



Lesson 3 Historical Document Analysis

1. Students will be asked to read and annotate a letter written by First Nations chiefs in 1902. This fascinating document looks at the pressing need for conservation practices and outlines some of the concerns regarding the unsustainable methods being utilized by commercial fishers at the turn of the last century. Provide each student with a copy of the document and ask them to take part in a collaborative annotation.
2. Divide the class into groups of three or four and ask them to complete their own annotation of the text. Annotations might be in the form of a question or a personal comment or a reflection that they make. Once the first annotation is completed ask students to pass their annotated copy to the person on the left. Each person then focuses and makes additions to the original reader's commentary. The next time the paper passes the new reader adds commentary to the previous work. Thus, each person in the group has the opportunity to build and expand on the work of the others in the group. This is a powerful way to engage students in a reading experience and get them to construct their own meaning from this historical document.
3. Provide copies of the First Nations Fishing Techniques document. Have students read through this document and ask them to compare aboriginal methods of fishing to those of the Euro-Canadians described in the Sto'lo letter.
4. Have students create a speech outlining their concerns regarding the management of the Fraser river fishery from a First Nations perspective. Students should make reference to the facts found in the two documents and add their own creative elements to write a persuasive speech calling for sturgeon and salmon fishery conservation.