

## **Troubled Waters: Immigration on the B.C. Coast**

### **Program Overview**

#### **Introduction**

Students will explore the factors (Push/Pull) that have influenced people to immigrate to Canada from the early 1800's through the turn of the century. Why would someone uproot themselves (and their family) to move to a new country? What could attract them to a new home? What could compel them to leave their homeland? Are all immigrants treated the same when they arrive in their new home? Students will be encouraged to think about these ideas as they explore the history of immigrants who have come to Canada, and specifically to British Columbia. The program makes extensive use of historic photographs and places a primary focus on the students learning how a historian analyses images as a primary source of history and putting their new knowledge into practice

#### **The Chinese in British Columbia**

The section analyses the history of Chinese immigrants in British Columbia. The material focuses first on the triggers (discovery of Gold in the Fraser, building the CPR, etc.), and then moves into a study of the social and political climate that greeted the new arrivals and how it changed over the years. Key events include: the Gold Rush, construction of the railway, the "head tax" that was charged to Chinese Immigrants, the passing of the Chinese Exclusion Act. The program focuses on the local, maritime connections to this history.

#### **The D'Arcy Island Leper Colony**

Most people living in British Columbia are unaware that a small island off the coast of the Saanich Peninsula was once the site of a lazaretto. The D'Arcy Island leper colony was created by the municipal government of Victoria to "contain, house, and feed" the city's Chinese residents who suffered from leprosy. Students will learn about this social climate that led to the creation of the colony and will have the opportunity to analyze photographs that were taken on the island in the late 1890's.

#### **The Komagata Maru Incident**

For two months in the summer of 1914, the Japanese steamer The Komagata Maru, was anchored in Burrard Inlet with almost 400 passengers aboard who were not permitted to land. Almost all onboard were Sikh and they had come to the coast of B.C. to challenge the immigration laws at the time that discriminated against immigrants from India. Despite being British subjects, the Canadian government refused to let the ship dock and the drama that unfolded over the following two months culminated in the involvement of the Navy and one of its gunboats. Students will learn about this significant chapter of maritime history that was soon eclipsed by the outbreak of WWI.

## **Grade 9**

### **It is expected that students will:**

- identify and clarify a problem, an issue, or an inquiry
- select and summarize information from primary and secondary print and non-print sources, including electronic sources
- assess the reliability, currency, and objectivity of different interpretations of primary and secondary sources
- defend a position on a controversial issue after considering a variety of perspectives
- assess how identity is shaped by a variety of factors, including:
  - family
  - gender
  - belief systems
  - ethnicity
  - nationality
- describe how different forms of artistic expression reflect the society in which they are produced
- analyse roots of present-day regional, cultural, and social issues within Canada
- identify major exploration routes and historical events in the development of Canada

## **Grade 10**

### **It is expected that students will:**

- plan and conduct library and community research using primary and secondary print and non-print sources, including electronic sources
- generate and critique different interpretations of primary and secondary sources
- assess and defend a variety of positions on controversial issues
- identify the influence of immigration on, and the contributions of immigrants to, the development of Canada
- demonstrate awareness of ways the arts mirror and shape Canadian society
- analyse the changing perception of Canadian identity and assess the influence of the United States and other countries
- analyse political, economic, social, and geographical factors that led to Confederation
- analyse the impact of the National Policy on western expansion
- identify and describe the effects of technological innovation on settlement and employment patterns within regions of Canada
- identify factors that contribute to the economy of British Columbia
- assess changing economic relationships between British Columbia and its major trading partners
- analyse how geography influenced the economic, historical, and cultural development of western Canada