

Christie Pits

RIOT

90TH COMMEMORATION

Immigration & Diversity
Teacher's Guide: Grades 8 & 10



Pre-Lesson Discussion

- Discuss what students are currently familiar with related to the theme of immigration.
- This is to be an open and safe space for students to discuss experiences they have heard about, or experiences they may have gone through.
- Students should be encouraged to discuss Toronto as it is today including the benefits and challenges.

Activity 1 – Immigration and Christie Pits

Each character has a unique immigration story as well as history that connects to their stories on the Christie Pits website.

Rebecca

- Arrived at a very young age and had a very difficult immigration experience. Lost her twin sister while waiting to board the ship to Canada.
- Fled Eastern Europe due to the pogroms and violence in the area
- Tried to escape the issues that were occurring in Europe.
- History pages associated with Rebecca: Fear of Communism and Nazism
 - Although Rebecca tried to escape these issues in Europe, they were still very much present in Canada.

Domenico

- His family left Italy for a better life in Canada.
- Have very strong ties to the Jewish community, bonded over their common experiences in the mostly Protestant city of Toronto.
- History pages associated with Domenico: The Immigrant Experience
 - Discusses the shared pain the Italian and Jewish community felt during the 1930s.
 - Although their families were in search of better lives in Canada, the immigrant life was not very easy.

Samuel

- His family left Russia when he was a very small child to escape the persecution they experienced.
- His family's experience led him to be a very quiet and reserved person. He is thankful for the opportunities he has been given because he knows that if his family had stayed in Europe, he wouldn't have been able to have these opportunities.
- History pages associated with Samuel: The Jewish Community, and The Great Depression
 - Discusses the experience the Jewish community went through during the 1930s.



- Many in the Jewish community had similar stories to Samuel, especially due to the violence in Russia, many fled to Canada to find safety.

Activity 2 – Primary Source Analysis

Prompts when looking at the documents:

- Where is the individual coming from?
- Where are they bringing their family from?
- What do we know about the individual? (Age? Education? Marital status?)
- Why might they be coming to Toronto at this time?
- How might these factors impact their immigration experience?

Family One Documents:

Joseph Kalman Wainryb. Sourced from the collections of the Ontario Jewish Archives.

The overall journey: At the age of only 17, Joseph moved from Poland to Canada with the support of his brother-in-law. The voyage was very long and he had to acquire many documents and go through several examinations in order to get accepted into Canada.

Documents included:

1. Joseph's Passport
 - Stamped in 1921
 - His Polish passport, allows him to travel
 - Says that he is Polish
2. Medical Examination Letter
 - Letter written by a Polish doctor confirming that Joseph had received all of his vaccinations and that he did not have any infectious or contagious diseases.
3. Transmigrant certificate
 - Issued by the Canadian Pacific – a company responsible for transporting immigrants to Canada.
 - Ensured that everyone on board received medical observation and that they were medically well and not carrying any infectious diseases.
 - Joseph received this medical observation in Belgium on the 8th of September 1921
4. Letter of Admission into Canada
 - Letter of Admission presented to Joseph Kalman Wainryb at the age of 17.
 - Presented in the City of Toronto by a family member that already resides in Toronto and is a “naturalized British Subject”.



- Claims that Joseph's brother-in-law, Morris Turek will be supporting Joseph in his immigration to Canada.

5. Joseph's landing card

- Joseph's ticket for the SS Scandinavian for 3rd class passage
- The ship belonged to the Canadian Pacific Line from 1917-1923
- Moved between the UK and Canada

Family Two Documents:

Tulio Beghetto: Sourced from Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, Halifax.

Documents included:

1. Letter sent to Tulio Beghetto from the Canadian Visa Office in Rome, 11 May 1948.
 - Confirms that Tulio is able to come in for his medical checkup in order to continue the process to acquire his Canadian visa.
 - Allowed to continue in his application process to move to Canada.
2. Letter sent to Santo Beghetto from the Canadian Department of Mines and Resources, 23 February 1948
 - Tulio's brother, Santo, who worked in Guelph for the Department of Mines and Resources was helping Tulio and his family immigrate to Canada.
 - Letter is advising the family to make settlement arrangements and to begin preparing their documentation to receive a Canadian visa.
3. Application for an Italian passport for Tulio Beghetto, 8 March 1948
 - Letter requesting information regarding Tulio's civil standing in order to receive a work visa to go to Canada.
4. Letter sent to Tulio Beghetto from the Canadian Legation in Rome, 24 April 1948
 - Letter confirms that the letter from his brother was received and with the support of Santo, Tulio and his family are able to proceed with their application to move to Canada.
 - They must now acquire all the necessary documentation within the given time frame.
5. Photograph of Tulio and Rosa Beghetto on board MS Vulcania, March 1948
 - Photograph of Tulio and his wife, Rosa on the MS Vulcania on their way to Canada
 - The MS Vulcania was in operation from 1929–1974
 - The ship once belonged to the Italian government, however after the war, the ship was acquired by the American government.

Post-Activity Reflection

- Immigration has changed considerably since the 1930s
 - As seen from these activities, the immigration process was not easy or quick
 - It was a stressful process that required many documents and steps to get approved and not everyone was successful.
- Immigration laws have changed
 - In the early-1930s, immigration was limited to American-born or British subjects with enough capital to maintain themselves. Few others would be accepted as new immigrants into Canada under the strictest immigration policy in Canadian history, introduced in 1931.
 - It wasn't until new regulations were introduced in 1962 that skill, and not race or national origin, became the determining factor for immigration admission.
 - MS St. Louis – in 1939 a boat from Europe filled with German Jewish refugees arrived in North America as they tried to flee the impending Holocaust, but they were turned away by several countries, including Canada.
- The riot strongly influenced changes in Toronto for immigrants as it led to one of the first anti-hate laws in Canada
 - The banning of the Swastika following the riot is seen by many as the first step towards becoming the multicultural and accepting city Toronto is known as today.

