

Activity: An Immigrant's Letter Home

Outcome – The student will create a document demonstrating empathy with the experiences of immigrants to Canada.

Content – Immigrants underwent a variety of experiences as they adjusted to life in a new land. Many would never return to their countries of origin, and their only contact with family was through letters sent across vast distances. To help students understand the emotions of these settlers they are asked to create a letter depicting the fictionalized or authentic experiences of immigrants. These letters will show the reactions of immigrants to their new homes.

Process –

- The student selects a country of origin and a time period in which emigration to Canada took place.
- Using internet and library resources, the student researches the lives of selected individuals: forces leading to emigration, the actual physical movement, their settlement, and how they are or are not accepted in the new community.
- The letter will be between 300-400 words, meeting the criteria outlined on the attached assessment.
- Students will have three class periods (3 hours) to complete the assignment

Assessment Grid for 'An Immigrant's Letter Home'

Content – letter has 'voice', feels authentic	/10
Conventions – follows rules of standard English	/5
Format – double-spaced, 12-point type, appropriate length	/5
Accuracy – details of dates and places coincides with available historical data regarding immigration	/10
Total	/30