

Using Children's Literature in the Geography Classroom

**A workshop by Doug Koegler
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Why Children's Literature?

1. Sets a Tone or Atmosphere
2. Learn to Read Pictures
3. Provide a Springboard to Discussion
4. More Appropriate for Older Students
5. Focus on a Single Topic - depth vs breadth
6. Written at Two Levels - one for children and one for adults
7. Appeals to Different Styles of Learning
8. Model for Student Reporting
9. Opportunities for Integration
10. End Up with a Great Set of Books for your Grandkids

Strategies:

1. Window and Home:

- changing landscape
- urbanization

2. Newfoundland

- The Killick
- Hold On McGuinty
- The Fishing Summer
- Duncan's Way

3. Expand to Atlantic Provinces

- An Island Alphabet
- Halifax ABC
- A Fiddle For Angus
- Seaside Alphabet
- Bud The Spud

4. ABC Books

- develop the theme of 'place'
- use for key terms and ideas
- read the pictures
- model for reporting/culminating activities

5. Quebec

- The Hockey Sweater
- metaphor for English French relations

6. If you're not from the Prairie....

- organizer for group work or jigsaw
- break pages into basic components
- supplement with additional children's books, and articles from Canadian Geographic, music, etc.

7. Native Issues

- Elders are Watching
- Song Within My Heart
- Qu'Appelle
- Shamen's Apprentice
- As Long As The Rivers Flow

8. Environmental Issues

- The Lorax
- The Kapok Tree
- River Ran Wild
- Wolf Island

9. Physical Geography

- Earth Songs
- Mountain Dance - other books by Locker
- On The Same Day In March - climate differences
- Living Geography

10. World Issues

- The Lorax
- The Butter Battle Book
- Kapok Tree / Shamin's Apprentice
- If the Earth Were a Few Feet In Diameter
- If the World Were a Village

11. Geographical Skills / Concepts

- There's a Map on My Lap!
- The Librarian Who Measured the Earth
- Heartland / Heartland- A Prairie Sampler
- developing the 5 themes

12. Professional Readings

- Educational Leadership November 2002
- The Gift of Reading
- I Read It But I Don't Get It

Children's Literature in the Geography Classroom

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