

Frequently Asked Questions

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Information Related to REEL CANADA Lesson Plans

What films do you have lesson plans for?

We have at least one lesson plans for (almost) all the films in our REEL CANADA catalogue. Some films, which connect more easily to multiple disciplines, have several lessons. We also have general lessons which can be adapted to fit any chosen film(s). We also have some lessons still available for certain films that have been in the catalogue in the past but have since been taken out.

What subjects do you have lesson plans for?

We currently have lessons for the following subjects: Civics & Careers, Drama & Dance, Economics, English as a Second Language, French as a Second Language, French (for French schools), Geography, Health & Physical Education, History, Communications & Technology, Law, Media Studies, Music, Native/Indigenous Studies, Philosophy, Politics, Science, Social Sciences, Visual Arts, and World Religions. We also have a package to help prepare for the Grade 10 provincial literacy exam (The OSSLT), a “Canadian Film Unit” that focuses on general topics in the film industry, a lesson on Indigenous history and reconciliation in Canada, and lessons for all ages for National Canadian Film Day that promote discussions around Canadian identity and stories.

What grades do you have lesson plans for?

Our schools programme is focused on Grades 9 through 12. We have a very small number of lessons for primary/junior/intermediate level grades, mostly for French Immersion courses.

What courses are your lesson plans for?

Our lesson plans cover a wide range of grade 9 through 12 courses. Many lessons fit requirements for more than one course. Our resources are written in accordance with Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum expectations, however we have found that teachers outside Ontario also find them suitable for their respective provincial/territorial curricula.

How do I access the lesson plans?

There is no master list of what plans are available. The best way to access the plans is to contact the Educational Resources Coordinator at joshua.bertram@reelcanada.ca or our main office account, contactus@reelcanada.ca, and suggest a subject, topic, or film you are interested in. From there, we can help you access the most suitable resources for you.

What format(s) are your lessons available in?

Our lessons are all hosted on Dropbox and can be sent to you either as a Dropbox link, where you can download them, or as email attachments. As a default, we send them in .PDF format. However, if you prefer lessons in .DOCX format so you can edit them more easily, these are available on request.

Does it cost anything to access your resources?

No. All our resources are available at absolutely no cost to you. We only ask that you consider providing some feedback on your experience using the lessons. Even if you ended up not using them, we still value your opinion on why you decided not to use them, and any improvements we could make. We typically send a paper feedback survey to teachers doing large-scale events, and a digital survey to those doing smaller events, sometime after the event is finished.

How can I give feedback on your lesson plans?

We are always happy to receive feedback via email at joshua.bertram@reelcanada.ca. We also send a feedback survey to everyone who receives lesson plans, with which you can make specific recommendations and comments about what you liked and didn't like.

Who writes your lesson plans?

Our lesson plans are written by our Educational Resources Coordinator and a team of contributors who are all provincially-certified teachers. In some cases, such as with lessons related to Indigenous content, we have solicited outside help from organizations to ensure quality and best practices.

What if I have an idea for activities or lesson plans related to REEL CANADA's films?

We welcome contributions from teachers. If you have an activity you tried out successfully in your classroom that you think would make a great addition to our resources, please send them our way to joshua.bertram@reelcanada.ca.

The students loved the lesson plan! How can I thank you?

Knowing we made teachers' and students' experiences in the classroom more rewarding is thanks enough for us, but we would also love to see evidence of the students' progress through the lesson. If you have samples of student work from any of the activities in our lesson plans, please email them to us, as this is helpful to us in securing funding.