

Lesson Plan

Title: The Last Battle of Seven Oaks Puppet Play

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Magazine Issue: This lesson is inspired by the article “The Last Battle of Seven Oaks” in the How Furs Built Canada issue of *Kayak: Canada’s History Magazine for Kids*.

Grade Level: 2, 3/4, 5/6

Themes:

- Peace & Conflict
- Settlement & Immigration

Subject Area: Social Studies, Language Arts and Fine Arts

Lesson Overview (Summary):

In this lesson, students will use the information from the article “The Last Battle of Seven Oaks” to create and perform a puppet play. Younger students can use a pre-set script, while older students can write their own script and create their own puppets.

Time Required: Two to three 50-minute periods, depending on the grade level of the students.

Historical Thinking Concept(s):

- Identify continuity and change
- Analyze cause and consequence

Learning outcomes:

Social Studies:

- Correlate the impact of the land on the lifestyles and settlement patterns of the people.
- Analyze the historic relationship of people to land in Canada.
- Assess the impact of the environment on the lives of people living in Canada.
- Identify the European influence on pre-Confederation Canadian society.

Language Arts:

- Writing a play based on a story
- Reading a play

Fine Arts:

- Making a puppet to represent a character in a story

Student will:

- Create and perform a puppet play using the information from the article “The Last Battle of Seven Oaks”.

Background Information:

As stated in the How Furs Built Canada issue of *Kayak: Canada’s History Magazine for Kids* :

“Lord Selkirk, who had a lot of money invested in the Hudson’s Bay Company, encouraged Scottish settlers to come to the Red River settlement in the area that is now Winnipeg. In 1815, many settlers arrived, but they were too late to plant any crops. Miles Macdonell, a Bayman in charge of the Red River settlement, seized pemmican supplies from the Nor’Westers to feed the settlers. He then passed the Pemmican Proclamation banning the sale of pemmican to the Nor’Westers. Robert Semple, the governor of the Hudson’s Bay settlement on the Red River, tore down the Nor’Westers’ most important trading post, Fort Gibraltar. On June 19, 1816, Semple and a group of about 25 Baymen left the fort at Seven Oaks to confront General Grant and 61 Nor’Westers and Métis. The Métis called this area Plaine des Grenouilles or Frog Plain. In the fight, 21 Baymen including Semple, and one Métis, were killed. The head of the North West Company and many others were sent to Montreal for trial, but the investigators said neither side could be faulted completely and freed the men. Over the next five years, the violence between the two companies grew worse. In 1820, Lord Selkirk died. The two companies merged the next year.”

The Lesson Activity:

Activating: How will students be prepared for learning?

The teacher will read the story “The Last Battle of Seven Oaks” to students and then have a brief discussion.

Acquiring: What strategies facilitate learning for groups and individuals?

The teacher will divide the students into groups of five and give them copies of the story. They will also give students a copy of the criteria for the play writing assignment.

Applying: How will students demonstrate their understanding?

The students will create, practice and perform their puppet plays.

Materials/Resources:

- Criteria for the puppet play
- Teacher-written script for younger students
- Teacher-made puppets for younger students

Other material needed:

- Popsicle sticks
- Construction paper
- Pencil crayons
- Scissors
- Tape or glue to adhere the popsicle to the puppets

Assessment:

Assessment Sheet for teacher, peer and self-assessment

The Last Battle of Seven Oaks Puppet Play

Criteria

Group Members Names:

Criteria for creating your play:

1. Each group must have for following characters in their play:
 - Paul/Papa
 - Michel
 - Pierre
 - Francis
 - Narrator
2. Each group must retell the story from the article. You may use some of the author's dialogue; however, each group must use their creativity to make their version of the story their own.
3. The narrator must have an introduction and summation for the play that will help the audience understand the context of the story.
4. The finished play should be around 5 minutes long.
5. Your script must be typed or written neatly and a copy of the script must be handed in to your teacher.

The Last Battle of Seven Oaks Puppet Play Assessment

Members of the group:

Teacher Assessment: Check mark for completed criteria.

- Each group must retell the story from the article. You may use some of the author's dialogue; however, each group must use their creativity to make their version of the story their own.
- The narrator must have an introduction and summation for the play that will help the audience understand the context of the story.
- The finished play should be around 5 minutes long.
- Your script must be typed or written neatly and a copy of the script must be handed in to your teacher.

Peer Assessment: One member of the audience circle the best answer.

Did the play make sense?	Yes	No		
Did the narrator explain the history of the battle?			Yes	No
Did the actors speak clearly?	Yes	No		

Group Assessment: Answer in sentences.

What was the most important historical fact you learned while working on your play?

How do you think the Nor'Westers and their families felt about Baymen during the period when the two companies were fighting?

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Sample Script

Narrator: In 1821, in the small community of Grantown, Manitoba, a family was having a birthday party. There were three boys and their names were Francis, Pierre and Michel. They were playing a game about a battle that had happened near their town. The men in the family earned money working for the North West Fur Trading company.

Francis: I am a Nor'Wester fur trader!

Michel: Okay, I will be a Bayman. But I don't like pretending I work for the Hudson's Bay Company.

Pierre: I am Governor Semple. He was a mean man who took away food from Nor'Westers.

Narrator: The boys pretended to fight a battle between the two fur trading companies. They pretended they were riding horses and shooting rifles at each other. As they played, their father, Paul, was watching them.

Paul: Boys, can you tell me why the Baymen were fighting with our people?

Francis: The Baymen took food from our trading post on the Assiniboine River and we could not feed our people.

Michel: Then Governor Semple kicked us out of our homes and stopped us from using the river to travel. That made our families very angry and we fought with the Baymen.

Pierre: Lots of people got arrested after the battles and were sent to Montreal.

Paul: That is true boys. Some of the men came home to our families but you know lots of other men died. I am sad when I think about that. But, I have a letter here that has good news in it. We will never have to fight with the Baymen again because the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company are now going to be one company and we will not have to fight again.

Francis: Thanks for telling us the story, Papa. Now can we go eat?

Narrator: The story of the Battle is a true part of Canadian history. In 1815, Scottish settlers came to the Red River areas but arrived too late to plant and harvest a crop. The settlers were hungry so the Hudson's Bay Company seized the North West Company's Pemmican supplies. The two companies had many battles and the main trading post for the North West Company was torn down. The fighting continued until the two companies merged to become one big company.

**The Last Battle of Seven Oaks Puppet Play
Puppet Template**

