

# SOCIAL STUDIES GRADE 5

## Okanagan Orchards



11255 Okanagan Centre Rd. W.  
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**BIG IDEA:** NATURAL RESOURCES CONTINUE TO SHAPE THE ECONOMY AND IDENTITY OF DIFFERENT REGIONS OF CANADA

**COMPETENCY:** USE SOCIAL STUDIES INQUIRY PROCESSES TO - ASK QUESTIONS; GATHER, INTERPRET, AND ANALYZE IDEAS; AND COMMUNICATE FINDINGS AND ISSUES

**CONTENT:** RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN DIFFERENT REGIONS OF CANADA



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### ACTIVITIES TO CREATE INQUIRY:

1. OVERVIEW OF OKANAGAN VALLEY LAND COMPANY & EARLY ORCHARDS IN LAKE COUNTRY
2. ACTIVITY: FLUMES
3. ACTIVITY: LAND DEVELOPMENT

**WHAT WILL WE KNOW:** THE HISTORY OF THE FIRST ORCHARDS IN LAKE COUNTRY, THE SIGNIFICANCE OF IRRIGATION, AND THE IMPACTS OF ORCHARDS ON LOCAL LANDSCAPES

### FURTHER INQUIRY: FIELD TRIP SUGGESTIONS:

1. LOCAL RESERVOIRS
2. LOCAL ORCHARDS
3. LAKE COUNTRY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES



**We respectfully acknowledge that the land on which the Lake Country Museum is situated, where this lesson was developed, is on the unceded territory of the Syilx (Okanagan) Peoples.**

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# Social Studies Grade 5: Okanagan Orchards

## Learning Experience

Students will learn about how the Okanagan Valley Land Company established some of the first orchards in Lake Country, as well as the significance of irrigation to orchards as well as the impacts that orchards have on local landscapes.

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Objectives</b>         | To learn about early orchards in Lake Country, understand how irrigation serves orchards, and explore how planting orchards has affected the landscape of the Okanagan.  |
| <b>Historical Reading</b> | <p><b>The Okanagan Valley Land Company</b></p> <p>The Okanagan Valley Land Company planted most of the first orchards in Lake Country.</p> <p>In 1892, two brothers, Homer and Vincent Maddock, bought thousands of acres of land. The land went from the Rainbow Ranche south to McKinley's Landing, and from Okanagan Lake east to the flats of Winfield and Thomas Wood's ranch. The brothers were absentee owners, who lived in Eastern Canada. Although they were active in the development of the area, they didn't move to Okanagan Centre until 1906.</p> <p>The two brothers sold their holdings to the Trusts and Guarantee Co. Ltd. of Toronto in 1907. That company set up the Okanagan Valley Land Company Ltd. and the Okanagan Centre Irrigation and Power Company Ltd. to develop and sell the subdivided lands. Property was sold as ten-acre, twenty-acre, or larger lots for apple orchards. In Okanagan Centre, the lots sold to build houses were narrow, only twenty-five metres (feet) wide.</p> <p>There was no water source for the bench lands in Okanagan Centre. The Maddock brothers and the Okanagan Valley Land Company worked hard to find a water supply. At the time, the pumps, which were wind-powered, did not have the power to take the</p> |

water for very long distances. They decided to run a water line from Beaver Lake. By 1909, the Okanagan Valley Land Company had completed the main line of an irrigation system to Okanagan Centre. This water source became the water system for most of the areas of Winfield and Okanagan Centre. The Maddock brothers played a major role in this important project.



*Opening the Okanagan Valley Land Company office, 1908*



*Homer Maddock (LCMA)*



*Early orchards, Camp Rd, 1909 (LCMA)*

In 1908, the Maddock brothers gave a plot of land to the community for a cemetery.

*Acre: Approximately 4047 square metres*

**Activity**

**Activity #1: Flumes**

Have you seen irrigation flumes or pipes on the hillsides today? Using online resources and books, students research the history of irrigation in the Okanagan and Lake Country. What were the types of flumes built? Why were they located in particular areas? What is used today to irrigate Lake Country?

Students can present their irrigation reports in writing, as an oral presentation, or as a multimedia presentation. They should be able to tell how irrigation played a key role in the development of Lake Country and the lives of the early pioneers.



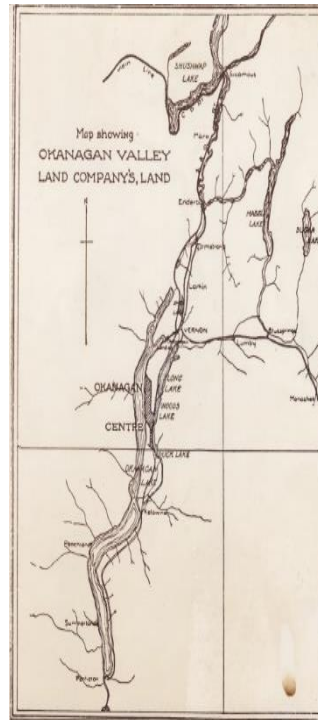
*(LCMA)*

**Extension:** Invite a guest speaker from the District of Lake Country Water Department to speak to the class about irrigation today and the importance of water to the community.

**Activity #2: Land Development!**

Students can compare historical photographs with current aerial photographs and determine what factors influenced land-use decisions. They can evaluate the impacts of different land uses on an area and consider future changes in land use and the effect these might have on Lake Country.

Using a selection of aerial photographs and archival photographs, students can work in small groups to make note of changes to the landscape. Using a document reader or a projected digital image, groups can present their analysis of the changes, whether these changes are positive or negative and why, and their recommendations for future land use and development.



(LCMA)

**Discussion:** Communities make land-use decisions every day. Take a look at areas surrounding large cities, in redeveloping downtown areas of older cities, and in the countryside and you'll see land-use changes.

Given the impact that humans have already had and continue to have on the land, a major challenge facing communities, both urban and rural, is how to plan for continued growth. What are the best ways to accommodate growth and minimize the negative impact on the existing community and the natural environment?

**Extension:** Guest speaker from the District of Lake Country, Land Use Planning Department

## Further Inquiry

## Field Trip Suggestions:

- Local reservoirs
  - The District of Lake Country operates three water systems: the Lake Country Water System, the Coral Beach Water System, and Lake Pine, which includes six storage dams, six chlorinators, seven reservoirs, eight pump houses, 34 pressure-reducing stations, and over 125 km of mainlines.
- Local orchards
- Lake Country Museum and Archives
  - Has early irrigation pipes and flumes to examine

## Suggested Resources:

- LCMA photographs: wooden irrigation flume, selection of aerial photographs
  - LCMA website resources: *The Winfield, Okanagan Centre Irrigation District, 1908 – 1989, History Index: Irrigation System*
  - LCMA video clip: *Winfield Memories*, by Hideo Tanaka:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D60K4aFyyQM>
- District of Lake Country website resources: Water Services, video *Flume: The Story of the Original Irrigation System in Oyama*, by Jordie Starling:  
<http://www.okanaganway.ca/municipal/municipal-services/water/> Okanagan Historical Society Report: *Irrigation and Water Legislation in the Pioneer Years*, by Lydia Baum-brough 43:5-10