

# **A COLLAGE OF CANADA: HARMONIZING MANY VOICES**

Garfield Newman, Ontario

## **INTENDED GRADE/SUBJECT AREA**

Grade 10 to 13 All aspects of history

## **CONCEPTS**

- Women, Ethno-cultural diversity, Youth, First Nations, Labour, Sport, Science and Technology, Canada at War

## **INSTRUCTIONAL OUTCOMES**

- creativity
- cooperative group skills
- research skills
- analytical skills

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Canada has a rich and varied past that can often lie buried in the archives. Too often, the histories of Canada focus on political and military exploits, and the lives of the rich or powerful figures. But there are many other stories of Canada's past to be told. Tales of the struggles and triumphs of Canadian labour, the journey to a new home of people from a multitude of former lands, and the trials and tribulations of growing up in Canada. It has often been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Just imagine the volumes of history we can uncover through the paintings, symbols and photographs held by Canadian museums, archives and especially, families.

## **ACTIVITIES**

Student groups of four will create a hanging collage of photographs, symbols, paintings, songs and/or poetry to visually tell the story of a group of Canadians during the past century. The hanging collage will consist of 20 images (the equivalent of 20,000 words) that will be creatively hung from the ceiling using clear fish wire.

All of the images are to be copied onto overheads that will be provided to the students. Students will be responsible for making their own copies. This initial task is intended to foster creativity and cooperative group skills, and to introduce students to research and analytical skills. Although students will work cooperatively to complete the project, there will be parts of the assignment that must be completed individually. Students who do not satisfactorily complete the initial individual stages will be removed from their group and required to work independently. The hanging collages can focus on any one of the themes listed above, but only one group per topic.

To complete this task, each student must:

- prepare a bibliography of five to seven sources using the proper format—the bibliography must include at least one website or CD-ROM;
- prepare a list of five paintings, symbols, poems, songs or photographs to use in the hanging collage;
- provide a one-paragraph explanation why each of the pieces was chosen to reflect the theme of the collage;
- write a 250-300 word personal reflection which assesses the overall success of the project including the success of the group dynamics, the effectiveness of the collage in expressing the theme, and the overall learning experience.

To complete this task, each group must:

- collectively decide on the focus of the collage;
- share with each other the selections made by individuals to ensure no duplication;
- prepare a sketch/blueprint of the final design with a half to one page detailed description (including shape, arrangement, colour) which will clearly explain how the collage will appear and how it will capture your theme as it relates to Canada in the 20th century;
- gather, organize and assemble the hanging collage in the classroom.

### About the Educator

Over the last fifteen years, Garfield Newman has taught courses on Canadian studies to high school students as well as developed courses at the University of British Columbia and York University. In addition to inspiring students in his classroom, Garfield has authored a Canadian history textbook and Teacher's Resource. He integrates a variety of teaching approaches and selections of music, art and literature into his courses to provide students with an appreciation of Canadian culture. Garfield speaks at conferences and conducts many workshops. Currently, he is re-writing the Canadian history course to reflect the changes to Ontario's curriculum that took place in September 2000.