The Novel Approach: Canadian History - 1866-1912

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What did the master craftsmen have to do?

Do we still use an apprenticeship system today?   How is it different from those in existence a hundred years ago?

2.   Liam was familiar with Irish legends and mythology from the stories and poetry he read and from the songs that he sang.

Go to the library and look for a book of Irish myths, legends of folk tales.

Read one of the stories.

Retell the story in your own words.

3.   Using the resources available to you, research the Fenians.

Who were they?   Why did they want to invade Canada?

How successful were they?

4.   Canada has welcomed immigrants from many countries.

Why did the Irish come to Canada in the Nineteenth Century?

According to the novel, why did Gottlieb Hahn move to Canada from the United Sates of America?

Add other groups of people that came to Canada in the last two hundred years.

Why did so many people leave their homes and move to Canada?

Some research will be necessary to answer this question.

5.   What was Confederation?

Why did Sir John A. MacDonald think that it was necessary for the various Canadian colonies to join together?

Make a chart to show the reasons why Confederation would be beneficial to Canada.

Did all the colonies decide to join?

Make a chart showing which colonies did join and which ones did not.

6.   Write a speech for Sir John A. MacDonald to give that would persuade people of the advantages of Confederation.

Some research will be necessary to ensure your speech is historically accurate.

Practise your speech, and then give it to the class.

7.   Not all colonies were in favour of Confederation.

Use the resources available to you to find out why some colonies were against it.

Write a speech to be given by one of the leaders who was not in favour of Confederation.

Your speech should give the reasons why it was not an advantage.

When you have written and practised delivering your speech, give it to the class.

Understanding the Story

> *Answer the following questions in complete sentences, unless directed to do otherwise.   Use the novel to help you where necessary.*

1.   Why did John and Meg go to Cache Lake to work?

1.   Why does Mr. Percy refuse to pay a pension for Mr. Bains' death?

2.   Why did supplies have to be taken to the lumber camps during the winter?

3.   O'Reilly has reservations about the cause of the death of Angus Bains.   Explain this.

4.   Mr. MacInnes insisted on travelling to Cache Lake at night, although O'Reilly said it was dangerous.   Describe the journey.

5.   What was the reaction of the lumbermen when they were told that Meg and John were the children of Angus Bains?

6.   What did Hardy do when the men refused to unload the sleigh?

7.   List the daily chores that the children had to do.

8.   What does Mr. MacInnes want John to do?

9.   How did the owners in the logging industry treat men who wanted to form a union?

10.   What methods does Hardy use to stop the men from forming a union?

11.   John is ambivalent about joining the union. Why?

12.   What was the purpose of the log chute?

13.   John and Meg were fined a dollar. What reasons were given for this?

14.   What happened to the log chute when it became windy?

15.   The accident changed John's attitude regarding the union. Explain.

16.   What was the reaction of Hardy and MacInnes to the lumbermen's statement that they would strike if their demands were not met?

17.   Why did the strike fail?

Activities for *Jason's Gold*

1.   Using an atlas to help you, mark and label the following places on the map.

        a) Alaska   b) Yukon
        c) British Columbia   d) Vancouver
        e) Juneau   f) Skagway
        g) Dawson City   h) Yukon River

2.   There were two passes from Skagway to Dawson City. The Chilkoot Pass and the White Pass. Each had advantages and disadvantages.
Create a chart to show these.
Which pass would you have chosen? Why?

3.   The native peoples of the Tlingit tribe carried packs over the passes.
Using the resources available to you, research the Tlingit peoples, making jot notes.
Use these notes to write an essay about the Tlingit tribe.

4.   Will Hobbs introduces some historical characters in the novel. These are people who actually lived at this time.
What does the inclusion of these historical characters add to the novel?
Research one of the following, and then use the information you find to write a brief one page biography.

        a) Jack London   b) Robert Service   c) Soapy Smith

5.   The Yellow Legs, as the North West Mounted Police were called, played an important part in maintaining order and safety among the prospectors.
Using the resources available to you, including the Internet, research the North West Mounted Police.
Present your findings in the form of a newspaper article that might have been written at that time.

6.   Find a poem by Robert Service that you would like to read aloud.
You may choose to read one of his longer poems with a partner or a group of friends.
Practise reading the poem expressively.
Present the poem to your class.
You might want to present your poem to another class or at a school assembly.

7.   Using paint, pastels or coloured pencils, create a picture of what you consider to be the most memorable event in the novel.
Give your picture a title.
Some research might be necessary to ensure the picture is historically accurate.