WEB QUEST #2: Cultural Heroes

TEACHER INFORMATION
This Web Quest was developed as part of the Alex Decoteau Heritage Edukit, an online teacher resource.

Ideas for Social Studies

Community
Local Hero/Role Model: (Grade 3: Topic A: My Community in the Past, Present and Future)
o Contribution
o Reflection about values (voluntary actions reflect the moral or ethical standards, the values, of a culture at a particular point in time)
o Courage, perseverance, compassion, honesty, tolerance
o Promote a vision of the possibilities for heroism within each of us (responsible citizenship)
o Expresses values through self-sacrificing acts that benefit others and the community, the hero's selfless contributions to the common good
o Accurate and balanced in presenting both positive and negative aspects of the person's life, judgments made at first in terms of the culture of that person's time and place

Grade 3: Topic C: Special Communities
o Customs/traditions, change, respect
o Can we keep our customs and traditions and still be members of a larger group?
o Should people keep their customs and traditions; e.g., language, celebration of holidays, traditional dress, traditional forms of shelter?
o Should individual differences affect how people treat each other?
o Should people in special communities be allowed to live as they want?

Aboriginal Communities (Grade 4: Topic B: Alberta: Its People in History)
o Lifestyle
o What was the Aboriginal People's way of life before the arrival of Europeans?
o How did the Europeans influence the Aboriginal People's way of life; e.g., livelihood, family life and political structure?

Culture (Grade 7: Topic A: Culture)
o Socialization, beliefs/values, role
o How do members of our cultural groups express their individuality?
o To what extent should individuals be expected to conform to a culture?
o How should we respond to change within our culture?
o How do family, school and the community influence individuals?
o How do customs, traditions and laws influence our way of life?
o How do beliefs and values in a community affect its institutions?

(Grade 7: Topic C: Canada: A Bilingual and Multicultural Country)
o Cultural heritage, cultural groups, multiculturalism
o How does one's cultural heritage influence one's way of life?
o How have different cultural groups adapted to life in Canada?
o How does multiculturalism influence the Canadian way of life?

Drama - Speech writing, Improvisation/Acting - Play by Charlotte Cameron
Music - War Songs
English - Biography, letter writing, short story, news article, scrapbook, diary, poster making
Suggested Pre-Activities

INTRODUCTION

It is November 19th, the birth date of the famous local Aboriginal running legend Alex Decoteau. The city has selected you and a team of historians to conduct a research mission to preserve and share Alex Decoteau’s life story for the city’s history day celebration. The city believes he was a heroic person who contributed positively to the common good. You will complete activities that highlight the following areas of Alex Decoteau's life: family history, athletic legacy, cultural experiences and military career.

TASK

You are a local historian who has been selected by the city to conduct a research mission. You and your team members will research the history and life experiences of the great Aboriginal runner Alex Decoteau for your city's history day celebration. You will need to research and analyze primary and secondary sources such as documents, artifacts and photographs in order to complete the following activities.

PROCEDURE

1. Each person in your group is to select one of the following research sections: family history, athletic legacy, cultural experiences and military career. Use the Topic Selection Worksheet help select and focus your topic.

2. You will be working with primary and secondary sources, read about the differences between both and what you can do with them.

Reading a Primary Source
This information on primary sources describes what they are and questions to think when interpreting them.

Reading a Secondary Source
This information on secondary sources describes how to use them efficiently and effectively.

3. Reference materials for each section are included below.

Family History
You will be responsible in compiling information on Alex Decoteau’s family history by answering questions, researching about residential schools and creating a basic family tree.

Alex Decoteau's Family History Worksheet
Use this worksheet to compile information on Alex Decoteau's family history (MS Word)

Schoolnet: Residential Schools
This site provides background information on residential schools and their past role

Family Tree Template
Create a family tree for Alex Decoteau using this template (MS Word)

Athletic Legacy
You will be responsible in compiling information on Alex Decoteau's athletic legacy by answering questions, completing a journal entry, and creating an historic monument.

