Early Explorers Web Quest

Lesson Overview
In this lesson, students will use The Canadian Atlas Online to gather facts about early explorers and settlers in Canada. They will complete a Web Quest to extract information from maps and make generalizations about early settlement patterns in Canada.

Grade Level
Grades 6-8

Time Required
One 60-minute lesson

Curriculum Connection
Yukon – (British Columbia curriculum) Social Studies 8
This lesson could be modified for Grade 9-10 by adding more detail about settlement patterns after 1600 A.D.

Link to Canadian National Geography Standards
Essential Element #2 (Grades 6-8) – Places and Regions
• Changes in places and regions over time

Essential Element #3 (Grades 6-8) – Physical Systems
• Ecozones

Essential Element #4 (Grades 6-8) – Human Systems
• Types and patterns of human settlement

Essential Element #5 (Grades 6-8) – Environment and Society
• Limits and opportunities of the physical environment for human activities

Essential Element #6 (Grades 6-8) – The Uses of Geography
• Effects of physical and human geographic factors on major historic events

Geographic Skill #2 (Grades 6-8) – Acquiring Geographic Information
• Use maps to collect and/or compile geographic information.

Geographic Skill #4 (Grades 6-8) – Answering Geographic Questions
• Develop and present combinations of geographic information to answer geographic questions.
The Canadian Atlas
Students will use information from sections of The Canadian Atlas listed below. The corresponding pages can be found at The Canadian Atlas Online website at http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas/.
• Settling Canada (pages 32-33 of The Canadian Atlas)
• Atlantic Region (pages 28-29 of The Canadian Atlas)
• Boreal Shield (pages 24-25 of The Canadian Atlas)

Additional Resources, Materials and Equipment Required
• Access to the Internet
• Early Explorer Web Quest activity sheet
• Parks Canada website (for L’Anse Aux Meadows Extension Activity): http://www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/nl/meadows/index_e.asp

Main Objective
Students will use The Canadian Atlas Online to gather facts about early explorers and settlers in Canada. They will complete a Web Quest to extract information from maps and make generalizations about early settlement patterns in Canada.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:
• locate and describe historical events on maps.
• describe how Canada’s physical geography influenced patterns of settlement and exploration between 500-1600 A.D.

Lesson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher Activity</th>
<th>Student Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
<td>• This lesson should be taught after students have discussed the geographical conditions necessary for early civilizations to thrive. • Review the geographical conditions that made the Mediterranean region so suitable for settlement. • Assess prior knowledge by asking students to guess the dates of the earliest settlements in Canada. Emphasize that Aboriginal peoples had settled in Canada thousands of years before European explorers arrived.</td>
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### Lesson (cont’d)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher Activity</th>
<th>Student Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong> (cont’d)</td>
<td>• Explain that students will gather more facts about early explorers in Canada by completing a Web Quest using The Canadian Atlas.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lesson Development</strong></td>
<td>• Distribute the Web Quest and review the instructions with students. (Decide if students will work alone or in groups.)</td>
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<td>• Monitor students as they work through the activity.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Conclusion</strong></td>
<td>• Complete the Web Quest using The Canadian Atlas Online.</td>
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<td>• Collect the Web Quest if it will be assessed.</td>
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<td>• Optional: Introduce the extension activity about L’Anse Aux Meadows.</td>
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<td>• Submit the Web Quest if required.</td>
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### Lesson Extension

Students conduct research to learn more about the first Viking settlement in Canada, L’Anse Aux Meadows.

- Next, students write a letter from the perspective of a Viking about their initial impressions upon arriving in Newfoundland.

### Assessment of Student Learning

Collect the Web Quest Student Activity Sheets and assess the work for completeness and accuracy.
Student Activity Sheet:  
Early Explorers Web Quest

You are about to embark on a quest to gain knowledge about early settlement and exploration in Canada. Use information from The Canadian Atlas Online at http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/atlas/ to complete the quest below.

Ancient times (500-1600 A.D.)

Write your answer in the space provided.

1. This cultural group had settled in Canada thousands of years before European settlers arrived.

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2. Look at the map of routes taken by major explorers of Canada between the 15th and 19th centuries. Name the explorers whose expeditions occurred before 1600.

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3. Describe the route and the region that they explored.

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4. Name the two corresponding ecozones for these regions and describe the landform, climate and vegetation characteristics. (Hint: Use the ecozone pages of the atlas to find this information.) Use the organizer below to record your findings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Ecozone 1</th>
<th>Ecozone 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Landforms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vegetation</td>
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5. Why were these two regions of Canada the first to be explored? (Hint: Geographical factors)

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6. Re-arrange the cultural groups below in the order that they settled in Canada (earliest to latest). Write the year beside each group and put a star (*) beside the groups that had established settlements in Canada between 500-1600 A.D.

**Groups:**
- Irish
- Vikings
- French
- Aboriginal peoples
- Loyalists
- Asians
- Portuguese
- Europeans

**Correct Order**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Year settled in Canada (approx.)</th>
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7. Which region of Canada was the last to be explored? Why?

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