

BUILDING A TOWN IN 1918

ELEMENTARY SOCIAL STUDIES



11255 Okanagan Centre Rd. W.
Lake Country, BC V4V 2J7

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW:

1. Students will evaluate the evolution of Okanagan Centre and determine which buildings/amenities they deem essential
2. Using their findings, they will construct their buildings individually or in groups then work together to find the best way to set up their town
3. Students will then share out the significance of their buildings



BIG IDEA: We shape the local environment, and the local environment shapes who we are and how we live; Canada is made up of many diverse regions and communities.

COMPETENCY:

Significance, inquiry, continuity and change

CONTENT:

How people's needs and wants are met in communities; History of the local community

WHAT WILL WE KNOW:

- Importance of community planning
- How to compare a location in the past to today, specifically Okanagan Centre

FURTHER INQUIRY:

Field Trip Suggestions

1. Lake Country Museum and 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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Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society

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Building a Town in 1918

Learning Objective(s)	Students will learn about the early development of Okanagan Centre, from the 1800s – 1930s. They will then work together to decide which buildings and amenities are of highest importance to create their own community.
Suggested Grades	Elementary
ACTIVITY	
Materials	<p>A variety of materials can be used to complete this activity. Some of our suggestions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carboard and/or construction paper • Glue, tape, markers/crayons • Legos • Play-Doh or Plasticine
Introduction	<p>After learning about the development of Okanagan Centre, prompt students to think about what buildings or amenities they think are essential to a town in 1918 (grocery stores, homes, farms, etc). Write down their ideas until you have enough for each student/group to have a building to create.</p> <p>Once the students have been assigned their building, prompt them to think about the reasons why their building is important to the community.</p>
Building the town	Have the students make their building(s). When the students have completed their buildings, have them work together to arrange them into a miniature town. Support them by asking them questions about their buildings, such as if any buildings might benefit from being near each other (i.e. placing the school by the homes). If you want some added challenge, lay down a large piece of paper and have students draw roads and waterways that will need to be considered when arranging their town.
Debrief	<p>Now that the town has been arranged, have each student/group present their building. Some guiding questions may be: Why is this building important? Does the building help anyone? Why did you put your building in that spot?</p> <p>To close, ask the students what changes or additions they would make to the town. Or take it a step further and ask them how they would adapt their town to different scenarios. Example: What would need to be changed/added if 100 extra people moved to town?</p>

<p>Historical Context</p>	<p>From the late 1800s to the 1930s, Okanagan Centre was the commercial hub and a major port for the sternwheelers of the area that later became Lake Country. From this wharf, local apples, pears, and even cattle were shipped north to the railhead at Okanagan Landing and from there to points all over the world, while mail, supplies, and new settlers arrived.</p> <p>By 1910, the town of Okanagan Centre had two hotels, the Grandview and the Westbury, a general merchant, and a hardware store. A school was opened in the newly built church, and ground was broken for a packinghouse and a cannery.</p> <p>In 1925, the Canadian National Railway connected Vernon to Kelowna through a rail line along Wood Lake. Gradually, the transportation corridor moved from Okanagan Lake and Okanagan Centre into the valley to the east and Winfield. Eventually the railway and roads replaced the sternwheelers and freight barges.</p>
<p>Further Inquiry</p>	<p><u>Suggested Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Okanagan Centre School Days, by Osam Kobayashi • New York Public Library digital collection of menus, 1851 to 1930. Collector, Miss Frank E. Buttolph (for photos) • Okanagan Centre Registration List, 1918 (5 pages) <p><u>Field Trip Suggestions:</u></p> <p>The Lake Country Museum and Archives</p> <p>The Museum has a wide range of exhibits and activities for your class to explore. There is also a playground and field behind the building and the lake nearby that students can make use of for various activities.</p> <p>There may be the opportunity for a guest lecturer to visit your classroom or be present at the museum with the knowledge of more local history stories. If interested, please contact the Museum ahead of time.</p>