

JANE SWALWELL & HELPING YOUR COMMUNITY

ELEMENTARY SOCIAL STUDIES



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

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW:

1. Students will learn about past Lake Country resident Jane Swalwell and the ways she significantly contributed to her community
2. Students will then think of ways they can positively impact their school community and (if possible) take action!



BIG IDEA: Our roles are important for building strong communities; individuals have rights & responsibilities as global citizens.

COMPETENCY:

Significance, cause & consequence, ethical judgement

CONTENT:

Roles in the local community, the history of the local community & of local First Peoples communities, rights and responsibilities of individuals regionally & globally

WHAT WILL WE KNOW:

- The significance of Jane Swalwell on her community
- Ways we can make positive impacts in our community

FURTHER INQUIRY:

Field Trip Suggestions

1. Swalwell Park
2. 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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Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society

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Jane Swalwell & Helping Your Community

Learning Objective(s)	By learning about the life and legacy of Lake Country resident Jane Swalwell, students will explore how individuals, including themselves, can make significant impacts on their community.
Suggested Grades	Elementary
ACTIVITY	
Materials	<p>Required materials depends on how far into the activity you go. At minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pencils, pens, markers for writing • Poster <p>Depending on the issue your class chooses, you may require more materials. For example, if your issue is litter in the schoolyard, a clean-up project would require gloves and garbage bags, maybe even some posters asking for other classes to get involved.</p>
Introduction	<p>After learning about the life of Jane Swalwell, prompt students to think about how they can make an impact in their community. For the purpose of this lesson the school will act in the role of the community. Have students identify a few issues within their school community. Depending on the age, you may need to guide them with a few examples or questions to get them started:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a problem within the school? (i.e. litter, bullying, helping students feel welcomed, recycling programs) • Who does this problem affect? • How can I help?
Finding ways to make a positive impact	<p>Have the students split into groups and choose an issue to focus on. If students find they need more information on their chosen issue and/or how to help, have them conduct some research. Searching the library for books or asking other teacher/staff members for their input is a great way for them to practice their inquiry skills.</p> <p>Next, have the students begin working towards a solution. Have your students come up with a game plan on how they would address the issue and prepare a poster to share their ideas with the class. If possible, have them go out and take action (i.e. if they chose litter, have them conduct a schoolyard clean-up). By the end of the activity, students should have an increased awareness of their significance in their community. Imagine all that could be done if all those plans came to fruition!</p>
Historical Context	Link to video narration

	<p>Eliza Jane Swalwell was born December 14, 1868. Her father was George William Simpson, a devout Christian who never left anywhere without his Bible, and her mother was Sara Stepesta, a prominent member of the Syilx nation. Eliza was proud of her family heritage. She was a fluent speaker of both English and Nsyilx’cen, which is no small accomplishment!</p> <p>At the time of Jane’s birth, George and Sarah Simpson were living in what is now Vernon. The Simpson family moved to the south end of Duck Lake in 1870 where they lived until 1872 when the Postill family purchased that property and the Simpsons then moved to the south on Old Vernon Road, near what is now the Kelowna Springs Golf Course.</p> <p>Jane Simpson was married twice: (1) Thomas Jones on April 6, 1884; (2) William Pellissier on May 10, 1895. She had one child, Thomas William Jones, by her first husband. She kept close ties with her extended family (including the families of her siblings) and the community in the Duck Lake Reserve #7.</p> <p>Winfield was a relatively small community, and Eliza was a huge part of it. Her main focus was always on the families of the area. One of her jobs was assisting the local midwife by helping to deliver babies. After, Eliza would care for the mothers and their newborn babies.</p> <p>In her spare time, Eliza was a talented writer and student of history. One of her neighbours, Mrs. Powley, frequently went to Eliza for help compiling the local history of Winfield. She shared important facts such as the Nsyilx’cen names for places around the area, such as the name for Wood Lake being Pelmewash. One of her most well-known pieces of writing is titled <i>Girlhood Days in the Okanagan (p.34)</i>, a well thought out and reflective piece on life in her time and Indigenous issues. In Eliza’s writing she wrote about her own experiences growing up in the Okanagan. Her writing showed us that Jane was quite the adept rider and horse handler; able to hold her own against any cowboy of the day. She even told stories about what cowboys were really like. To Eliza, cowboys were humble people who tried to be polite to all people. She was also extremely insightful towards matters involving the treatment of First Nation’s people, speaking for an equality that was almost unheard of in her time. She wrote in detail against the unfair treatment the First Nation’s peoples received at the hands of the provincial government.</p> <p>Community meant quite a lot to Eliza. She made a point to be involved, whether that was through her job helping deliver babies or through her skills as a writer. She wanted to make a big impact in the lives of those around her. Because of that, we know for certain Eliza Jane Swalwell was a significant individual.</p>
<p>Further Inquiry</p>	<p><u><i>Field Trip Suggestions:</i></u></p> <p>Swalwell Park in Lake Country – 9950 Bottom Wood Lake Rd. The park is a great location for outdoor activities and is within walking distance of Peter Greer Elementary school. The historical significance is also</p>

relevant as it was named after Jane Swalwell in 1992 in honor of her memory and the role she played in the community. The house she had built once stood near the entrance of where the park is today.

For further reading on Jane Swalwell, please visit the following link:

[The House that Jane Built](#)

[The Lake Country Museum and Archives](#)

The Museum has a wide range of exhibits and activities for your class to take advantage of. There is also a playground and field behind the building and the lake nearby that students can make use of for various activities.

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.