

STAGECOACH ROAD CHALLENGE

ELEMENTARY SOCIAL STUDIES



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

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW:

1. Students will learn about how the differing perspectives of the land influenced the evolution of transportation in the Okanagan
 - a. Indigenous travelling paths → Stagecoach Road → Highway 97
2. Students will then build their own stagecoaches to pull through a path while learning about the technological changes related to transportation



BIG IDEA: Canada is made up of many diverse regions & communities; We shape the local environment, the local environment shapes who we are & how we live; Interactions between First Peoples & Europeans lead to conflict & cooperation, which continues to shape Canada's identity.

COMPETENCY:

Inquiry processes, significance of place, historical perspectives, continuity & change

CONTENT:

Diverse...perspectives within the local communities; key events/developments in the local community; how people's needs & wants are met in communities; relationships between people & the environment in different communities

WHAT WILL WE KNOW:

- Understand how the Syilx Okanagan & settlers approached transportation
- See how transportation (roads, vehicles) has changed overtime

FURTHER INQUIRY:

Field Trip Suggestions

1. Pelmeash Parkway
2. 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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Stagecoach Road Challenge

Learning Objective(s)	To learn about the two different approaches of the Syilx Okanagan People and early settlers took in interacting with the environment, as well as the evolution of the stagecoach road. Students will then design their own stagecoach to move down a road with obstacles.
Suggested Grades	Elementary
ACTIVITY	
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Popsicle sticks • Wood glue or another adhesive • Cardboard • A few circular things for wheels (bottlecaps, milk caps, CDs, etc) <i>*each group will need 4 wheels</i> • Skewers or other thin wooden rods for the stagecoach axles <i>*each group will need 2</i> • String • Sheet of paper to make paper dolls <p>You can also reference a step-by-step stagecoach making guide here</p>
Introduction	<p>Before beginning the activity, have a plan in place for what obstacles the stagecoach road you build will have. This activity can be completed in the classroom using class supplies or outside using chalk, rocks, and other things that can found on the playground.</p> <p>After sharing the story of the old stagecoach road with the class and asking some discussion questions (included in background info), inform the students that their goal for this activity is to build a stagecoach that can both hold 2 passengers (paper dolls, which they can draw and cut out themselves), and make it down a road by pulling their stagecoach with a string, without losing a passenger or breaking in the process.</p> <p>Begin the activity with a discussion on how people could have travelled between Vernon and Kelowna before cars were invented. What transport methods were used? What would the paths have looked like back then?</p>
Building & testing the stagecoaches	Hand out the materials and give students time to work. It is a good idea to have the road prepared in advance to allow students who complete their stagecoach early time to test the route. If they are not successful, encourage them by asking how they can reconfigure parts of the stagecoach to have a successful run.

	<p>Once everyone has completed their stagecoaches, have each one test the road. Because part of this activity is about how we interact with the environment, if the class decides that the ‘people’ driving their stagecoaches can move obstacles, have them come up with realistic reasons why.</p>
<p>Debrief</p>	<p>When the class has completed the activity, consider asking the following questions to debrief:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What went well? What proved to be difficult? • How was travelling via stagecoach different than travelling today? • What are some pros and cons to past and present transportation?
<p>Historical Context</p>	<p>Link to video narration</p> <p>Today, if we wanted to drive from Kelowna to Vernon how would we get there? For most people, they would use a car and drive along the Highway -- a smooth paved road meant for a car to travel very quickly from one place to the other. What would that trip look like 100 years ago? The same route would have been used, but it would have looked very different!</p> <p>The Okanagan Syilx people, the first people to live in the Okanagan Valley, made use of a route that followed the edges of all the lakes between Kelowna and Vernon. This route today would be known as Highway 97, but back then it was called the <i>Stagecoach Road</i>. When the Oyama Canal was built in 1908, the water levels in Wood Lake dropped by about 4 feet, this exposed a natural shelf along the lake that was then developed into an easier road route. This lakeshore route is along the area that is now known as the Pelmeash Parkway. Ranchers, settlers, and Syilx people all used the same route going up and down the valley. How they used it was very different though!</p> <p>The Syilx people moved with the environment, traveling along natural pathways to reach their destination to suit the needs of their people. The early settlers, in contrast, worked to make the land adapt to their needs. Building roads and cutting routes to other settlements to make travel easier and faster between communities. For example, if there was a hill, the Syilx people would go over or around it while the settlers would try to flatten it to make it easier to travel over. The Syilx people tried to keep the environment as it is, changing as little as possible. However, the settlers were eager to repurpose the land around them. Late in the nineteenth century, the BC Government selected the route as one of the Okanagan’s first roadways and was completed by 1875. The road went south from Vernon over the Commonage and along Kalamalka Lake through to the Mission in</p>

	<p>Kelowna. The upper section of the route through Lake Country went from what is now Okanagan Centre Road East in Winfield to the Old Mission Road in Oyama.</p> <p>Today, the most common way of travel is by car or by bus. Back then, traveling the Stagecoach Road would have been done most commonly with a horse and a stagecoach. A stagecoach is sort of like a car, but instead of it being powered by gasoline or electricity it was pulled by horses. Riding in one would certainly make for a bumpier ride than being in a car. Not to mention, road trips in a stagecoach would take significantly longer.</p> <p>(Excerpt from Lake Country: Origins in Time and Place, A Teacher's Guide)</p> <p>A lot has changed between now and then. The Stagecoach Road is now a highway. The route has even changed some, such as replacing the Pelmewash Parkway with a part of the highway that goes up over the hill. However, a lot has still stayed the same.</p>
<p>Further Inquiry</p>	<p><i>Field Trip Suggestions:</i></p> <p>Field Trip to Pelmewash Parkway</p> <p>A newly developed bike and walk-way located along Wood Lake. It follows along parts of the old Stagecoach road and the old Highway 97, and also serves as an example of how people continue to interact and alter the environment. Historical origins can be found on the Museum's Pelmewash Parkway blog post. Questions you can ask your students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Is the Parkway an example of making something that goes with the environment, or an example of changing the environment to meet your needs? Why? ● How does the Parkway meet the needs of the local community today? <p>The Lake Country Museum and Archives</p> <p>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.</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>