Lesson #8: Biography Assignment

Generalization: People in the community contribute to change

Concepts: Contribution

Related Facts and Content: People in the community contribute to change. Ways an individual can contribute to change

Knowledge Objective: Gain understanding of the various people within and around Edmonton who have made important contributions to their communities

Skill Objectives: Identify possible sources and location of information, acquire information by listening to or reading simple historical accounts, arrange events, facts and or ideas in sequence, compare information gained from two different sources to see if it is similar or different, generate ways an individual can influence change and identify and assess the choices an individual has about whether to accept or reject change

Communication Skills: Write a journal/diary entry about an important individual in your community's past; compose a title for a story/paragraph

Attitude Objective: Self-competence; an individual can influence change

Cross Curriculum Connections

Language Arts Curriculum: Find information to answer research questions, using a variety of sources. Experiment with arranging and recording ideas and information in a variety of ways. Try out ways of generating and organizing ideas prior to creating oral, print and other media. Review information to determine its usefulness in answering research questions. Draft ideas and information into short paragraphs, with topic and supporting sentences. List significant ideas and information you have acquired from oral, print and other media. Record the facts and ideas you find while using a variety of strategies and then list the titles and authors of your sources.

ICT Outcomes: Access and retrieve appropriate information from electronic sources for a specific inquiry. Summarize data by picking key words from gathered information and by using jottings, point form or retelling. Draw conclusions from organized information.

Make predictions based on organized information. Read information from a prepared database.

Main Lesson

Discuss with students what a biography is. Can they think of any biographical books that they may have seen in the library or bookstore? What about on television? Have they watched any biography programs?
Write the following names on small strips of paper:

- John Rowand
- John Walter
- Emily Murphy
- John McDougall
- Martin Nordegg
- Vern Hunter
- Olive Ross
- John Calihoo
- Marie-Anne Lagimodiere
- Grant MacEwan
- Alex Decouteau

Arrange the students into groups of two. Working with his or her partner, each student will choose a piece of paper out of a hat/container, each piece containing a different name. The students will study one of the important individuals in Edmonton's past and write a small biography on them. The students must write two or three paragraphs that share information about their individual lives and how they made a difference in their community. Students may choose to write their paragraphs in journal/diary format. The students must also include at least two pictures of the person they are writing the biography about.

Students can begin their search in the Biographies section of the Student Zone. The Picture Gallery section will contain pictures of the individuals from the biography section. The Web Links and Book Fair sections will provide students with additional resources.