

Commemorate Canada - Canada - Soviet Hockey Series in 1972



Overview:

The purpose of this activity is to help students understand the history of Canadian hockey. Students answer the following questions: Why is hockey important to Canadian history? Why is the 1972 Summit Series a milestone in Canadian history? How has hockey in Canada evolved over time?

Time:

60 mins

Subject/topic:

History and Social studies

Grade:

5 - 12

Materials:

- Students will learn about the history of hockey culture.
- Students will research hockey teams and players that were part of the 1972 Summit Series between Canada and the U.S.S.R.
- Students will reflect on Canada's hockey history and how it has influenced our history.

Materials:

- Print or digital copies of [Interview with John U. Bacon on the 1972 Summit Series and its impact on hockey culture](#) by David McGuffin in the September/October 2022 issue of *Canadian Geographic*.
- The [Commemorate Canada GeoMinute](#) on the Canada-Soviet Hockey Series in 1972
- Paper
- Writing utensils

Lesson Description

Minds on:

Students will read the *Canadian Geographic* article [Interview with John U. Bacon on the 1972 Summit Series and its impact on hockey culture](#). Students will compare hockey culture in 1972 to hockey culture today.

Action:

Students will research and present a hockey player from the 1972 Summit Series. Students will have a class discussion about what they have learned.

Conclusion:

Students will watch the *Canadian Geographic GeoMinute* about the 1972 Summit Series and write a reflection piece about their views on Canada's hockey history.

Lesson Implementation

Minds on

Begin the lesson by discussing with your students Canada's hockey culture and what it looks like today. Ask your students: Do you think hockey players are friendly with each other in today's hockey culture? Watch a few hockey clips with your students and afterwards jot down observations on the board as a class about hockey culture and the way players treat each other.

Next, tell your students about the eight-game hockey series played between Team Canada and the national team for the Soviet Union in 1972, which took place during the Cold War. The games were intense and reflected the political climate at the time. Canada was under a lot of pressure to perform well in Moscow during the last three games. Have students read the *Canadian Geographic* article [Interview with John U. Bacon on the 1972 Summit Series and its impact on hockey culture](#).

When students are finished reading the article, have them break into small groups and brainstorm differences between hockey culture in 1972 and hockey culture today. Encourage your students to do additional online research to provide examples. Once students are finished, ask groups to share with the class the differences they came up with and create a class list on the board.

Action

Have your students choose one Canadian hockey player who took part in the 1972 Summit Series. Working in small groups or individually, students will research the player, paying close attention to their role during the 1972 games, and create a profile about their history.

Once students have completed their research, have them present to the class their chosen hockey player. Conclude with a class discussion using the following questions:

- What have you learned about Canada's hockey history?
- Why do you think hockey is important to Canadian history?
- How has hockey evolved since 1972?
- What effect did the Cold War have on hockey before and after the Summit Series?

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Connection to the Canadian Geography Framework:

Concepts of Geographic Thinking

- Patterns and trends
- Interrelationships
- Geographic perspective

Inquiry Process

- Interpret and analyze
- Communicate
- Reflect and respond
- Gather and organize
- Evaluate and draw conclusions

Geospatial Skills

N/A

Conclusion and Consolidation

As a class, watch *Canadian Geographic's GeoMinute: The 1972 Summit Series and the "Goal of the Century"*. Have students complete a reflection piece as an exit ticket for the end of the lesson, using the following questions as a guide:

- Has your view on Canada's hockey history changed after learning about the Summit Series in 1972?
- Why do you think the Summit Series in 1972 has become a milestone in Canadian history?
- Why was Wayne Gretzky mentioned in the *Canadian Geographic* article?

Extend your geographical thinking

- Students can read *The Greatest Comeback* by John U. Bacon.
- Students can watch [Summit '72](#) on CBC Gem about how the 1972 Canada-USSR Summit Series changed hockey in Canada.
- Students can research the Cold War and consider how it affected other parts of Canadian culture or international relations at the time.

Modifications

- Students can complete this activity virtually.
- Students can complete this activity independently, rather than having class discussions or working in groups.
- Students can complete the discussion questions in the conclusion section in small groups or as a class.

Assessment Opportunities

- Assess students' learning based on their participation in class discussions throughout the lesson.
- Assess students' learning based on their research of the hockey player profiles.
- Assess students' learning based on the exit ticket reflection pieces.

Sources and additional resources

- [The Canadian Encyclopedia: Origins of Ice Hockey](#)
- [The Canadian Encyclopedia: 1972 Canada-Soviet Hockey Series \(Summit Series\)](#)
- [CBC Sports Oral Histories| The '72 Summit Series, 50 Years Later: Part 1](#)
- [Parks Canada: 1972 Summit Series National Historic Event](#)
- [GeoMinute: The 1972 Summit Series and the "Goal of the Century"](#)
- [Interview with John U. Bacon on the 1972 Summit Series and its impact on hockey culture](#)
- [CBC Gem: Summit '72](#)