

INTERVIEWING LAKE COUNTRY CITIZENS

MIDDLE GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES



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

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW:

1. Students will learn about the significance of oral histories
2. They will then conduct interviews with a Lake Country citizen to learn about documenting oral histories
 - a. This activity is a good addition to a lesson on media literacy



BIG IDEA: Media sources can both positively & negatively affect our understanding of important events/issues

COMPETENCY:

Inquiry, significance, evidence, historical perspectives

CONTENT:

Media technologies & coverage of current events

WHAT WILL WE KNOW:

- Significance of oral histories
- Conducting ethical interviews

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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Interviewing Lake Country Citizens

Learning Objective(s)	Students will gain knowledge of the process of an interview, including best practices to form strong interview questions. These interviews conducted with Lake Country representatives will further the student's knowledge of how residents shape the history and identity of Lake Country. This activity would make a good addition to a lesson about media literacy or even Indigenous history.
Suggested Grades	Middle Grades
ACTIVITY	
Materials	Students will need paper and pens to conduct their interviews. If you are planning to have students interview members of the public, invite them in advance or plan a field trip. Some ideas of who you can interview are senior citizens, municipal representative, Indigenous elders, generational farmers, etc. If you do not have access to interviewing members of the public, you can have the students interview each other.
Introduction	<p>The writing of history has been traditionally based on diaries, documents, and other written sources. In recent years, historians have come to recognize the value and significance of oral histories as first-hand accounts of past events and people.</p> <p>As a class, watch and listen to a selection of oral history interviews of the LCMA YouTube channel. Afterwards, debrief the interview content: what sort of responses the interviewees provided, the tone of the interview in comparison to a written transcript, etc.</p> <p>Depending on who your students are interviewing, you may want to give your students time to do some general research about who they are interviewing (i.e. if your students are interviewing generational farmers, they may wish to do some preliminary research on farming in the Okanagan).</p>
Conducting the interviews	Establish protocols for interviews (i.e. receive consent prior to beginning, avoiding leading questions, listen carefully and respectfully) and identify some topics/questions to be discussed during the interviews. The goal of the interviews is to learn more about someone's experiences and impressions of past events in Lake Country. Depending on who you are interviewing, you can help them prepare relevant questions (You might not ask the same questions to a farmer that you would ask an Indigenous elder). Then have students brainstorm some questions of their own, writing them down on their piece of paper.

	When students conduct the interview, first have them obtain permission to record their interview. When the interview concludes, make sure students know to thank the interviewees for their time.
Conclusion	Once the interviews have concluded, give students time to review and reflect on what they have learned from the interview and interview process. Depending on time and resources, have students do an informal share out of what they have learned or they can create a presentation (i.e. slideshow) of the new historical evidence they have gathered from the interview.
Historical Context	No specific historical context is required to complete this activity. If you would like ideas on who your students can interview, you may consult the Lake Country Museum for historical readings and archival materials.
Further Inquiry	<p><i>Field Trip Suggestions:</i></p> <p>The Lake Country Museum and Archives 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>