

Session-Related Internet Resources***Canada and the Great Depression***

1. **Canada Year Book Historical Collection (Statistics Canada ‘Teacher’s Toolbox’ Activity/Lesson Plan)**
<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/kits-trousses/projet-cyber-project/depression-grandecrise1-eng.htm>
Students will explore five different sets of data from the Canada Year Book 1937 to reach conclusions about the effects of the worldwide depression on Canadians. After working in small groups, students will recapitulate some of the indicators of the Great Depression with the class. The students will create either a cartoon or letter to the editor of a newspaper describing the problems and recommending a way out.
2. **The Canadian Birth Control Movement on Trial**
<http://hssh.journals.yorku.ca/index.php/hssh/article/viewFile/38282/34685>
Did you realize that the Depression initiated a movement for birth control? The economic crisis had put thousands of unemployed people on relief and raised fears about family-size among the middle class. A birth control movement emerged in Canada with the formation of several clinics and agencies devoted to the dissemination of information of birth control and, ultimately, it was economic motives which helped legitimize birth control. This article serves as a comprehensive background.
3. **Canadians Suffer** <http://www.cbc.ca/history/SECTIONSE1EP13CH1LE.html>
Desperate times settle over Canada as it was one of the hardest hit by the economic crisis. Multiple articles are included here that go into depth about how Canadian’s suffered during the Great Depression.
4. **The Dust Bowl** <http://www.cbc.ca/history/EPISCONTENTSE1EP13CH1PA2LE.html>
During the 1930s, drought and economic depression forced prairie farmers to abandon their farms to find work in the cities. A story is shared by Anne Bailey where her and her family personally experience the destructive dust bowl.
5. **Grade 10 Lesson Plan: The Great Depression (Unit 2 of History of Canada curricula at Limestone School District)**
<http://fcweb.limestone.on.ca/~stridef/History%20of%20Canada/Unit%202%20-%20Lesson%207%20-%20Facts%20and%20Political%20Solutions.pdf>
Public access is available to this lesson plan for teaching about the Great Depression era in Canada. It should align well with many state standards and is definitely worth considering for use in U.S. classrooms as well as new curriculum development.
6. **The Great Depression (2:29 Video and Text)** <http://www.canadahistoryproject.ca/1930s>
This serves as an excellent (though brief) introduction to the Depression era in Canada.
7. **The Great Depression of Canada**
<http://www.yesnet.yk.ca/schools/projects/canadianhistory/depression/depression.html>
Throughout the 1929-1939 period, Canada was one of the worst affected countries in a world-wide Depression. Financially and economically, the country began to collapse regardless of what was done by political power. In Canada, the Wall Street Stock Market Crash was preceded by the enormous 1928 wheat crop crash. Due to this, many people were already out of work and money and food began to run low. At that time, 60% of men and 82% of women had incomes less than \$1000 a year. Then the gross national product fell from \$6.1 billion in 1929 to \$3.5 billion in 1933 and the value of industrial production halved. Unfortunately for the well-being of Canada's economy, prices continued to plummet even faster... The Great Depression in Canada, also known as The Dirty Thirties, effected everyone in some way. Learn about the roles played by Mackenzie King and Richard Bennett, the establishment of relief camps, and how Canadians in different regions of the country were affected.
8. **Impacts on the Working Class** <http://www.heritage.nf.ca/articles/politics/depression-impacts.php>
The Newfoundland and Labrador Heritage Website is an ambitious, non-commercial, public history project that aims to provide school students and the general public with a wide range of authoritative information on the province's history, culture, and geography. This site explains the effects of the Great Depression on families and how many people were unemployed.
9. **Nine-Hour Movement**
<http://rankandfile.ca/2013/08/14/the-nine-hour-movement-how-civil-disobedience-made-unions-legal>
The Nine-Hour Movement—dedicated to securing the nine-hour day through collective protest and strike action—gained much support in many towns in Canada.

