

## Vancouver, Canada's West Coast City (Level 2)

The purpose of LessonPlansCanada© is to provide well-structured and interesting reading texts and other classroom activities. These lesson plans are created for ELL students of all age groups and for grades 5-8 non-ELL students. Each basic lesson plan consists of a reading text, a worksheet, and one or two supplemental activities, depending on the package purchased. Answer sheets and teacher guides are also included.

**Vancouver, Canada's West Coast City (Level 2)** is designed for ELL students who would correspond to the low/middle level learners in most high school and adult ELL classes. The vocabulary used is more sophisticated and the use of idiomatic English is more prevalent than in the Level 1 lesson plans, whereas Level 3 uses more difficult vocabulary and idiomatic language and more sophisticated use of punctuation. The Flesch-Kincaid reading level for the main text is 6.8 and it consists of 372 words.

This lesson plan is part of a series on Canadian cities. It would serve as a good introduction to a study of the city of Vancouver or to supplement classroom work already done.

### The following resources were used in writing the texts:

- Foran, Jill. A Reference Guide to Vancouver, Gateway to the Pacific. Calgary: Weigl Educational Publishers Ltd., 2002.
- Find Family Fun in Vancouver. "Stanley Park - Vancouver". Accessed 16 August 2010. <http://www.findfamilyfun.com>.
- Vancouver Culture and History. "Museum of Anthropology". Accessed 16 August 2010. <http://www.hellobc.com>.
- 2010 Winter Olympics. <http://www.wikipedia.com>. Accessed 16 August 2010.

### Photograph Credit:

- "Totem Poles at Stanley Park" by Peter Graham.



# VANCOUVER

## Canada's West Coast City

1) Vancouver is Canada's third largest city. It is on British Columbia's coast. Vancouver is one of the warmest cities in Canada. In winter the temperatures are usually above freezing. The city does not get much snow. Summers are usually warm, not hot. Because of its location between the Coast Mountains and water, Vancouver does get a lot of rain.

2) Vancouver is on the Burrard Inlet which is a body of water that leads into the Pacific Ocean. Vancouver is known as the "Gateway to the Pacific". It is a very important port. Vancouver is the busiest port in Canada. It is also one of the busiest ports in North America.

3) The first people who lived in British Columbia are known as Native Canadians. Ten thousand years ago, people travelled from Asia into North America. Some of them settled on Canada's west coast. They are called the Coast Salish people. They lived along the coast and survived by fishing. The Coast Salish people now belong to the Squamish Nation of Native Canadians.

4) A British explorer named George Vancouver claimed the area for Britain in 1792. For many years it was just a

trading post but in time a town grew where Vancouver is now. At first the town was known as Hastings Mill and then as Granville. In 1886 the name was changed to Vancouver. At that time it had only two thousand people.

5) The railway reached Vancouver in 1884. The city became an important shipping area. Ocean shipping began in 1889. Settlers came from the rest of Canada and other countries. Many Asians chose Vancouver as their new home. In the twentieth century, the small town became a city.

6) There is a lot to do in Vancouver. The city has an art gallery, an aquarium, and many festivals. Vancouver has one of the largest film festivals in North America. A large agricultural fair is held every year. In the middle of the city is Stanley Park. It is a large and beautiful park with lots to see and many activities to enjoy.

7) The Winter Olympics were held in Vancouver in 2010. Thousands of people visited the city. Millions more watched the Games on television. They saw what an amazing city Vancouver is.

## Vocabulary

Coast (noun)

Usually (adverb)

Freezing (adjective)

Location (noun)

Gateway (noun)

Busiest (adjective)

Native Canadians (proper noun)

Survived (verb)

Trading post (compound noun)

Shipping (adjective)

Festivals (noun)

Agricultural (adjective)

Activities (noun)

Amazing (adjective)

## Fast Facts



Totem poles in Stanley Park.

- Most of Vancouver was destroyed by fire in 1886.
- Many people have come to Vancouver from China over the past one hundred and fifty years - 17% of the residents are of Chinese background.
- Stanley Park in Vancouver has many totem poles. Totem poles are a Native Canadian art form found on the west coast.
- The 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics had 2,622 athletes from 82 countries participating in 86 sports events.

