

Lesson Six

Gain an understanding of how resourceful the pioneers of the Sibbald Colony had to be to survive on the prairies.

Objectives:

Students will:

- Read and research to find out how the settlers used what they had to build homes and the synagogue
- Build a structure made out of popsicle sticks and sod (if available)
- Write a description of how a newcomer might have felt upon arriving in Sibbald in 1910

Time: 35 – 45 minutes (not including the time needed to build the structures which will be made over time)

Materials:

Information sheet – Coming to Canada

Passage 4B -1 Soddies Diagnostic Reading Program

Sod (if available)

Popsicle sticks (enough for children to build a structure in groups of two).

Anticipatory Set

Ask students if they have ever been part of their family building a new home or had renovations done in their home? Ask them what plans and organization was needed in order to carry out the work that was completed? Who did the work? How long did it take? What problems occurred during the building? If renovations or a new building forced relocation, where did the family live in the meantime?

Body of Lesson

Ask students to close their eyes. Picture a piece of land with nothing on it but weeds, rocks and dirt as far as your eyes can see. Tell them that this is the kind of land that the pioneers Eastern Europe would have encountered upon their arrival to Sibbald, Alberta. (2.S.4)

Distribute the sheet - Coming to Canada. Have students read the information and then talk in pairs as to what life might have been like coming to Sibbald and being faced with these hardships. Remind children that we have some very harsh winters and some summers can be very hot – no central heating and no air-conditioning.

In pairs, have students read the passage called, Soddies, page 54 and 55 from the DRP. Do a Think, Pair and then Share the information gained on a retrieval chart paper in the large group. Headings should

include: Why Build Homes Out of Sod, Appearance of Sod Homes, Creatures in Homes, Positives of Sod Homes, and Negatives of Sod Homes.

Culmination

In groups of four, have students share what life must have been like during the early 1900's for these settlers coming to Sibbald. Each child in the group should talk about life from the standpoint of a mother, a father and a child who is 7 years old and a preschooler who was 4 years old. (2.S.7)

Teacher will describe the activity that children will engage in during the week in order to build a structure in pairs. Structure will be built out of sticks to represent wood and/or sod.

Student Assessment

Students will write a paragraph describing how they think a newcomer must have felt upon first arriving to Sibbald. Points that should be included for assessment purposes should be the following points that indicate understanding of the conditions faced by the pioneers: (2.S.7)

- No roads, houses or other buildings in the area
- Few other people on the land
- Difficulty in finding some kind of shelter to live in while waiting for the "home" to be constructed (2.S.4)
- Pros and cons of the structure chosen to build
- Building the houses in close proximity to others so that they would have neighbours within reasonable walking distance(2.2.6) (2.2.5)