Session-Related Internet Resources**10. On the Anniversary of Black Tuesday**

<http://www.cbc.ca/strombo/news/black-tuesday-stock-market-crash-great-depression>

This site provides an open gallery with a look at some scenes from the Depression era in Canada from people living in unemployment "relief camps" to demonstrations on the streets of Vancouver and Toronto.

11. Ontario Ottawa Trek/Regina Riot <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/on-to-ottawa-trekregina-riot>

During the Great Depression there were relief camps, later referred to by slave camps by those who lived there. These camps became somewhat of a symbol of Ottawa's lack of concern for the unemployed. Tensions rose, in which caused the Ottawa Trek and soon after the Regina Riot.

12. Rethinking the Great Depression <http://reviewcanada.ca/magazine/2014/06/rethinking-the-great-depression>

This essay by Edward Whitcomb in the Literary Review of Canada questions why Canadians suffered so greatly during the 1930s and why more wasn't done to avoid causes of the Great Depression. Analytical and informative reading.

A FEW READING RESOURCES

- **Recommended Youth Fiction** (https://tc2.ca/uploads/CIDA/Bibliographies/historical_fiction_bibliography.pdf)
 - Hunter, Bernice Thurman. Trilogy—*That Scatterbrain Booky* (1981), *With Love from Booky* (1983), *As Ever, Booky* (1985). Booky and her loving family cope with unemployment and poverty in Toronto.
 - Kurelek, William. (1973). *A Prairie Boy's Winter*; (1975). *A Prairie Boy's Summer*.
 - Mitchell, W.O. (1947). *Who Has Seen the Wind?* Canadian classic depicts life on the prairies during the Depression.
 - Morck, Irene. (1999). *Five Pennies: A Prairie Boy's Story*. Morck gives a loving portrayal of her father's life as a member of a large family living on farms in Saskatchewan and Alberta from 1916-1939.
 - Yee, Paul. (1994). *Breakaway*. Describes financial hardship and racial intolerance from point of view of Kwok-Ken Wong, an eighteen-year-old Chinese soccer player living on a mudflat farm by the Fraser River during the Great Depression.
- **Adult Fiction** [Dr. Bruce Meyer, University of Toronto, School of Continuing Studies - www.cbc.ca/history/GENCONTSE4EP99CH2PA3LE.html]
 - Baird, Irene. (1939). *Waste Heritage*. Set in an anonymous western Canadian city during the Depression, this novel examines the impact of hopelessness and unemployment on a group of young men.
 - Callaghan, Morley. (1934). *Such Is My Beloved*. In this remarkable story of a young priest in Toronto who attempts to attend to the needs of his flock despite the pressures of society and his own church, Callaghan depicts the struggle of the spirit during this period of economic hardship. This is a most remarkable and readable Canadian novel.
 - Hay, Elizabeth. (2001). *A Student of Weather*. The story of the enduring conflict between two sisters and the man who first walks into their lives when they are young. Spanning just over thirty years, the novel begins in the Prairie dust bowl of the 1930s, and later in the decades following the war, moves back and forth between Ottawa and New York City.
 - Huston, Nancy. (1993). *Plainsong*. A haunting portrait of prairie endurance.
- **Non-Fiction** [Dr. Bruce Meyer, University of Toronto, School of Continuing Studies - www.cbc.ca/history/GENCONTSE4EP99CH2PA3LE.html#top]
 - Berton, Pierre. (1990). *The Great Depression: 1929-1939*. [Non-Fiction] Berton gives a remarkable, detailed, thorough, and readably narrative account of an important and often overlooked period in Canadian history.
 - Fetherling, Douglas. (1989). *Gold Diggers of 1929: Canada and the Great Stock Market Crash*. [Non-Fiction] This poignant panorama of the events surrounding the Stock Market Crash of 1929 and its impact on Toronto is a readable and highly literate account of the way in which Canadian society responded to the enormous economic crisis that triggered the Great Depression.