Alex Decoteau's Athletic Legacy
Use this worksheet to compile information on Alex Decoteau's athletic legacy (MS Word)

Travel Journal
Use this worksheet to create a journal entry about one of Alex Decoteau's athletic competitions (MS Word)
A Historic Tribute
Create a historic monument, medal, trophy or sculpture to celebrate Decoteau's athletic achievements (MS Word)

Cultural Experiences
You will be responsible in compiling information on Alex Decoteau's cultural experiences by answering questions and researching how heroes can be carriers of culture.

Heroes as Carriers of Culture
A worksheet about how Decoteau's cultural heritage reflects his heroic qualities (MS Word)

Alex Decoteau's Cultural Experiences
A short reading on how Decoteau's cultural experiences shaped his identity (MS Word)

Cultural Experiences Questions
Questions from the reading "Alex Decoteau's Cultural Experiences" (MS Word)

Military Career
You will be responsible in compiling information on Alex Decoteau's military career by writing a letter and researching burial records.

Military Career
Burial Records
Use this worksheet to answer questions using Decoteau's military records (MS Word)

Letter Writing: Choose one of the following to complete:

a) It is 1915 and World War I has just begun. Write a letter home to your mother describing your reasons for enlisting, the friends you have made and the battles you have been in.

b) You are Mary Decoteau or David Latta. Write a letter to Alex who is currently in Belgium expressing your feelings upon reading his letter that he sent you.

Research Worksheets

Written Document Analysis Worksheet
Use this worksheet to help you interpret primary and secondary documents. (MS Word)

Analyzing a Photograph
Use this worksheet to help you analyze photographs. (MS Word)

Artifact Analysis Worksheet
Use this worksheet to help you analyze objects. (MS Word)

Resources
Use the following resources in researching and finding answers on Alex Decoteau:

FAQs
A short FAQ sheet that answers some interesting questions about Alex Decoteau.

Timelines (Pictures/Text)
An outline of the story of Alex Decoteau from 1887 until 2002.

Quotes
A collection of inspirational quotes taken from various historical newspapers and magazines about Alex Decoteau.

Newspaper Articles
A collection of news articles about Alex Decoteau and his heroic achievements.

Photographs
A collection of images of Alex Decoteau, his family and friends.

Letters
Original letters concerning Alex Decoteau's family.

Military Records
A collection of military records of Sgt. Alex Decoteau who served with Canada's military during WWI.

Athletic Legacy:

Sporting Heroes
1912 Olympic Games mens results

Military Career:

Alberta Report, May 18, 1998 Internet Edition
Article on the unsung heroism of Canada's Aboriginal Soldiers

Family History, Military Career:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission
Record of Commemoration for Alex Decoteau

Family History, Athletic Legacy, Cultural Experiences, Military Career:

Runners of the Plains
Short comment on Aboriginal runners. It features Alex Decoteau among others

EVALUATION

Each member of your group will be given an individual grade and a group grade. You will be graded individually on your section of research (i.e. family history - athletic legacy - cultural experiences - military career)

Group grade is based on your completion of your worksheets, as well as the activities completed as a whole. Your worksheets will be evaluated on accuracy as well as creativity. The individual grade and the group grade will each be worth 50 percent of the total grade.

CONCLUSION

Alex Decoteau played an important role in the history of our community and country. He was a courageous individual who created a new standard and changed the world for the better. After completing this Web Quest, you hopefully have a better understanding of the notion that everyone has the potential to become a hero.
CURRICULUM

LEARNING CONCEPTS

The various resources and materials collected for this Web Quest can be adapted to supplement the following grades and topics of study within the Alberta curriculum:

Social Studies

Grade 3: Communities
   Topic A: My Community in the Past, Present and Future
   Topic C: Special Communities

Grade 4: Alberta
   Topic B: Alberta: Its People in History

Grade 7: People and their Culture
   Topic A: Culture
   Topic C: Canada: A Bilingual and Multicultural Country

History

Grade 11:
   Western Canadian History

Aboriginal Studies

Grade 11:
   Theme III: Legislation, Policies, and Cultural Change
   Theme IV: Schooling and Cultural Change

Grade 12:
   Theme III: Aboriginal Peoples in Canadian Society