## Worksheet: Short Answer Questions

Answer the following questions with information found in the text.

1. What is the weather in Vancouver like?

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2. Where is Vancouver located?

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3. Who were the Native Canadians of the west coast and how did they survive?

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4. Name one way that Vancouver has changed between 1792 and today.

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5. What industry helped Vancouver to grow?

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6. Name two things a tourist might visit in Vancouver.

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7. What international event happened in Vancouver in 2010?

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## Worksheet: True or False

Circle True or False for the statements below. Most of the answers are found in the text. Some of them will be found under "Fast Facts" on Page 2.

- |  |      |       |
|--|------|-------|
| 1. Vancouver gets a lot of snow in the winter.                             | TRUE | FALSE |
| 2. George Vancouver was an explorer from Britain.                          | TRUE | FALSE |
| 3. In 1889 shipping to Asia from Vancouver began.                          | TRUE | FALSE |
| 4. Vancouver has one of the largest television festivals in North America. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 5. Totem poles are a Chinese form of art.                                  | TRUE | FALSE |
| 6. The 2010 Summer Olympic Games were held in Vancouver.                   | TRUE | FALSE |

## Worksheet: Vocabulary Use

Fill in each blank below with the correct word that completes the sentence. The missing words are in the Vocabulary list on p. 1. Each word is used once.

1. Many Canadian cities have \_\_\_\_\_ in the summer.
2. This neighbourhood has a good \_\_\_\_\_ for a park.
3. Vancouver is considered a \_\_\_\_\_ to the Pacific.
4. I think it is \_\_\_\_\_ that you got 100% on the test.
5. We saw animals and food at the \_\_\_\_\_ fair.
6. Ha Na, who is from Korea, \_\_\_\_\_ speaks Korean at home.
7. Everyone \_\_\_\_\_ the earthquake - no one was hurt.
8. The city of Halifax is on the \_\_\_\_\_ of Nova Scotia.
9. One of the \_\_\_\_\_ on New Year's Day in Vancouver is to swim in the \_\_\_\_\_ water of English Bay. Those people are very brave!
10. Vancouver's airport is one of the \_\_\_\_\_ airports in Canada.
11. There is a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ between Vancouver and Asia.
12. Many years ago \_\_\_\_\_ and Europeans brought animal furs to \_\_\_\_\_ to trade with each other.

# Vancouver, Canada's West Coast City Answer Sheet

## Answer Sheet: Short Answer Questions

Q1. What is the weather in Vancouver like?

A1. VANCOUVER DOES NOT GET MUCH SNOW AND IN THE WINTER THE TEMPERATURE IS USUALLY ABOVE FREEZING. THE SUMMERS ARE WARM BUT HOT. VANCOUVER GETS A LOT OF RAIN.

Q2. Where is Vancouver located?

A2. VANCOUVER IS LOCATED ON THE COAST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Q3. Who were the Native Canadians of the west coast and how did they survive?

A3. THE NATIVE CANADIANS OF THE WEST COAST WERE THE COAST SALISH PEOPLE AND THEY SURVIVED BY FISHING.

Q4. Name one way that Vancouver has changed between 1792 and today.

A4. VARIOUS ANSWERS: e.g. VANCOUVER WAS JUST A TRADING POST FOR MANY YEARS.

Q5. What industry helped Vancouver to grow?

A5. THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY HELPED VANCOUVER GROW.

Q6. Name two things a tourist might visit in Vancouver.

A6. VARIOUS ANSWERS - e.g. A TOURIST MIGHT VISIT STANLEY PARK.

Q7. What international event happened in Vancouver in 2010?

A7. IN 2010 THE WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES WERE HELD IN VANCOUVER.

## Answer Sheet: True or False

*Underline True or False for the statements below after you've read Fast Facts on p. 2.*

1. FALSE Vancouver gets a lot of snow in the winter.
2. TRUE George Vancouver was an explorer from Britain.
3. TRUE In 1889 shipping to Asia from Vancouver began.
4. FALSE Vancouver has one of the largest television festivals in North America.
5. FALSE Totem poles are a Chinese form of art.
6. FALSE The 2010 Summer Olympic Games were held in Vancouver.

