

DIVISION I LESSON PLAN — WHO WAS ALEX DECOTEAU?

Barbara Draginda Delton School February, 2003

OBJECTIVES

- Comprehend and respond personally and critically to oral, print and other media texts relating to Alex Decoteau
- Understand why Alex Decoteau is considered an extraordinary man, and why there is an Annual Alex Decoteau Run

MATERIALS

- The Alex Decoteau Heritage EduKit
- "The Song Within My Heart" Paintings by Allen Sapp, Story by David Bouchard
- Chart paper/felt pen
- Descriptive Paragraph Organizer A or B

ANTICIPATORY SET

1. Read "The Song Within My Heart" and explain to the students that the pictures in the story are actually copies of paintings by the artist Allen Sapp. Give a brief background about Alien Sapp (see book jacket), establishing that he is a Cree Elder who grew up on the Red Pheasant Reserve in Saskatchewan. Tell the students that they are going to learn about another man who was born on the Red Pheasant Reserve (** A brief discussion about Aboriginal People may be necessary, depending on the background of the students).
2. Inform the students that they will be attending a very special event in May, called "The Alex Decoteau Run". Explain that the purpose of this lesson is to answer the questions: "Who was Alex Decoteau?" and "Why is there an Annual Alex Decoteau Run?"

PROCEDURE

Use a KWL chart to generate information about Alex Decoteau. Fill out the first column, "What I Know" (K).

Show students the Historical Photographs and Artifacts (from the Alex Decoteau EduKit). (This will hopefully arouse curiosity in the children!)

Complete the second column of the KWL chart, "What I Want to Know" (W).

Share the following with the students (from the Alex Decoteau EduKit): *The Life and Times of Alex Decoteau* (time line), *Frequently Asked Questions* on Alex Decoteau and *The Story of the Violin*.

Provide enough information to ensure that *most* students will be able to generate answers to the questions posed at the beginning of the lesson.

CLOSURE

Complete the final column of the KWL chart, "What I learned" (L). Orally answer the questions, "Who was Alex Decoteau?" and "Why is there an Annual Alex Decoteau Run ?"

EVALUATION

Have students write about Alex Decoteau, using the Descriptive Paragraph Organizer A or B.

MODIFICATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Complete the Organizer with the students (in a Guided Writing group). Allow for oral retellings and drawings as well.

Descriptive Paragraph Organizer A

Title:
Introduction: Opening Sentence (general statement about the topic)
Idea 1
Idea 2
Idea 3
Idea 4

Conclusion: Closing Sentence (summary sentence about the topic)

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Descriptive Paragraph Organizer B

Title:
Introduction: Opening Sentence (general statement about the topic)
Idea 1
Idea 2
Idea 3
Idea 4

Conclusion: Closing Sentence (summary sentence about the topic)

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