph summarizing what you have learned.

2. Draw a graph to record some of the information that you were able to find about your topic. Think about the kind of graph that would be most appropriate. Remember to label your axes and to include a title. (Do not simply copy one of the graphs from the atlas.)

3. Create a timeline to record some of the important events in the development of communication in Canada.