

LAND DEVELOPMENT IN THE OKANAGAN

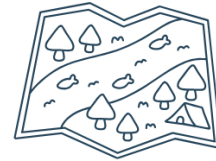
SECONDARY SOCIAL STUDIES



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

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW:

1. History of early land development, including subdivision and irrigation, in Lake Country and the Okanagan
2. Students will then compare aerial photographs of the Okanagan to see how the landscape has changed overtime
 - a. Discussion questions are provided to help develop student understanding



BIG IDEA: The physical environment influences the nature of political, social, & economic change; The historical development of cities has been shaped by geographic, economic, political, & social factors; Decision making in urban/regional planning requires balancing political, economic, social, & environmental factors; Human activities alter landscapes in a variety of ways.

COMPETENCY:

Sense of place, evidence & interpretation, interactions & associations, significance, continuity & change, cause & consequence, ethical judgement

CONTENT:

Physiographic features of Canada & geological processes; historic settlement patterns in urban centres; decision making in the planning of cities and regions; contemporary issues in urban studies; factors behind increased urbanization & its influence on societies & environments; relationships between natural resources & patterns of population settlement and economic development.

WHAT WILL WE KNOW:

- History of Okanagan land development
- Exploration on pros/cons of further land development

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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Land Development in the Okanagan

Learning Objective(s)	Students will learn about the growth of Lake Country and the Okanagan by analyzing current and historical aerial photographs to strengthen their understanding of how landscapes change over time due to human development.
Suggested Grades	Secondary
ACTIVITY	
Materials	This activity can be completed as a class using the teacher’s computer and a projector, or individually if students have access to laptops.
Historical Map Analysis	<p>Using historical aerial photographs from the Regional District of the Central Okanagan, students will make notes of the changes to the landscape. Where has housing development increased? Is there more or less farmland? What has changed the most significantly?</p> <p>Students will then answer (some) the following questions (can be done in a worksheet, shoulder partner/small group discussion, or class discussion):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were the primary drivers that appear to have shaped the landscape in the earlier photographs? The current photographs? • In what ways have Indigenous practices been altered by settler land development? • How could the conversion of natural areas to agriculture or urban areas have disrupted the local ecosystem? • How could changes in land use have impacted local economies? • How could changes in land use have impacted community identity? • Have certain areas seen more development than others? How does that impact people/animals living there? <p>Now, direct the class to begin thinking towards the future. Reflecting on their findings when investigating past and current aerial maps, have them consider the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you were to look at a map of the Okanagan 50 years in the future, what changes do you think you will see? • How could land use changes exacerbate risks, such as flooding, droughts, fires, etc.?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some ways community planners can accommodate growth while minimizing negative impacts to the community/environment?
<p>Historical Context</p>	<p>In 1892, two brothers, Homer and Vincent Maddock, bought thousands of acres of land in the Okanagan. The land stretched south from the Rainbow Ranch to McKinley’s Landing, and east to the flats of Winfield. Despite the brothers being absentee owners in the beginning (they lived in eastern Canada), they were active in the development of the area. They moved to the Okanagan in 1906.</p> <p>The Maddock Brothers sold their land to the <i>Trusts and Guarantee Co. Ltd. of Toronto</i> in 1907. This company set up the <i>Okanagan Valley Land Company Ltd.</i> and the <i>Okanagan Centre Irrigation and Power Company Ltd.</i> to develop, subdivide, and sell the Maddock Brothers’ land. Property was sold as 10 and 20 acre lots, with larger lots for apple orchards. The lots sold to build homes in Okanagan Centre were quite narrow at only 25 metres wide.</p> <p>At the time, there was no water source for the bench lands in Okanagan Centre. The wind-powered pumps did not have the power to transport water long distances. So, the Okanagan Valley Land Company decided to run a water line from Beaver Lake and by 1909, Okanagan Centre and Winfield had its first irrigation system.</p>
<p>Further Inquiry</p>	<p><u>Suggested Sources:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flume: The Story of the Original Irrigation System in Oyama (YouTube) • Winfield Memories Video (YouTube) <p><u>Field Trip Suggestions:</u></p> <p>The Lake Country Museum and Archives has a wide range of exhibits and activities for your class to explore. 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>