

Lesson #6-The Impact of Oil

With this lesson plan, students will learn how the discovery of oil at Leduc changed Leduc and Alberta in terms of prosperity and growth.

This lesson plan was developed by the Learning Specialist Staff of the Heritage Community Foundation.

Discovering Black Gold

Students will understand how the discovery of oil at Leduc changed Leduc and Alberta in terms of prosperity and growth.

Subject: Social Studies

Grade Levels: 4-12

Time Frame: 1 class period

Materials Needed:

- Historical Map of the Leduc Area: Leduc-Wetaskawin Daily Oil Bulletin Supplement
- Newspaper Articles on the Leduc oil discovery
- Internet Access

Learning Objectives: Students will:

1. Discover several impacts the Leduc oil discovery had on Alberta
 2. Examine why people came to Leduc
 3. Describe some of the difficulties “roughnecks” encountered on their arrival to Leduc
 4. Determine the effect of a dramatic event on the community of Leduc
1. Provide historical context in regards to the Leduc # 1 oil field discovery. Use the website Alberta’s Natural Resources. Focus on the History of Development, specifically the Leduc section “Leduc: Causes & Effects.”
 2. Have students answer the following questions using the Alberta Natural Resources Website and the following newspaper articles:
 - Leduc’s Gusher has 40th birthday
 - Leduc Well Points to Opening of New Oil Area in Alberta
 - Leduc First Gush of Alberta Oil Wealth
 - Reliving a Dream Leduc #1’s Party

Alberta:

1. What changes did the Leduc oil field bring to Alberta? Were these changes good or bad? (economically, socially, politically, geographically. etc.)
2. How were people affected by these changes? (farmers, oil workers, local citizens) Other provinces? Canada? The environment?
3. Which groups of people benefited the most from the changes? Which group benefited the least?
4. What types of legislation developed as a result of these changes?
5. What did the Alberta government do with its oil revenue?
6. What other industries developed in Alberta as a result of the Leduc oil field discovery?
7. What was Alberta's source of revenue before the Leduc discovery?

Leduc:

1. Identify the groups of people who came to Leduc. Why did these people come to Leduc? Where did these groups of people come from?
2. What factors encouraged them to come to Leduc?
3. How did the news of the oil strike spread?
4. What businesses grew and developed because of the Leduc oil field?
5. Using a map of Leduc, locate the Leduc oil field area and describe the surrounding area. Locate other oil drilling areas nearby. What can you conclude?

Roughnecks

6. Identify what a "roughneck" is. If you were a "roughneck," what problems might you have faced once you arrived in Leduc?
7. Write a letter from the point of view of a "roughneck" to a member of your family back home. Discuss what your feelings are towards the local citizens of Leduc and your feelings towards your "roughneck" friends.

Reader's Theatre

8. Have students use their knowledge to write a script about a dramatic event the community of Leduc experienced. Students are to create historical characters and re-enact the story of discovering oil at Leduc. Students can research the historical figures, the clothing and appropriate objects that would be used at that time.