

LESSON PLAN

OBJECTIVE

- Become familiar with at least five events in Alex Decoteau's life
- Be able to recall them chronologically.

MATERIALS

- Video or written biography of Alex Decoteau's life (included in the DOC or PDF file)
- 5"x8" sheets of paper, 5 per each group of 2-4 children
- Markers, 1 per group
- Pencils, 1 per child
- 6"x14" sheets of paper for timeline, 1 per child
- Crayons, felt markers or pencil crayons, 1 package per child
- Sticky tack

ANTICIPATORY SET

With the children, discuss important events in their own lives. What makes these events important? (Hint: the events change their lives, they are turning points, they are 'firsts', they are beginnings of something new)

PROCEDURE

Explain to the students they will learn about important events in the life of a famous Canadian, Alex Decoteau, and that the class will select important events and create a timeline of his life.

Show the video or read the biography, or have them read it independently (depending on the age and ability).

Divide students into small groups and have them write, in large letters, using the markers and 5"x8" paper, five important events in Alex Decoteau's life.

As a class, use the sticky tack and the blackboard to place the events along a timeline drawn on the board. Dates may be included on the timeline. If two or more groups have the same event, stick them on top of each other.

Ask the children to select what they consider to be the five most important events and create their own illustrated timeline of Alex Decoteau's life on the 6"x14" paper.

CLOSURE

Children may present their timelines to the class, or compare their own life to that of Alex Decoteau

EVALUATION

ACHIVEMENT

A	Timeline has all five of the following criteria <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Events are well described and in correct order2. Events are well illustrated and in correct order3. Timeline is neat, complete, and contains correct capitalization, sentence structure, grammar, punctuation and spelling4. Timeline is colored neatly5. Timeline contains a title, date and student's name
---	--

B	Timeline has four of the above criteria complete
C	Timeline has three of the above criteria complete
D	Timeline has two or less of the above criteria complete

EFFORT

A	Student contributes, participates and encourages others during all stages of the lesson.
B	Student contributes, participates and encourages others during most stages of the lesson.
C	Student contributes, participates and encourages others during some stages of the lesson.
D	Student contributes, participates and encourages others during few or none of the stages of the lesson.

MODIFICATIONS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS

Choose more or fewer events for the timeline and illustrate the timeline only.

Pair with a more able student to complete the difficult sections of the project.

Decoteau, Alex Wuttunee



BIOGRAPHY- Decoteau, Alex Wuttunee

Alex Wuttunee Decoteau was born in December, 1887 on the Red Pheasant Reserve, located south of the North Saskatchewan River. He attended the Battleford Industrial School and learned to play such sports as boxing, cricket and football (soccer). The death of his father on February 3, 1891 would cause Alex to remain in school, and later to live with his sister and brother-in-law in Edmonton.

Alex's first race was a one-miler at Fort Saskatchewan on May 24, 1909 in which he came second. On June 29, 1909, Alex won his second competitive race, which was a five-mile feature at the Edmonton Exhibition. Two days later in Lloydminster Alex set a new Western Canadian record in the same event in 27.45.2. Alex would go on to win numerous races throughout Alberta and Saskatchewan. On July 1, 1910 Alex entered the Alberta Provincial Championships in Lethbridge and emerged victorious in the four events he entered - the five mile, the two mile, the one mile, and the half mile. At the Montreal AAA grounds Alex defeated the field in the 5000 meter event, in the time of 15.17.4 to become the only Saskatchewan or Alberta athlete to qualify for the 1912 Olympic games in Stockholm, Sweden. In Stockholm he finished sixth in the 5000 m final. He experienced severe leg cramps early in the final. Alex continued to run after the Olympics and set two Alberta provincial records in the one and two mile events on July 1, 1914.

Beyond Sport Alex

- Became a member of the Edmonton Police Department in 1909 and is recognized as the first full-blooded Aboriginal person to join a municipal police force in Canada.
- Was promoted to Sergeant on April 11, 1914 and was in charge of the No.4 Police Station on 102 Avenue and 121 Street.
- Has the distinction of being one of the 1st motorcycle policeman in Edmonton.
- He was inducted into the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame.
- In 1916 he joined the 200th Sportsman Battalion and was later transferred to the 49th Edmonton Regiment. On the 30th of October, 1917 Alex Wuttunee Decoteau was killed at the Battle of Passchendaele by a sniper's bullet. He was 30 years old.

Text courtesy of the Saskatchewan Indian First Nations Sports Hall of Fame

Photographer: Date: ca 1930 Copyright: Over 50 yrs. (Order from SPIN.)

Please send comments to [Saskatoon Public Library](#)