## Answer Sheet: Vocabulary Use

1. Many Canadian cities have FESTIVALS in the summer.
2. This neighbourhood has a good LOCATION for a park.
3. Vancouver is considered a GATEWAY to the Pacific.
4. I think it is AMAZING that you got 100% on the test.
5. We saw animals and food at the AGRICULTURAL fair.
6. Ha Na, who is from Korea, USUALLY speaks Korean at home.
7. Everyone SURVIVED the earthquake - no one was hurt.
8. The city of Halifax is on the COAST of Nova Scotia.
9. One of the ACTIVITIES on New Year's Day in Vancouver is to swim in the FREEZING water of English Bay.  
Those people are very brave!
10. Vancouver's airport is one of the BUSIEST airports in Canada.
11. There is a lot of SHIPPING between Vancouver and Asia.
12. Many years ago NATIVE CANADIANS and Europeans brought animal furs to TRADING POSTS to trade with each other.

# Vancouver, Canada's West Coast City

## Teacher's Guide to Ten Questions About Vancouver Assignment

This assignment is designed to be used as an in-class activity.

- Give the students a copy of the 10 questions about Vancouver numbered 1-10;
- Explain to the students that they are to match up the questions with the key words that will be part of the correct answers. The questions do not assume prior knowledge - but the students should be able to match the answers with the questions (#1 is modelled as an example);
- The students are to write a complete sentence answering each question with the correct keywords. If there are two clauses to the sentence the keywords are separated by a semi-colon;
- Read over the questions with the students orally so that they understand meaning and vocabulary;
- Give the students a copy of the set of ten answer keywords, which are listed in random order and numbered A-J; Assign them to work either alone or in pairs or in groups to match the answers;
- Take up the activity with the class when it is completed.

### Ten Questions About Vancouver Answer Sheet

1. On a map of British Columbia, where is Vancouver located?  
Answer: D - Vancouver is on the coast of British Columbia.
2. When do flowers sometimes bloom in Vancouver ?  
Answer: J - Flowers sometimes bloom in February in Vancouver.
3. How many people live in the Vancouver area?  
Answer: F - One and a half million people live in the Vancouver area.
4. Why do many people walk, cycle, or take the bus in Vancouver?  
Answer: B - People walk, cycle, or take the bus because the city has a lot of bad traffic.
5. What is the distance around Stanley Park?  
Answer: H - It is 3.5 kilometres (3.5 km) around Stanley Park.
6. What structure connects different areas of Vancouver?  
Answer: E - The Lion's Gate Bridge connects different areas of Vancouver.
7. Where can you see many kinds of fish and even alligators?  
Answer: G - You can see many kinds of fish and even alligators at the Vancouver Aquarium.
8. Where did Canada and other countries win a lot of gold medals?  
Answer: A - Canada and other countries won gold medals at the 2010 Winter Olympics.
9. What precious metal brought a lot of people to the Vancouver area in 1858?  
Answer: I - Gold brought a lot of people to the Vancouver area in 1858.
10. Besides Hastings Mill and Granville, what is another old name for Vancouver?  
Answer: C - Gastown is another old name for Vancouver.

## Ten Questions About Vancouver Question and Answer Assignment

Read the questions below. Match each question to the correct answer on the Answer Key.  
Write the letter of the correct answer in the answer blank below. Write the answer as a complete sentence. #1 has been done for you as an example.

1. On a map of British Columbia, where is Vancouver located? Answer: D  
Vancouver is on the coast of British Columbia.
2. When do flowers sometimes bloom in Vancouver ? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How many people live in the Vancouver area? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why do many people walk, cycle, or take the bus in Vancouver? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the distance around Stanley Park? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What structure connects different areas of Vancouver? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Where can you see many kinds of fish and even alligators? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Where did Canada and other countries win a lot of gold medals? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What precious metal brought a lot of people to the Vancouver area in 1858? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Besides Hastings Mill and Granville, what is another old name for Vancouver? What was it? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Ten Questions About Toronto - Answer Keywords

- |                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| A. the 2010 Winter Olympics | F. one and a half million |
| B. a lot of bad traffic     | G. the Vancouver Aquarium |
| C. Gastown                  | H. 3.5 kilometres (kms)   |
| D. on the coast             | I. gold                   |
| E. Lion's Gate Bridge       | J. in February            |