

Lesson Plan for Encounters Video: “What did Vancouver’s expedition actually achieve?”

Lesson Overview

Building off the Relations videos, this video summarizes Captain Vancouver’s expedition (1791 - 1795) on the Pacific Northwest Coast. His goal was to survey the coast, locate the Northwest Passage, and carry out the terms of a peace treaty between Spain and Britain over territory in Yuquot.

Resources:

- Video “What did Vancouver’s expedition achieve?”
- Review questions worksheet for students

Lesson Learnings

Inquiry Question:

- What were the cause and consequences of Captain Vancouver’s expedition?

Learning Objectives:

- Investigate how local and global forces influenced Vancouver’s expedition.
- Consider how European attitudes and worldviews influenced the history of Yuquot.
- Evaluate consequences of Vancouver’s expedition on the colonization of the Pacific Northwest Coast.
- Describe the role of map making (cartography) in the exploration of the Pacific Northwest Coast.

Activate Prior Knowledge

Use any of the following questions for group discussion or as think-pair-share. Students could draw a mind map to keep track of words and ideas.

- Who was Vancouver Island/the city of Vancouver named after? What do you know about this person? What is your opinion of him.
- Review from the “What attracted the Europeans to the Pacific Northwest Coast?” video:
 - Why did Europeans, Americans and Russians come to the Pacific Northwest of Canada in the late 1700s?
 - Respond to the video’s last question: “How would the British respond to the offenses in Yuquot”?

Watch *Changing Perspectives* Video

Resource: accompanying review questions worksheet

Watch the video “What did Vancouver's expedition achieve?” as a class.

Video Worksheet

Ask students to answer the following questions, as written answers using the worksheet or as think-pair-share. These questions build from direct recall to active critical thinking.

Possible answers in red.

1. Describe why George Vancouver was chosen to lead the British voyage to the Pacific Northwest Coast.
 - He had served on Captain Cook's voyages to the Pacific and had many years of overseas sailing experience by the time he joined the *HMS Discovery*.
2. What were Captain Vancouver's goals?
 - Complete a detailed survey of the coast from 30° to 60° latitude along the Pacific Northwest Coast.
 - Carry out terms of the Spanish-British peace agreement (the Nootka Sound Conventions) in Yuquot
 - Find the entrance to the Northwest Passage
3. What challenges did Captain Vancouver have?
 - Could not find the Northwest Passage.
 - Surveying the coast took longer and was harder than expected.
 - Captain Vancouver and Captain Bodega y Quadra could not agree on the details of the Nootka Sound Convention.
4. From the British perspective, what did the expedition achieve?
 - Created extremely accurate maps of the region.
 - Applied 400 British place names giving the impression the region was a British territory (put the “British” in British Columbia).

- Confirmed there was no Northwest Passage south of the Arctic.
 - Collaborated with Spanish surveyors to draw maps and became friendly with Captain Bodega y Quadra.
5. Underline who was included in the Nootka Sound Conventions. Circle who was left out.
- No Indigenous communities were invited to participate, even though Yuquot is on their territory.
 - Spain and Britain were included in the conventions.
6. Nootka Sound Conventions: What did the British and Spanish agree on?
- Yuquot was to be open to both nations, but wouldn't be settled by either.

Analysis Prompts

These additional prompts challenge students to further analyze what they've learned from the video. These questions ask students to reflect on the practice of history and incorporate evidence to justify their claims. In some cases, students may benefit from further resources to explore these questions.

1. At the end of the video, the narrator says that Vancouver's mapping and naming of places "made the colonial occupation and exploitation of the region much easier in the decades to come." How did mapping and naming places help the British colonize?
2. After watching this lesson's video and the video "What Attracted the Europeans to the Pacific Northwest Coast?", evaluate how British and Spanish disagreement over Yuquot impacted events in Europe, and how European politics impacted events at Yuquot.
3. Do you think other groups present on the Northwest Coast also considered Captain Vancouver's voyage a success? Taking different historical perspectives, think about what the Spanish or Mowachaht/Muchalaht peoples may have thought about Captain Vancouver's expedition.

Wrap-Up Discussion

Wrap up your lesson with a reflective discussion. Ask students to give answers to the following questions, either as a class, in small groups, or as an independent writing exercise.

- What is a legacy of Captain Vancouver's expedition?

Creative & Inquiry Project Ideas

Explore the following creative activities with your students, either as written answers, group discussion, or projects:

- Vancouver's legacy includes creating very detailed maps of the Pacific Northwest Coast (timestamp 6:10 in the video). Looking at this map, how do you think the British understood the Pacific Northwest Coast? What information was not included in this map? What British worldviews are represented in the map? What were the impacts of these perspectives? Redraw the map with Indigenous language families and territories. How does this perspective differ from Captain Vancouver's map?
- As a class, brainstorm what other primary and secondary sources you could use to learn about Vancouver's expedition. Divide the class into groups, and provide each group with an additional resource (examples below). Ask each group to share what this resource contributes to their learning.
 - Another video or object from the *Changing Perspectives* exhibit.
 - [Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation's Yuquot](#) history.
 - Original Captain Vancouver documents in the [Vancouver Archives](#)' collections.
 - Engravings based on sketches by artists on Captain Vancouver's expedition, pictured in [Vancouver's \(1798\) Voyage of Discovery to the North Pacific Ocean, and Round the World available on UBC's Open Collections](#). An engraving of Friendly Cove (Yuquot) on pg. 30.
 - Maps from Vancouver's expedition, many of which are in [Vancouver's \(1798\) Voyage of Discovery to the North Pacific Ocean, and Round the World available on UBC's Open Collections](#), including one charting Vancouver Island on pg. 18. The same map is digitized in the [City of Vancouver Archives' collection \(Map 669\)](#).