

For The Teacher Web Activity Overview “LANDSCAPES OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY”



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15 years old,
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Saint-Lambert,
2005¹

Description:	<p>Photograph a local landscape and link it to an historical photograph from the <i>Notman Photographic Archives</i> by creating a folder on the McCord Museum Web site.</p> <p>For Quebec students, this activity can take place during the annual <i>Photographic Experience of Heritage</i> contest run by the <i>Conseil des monuments et sites du Québec</i>. Students may have their photographic pairs selected for publication on the Museum Web site. At the close of the school year, the Museum awards prizes to the three best pairs.</p>
Grades:	<p>Secondary I - Geography, Visual Arts, English Language Arts. Secondary III – Visual Arts/Communications. For more details, see heading 7. Curricula Links.</p>
Duration:	<p>Approximately 30 minutes on the computer (in class or at home), not including the time students need to take their picture.</p>
Process:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Observe and photograph a local landscape; 2. Scan the photo and save it in a computer; 3. On the Web site, visit the <i>Notman Photographic Archives</i> and select an historical photograph that can be linked to the original photograph, and create a folder from the selection; 4. Add the original photo to the newly-created folder and present both images together; 5. Optional: Students may do this activity during the <i>Photographic Experience of Heritage</i> contest (deadline for registration: Dec. 16, 2005) and submit the name of their folder to the McCord Museum (before April 15, 2006) as part of the on-line publication of photographic pairs.
Student Handout:	<p>Provides instructions; available on-line.²</p>
Web Resources and Tool:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Notman Photographic Archives</i> on-line database contains approximately 63,000 photographs (1840-1945). • The Web folder presentation tool enables students to pair their photographs.

¹ This photographic pair may be viewed at the following address; www.mccord-museum.qc.ca/eduweb, and choose “Contest”, and “2005 Edition.”

² Check out the following address: www.mccord-museum.qc.ca/notman, select “Educational Activities”, then “Landscape – Student Handout.”

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1. Objectives

Interdisciplinary activity (Geography, Visual Arts and English Language Arts).

Main objective of the activity:

- To promote awareness of a region's landscapes and heritage through the use of photography.

Specific objectives of the activity:

- To observe local landscapes;
- To identify various signs of territorial appropriation;
- To create a personal illustration of a landscape (through photography);
- To use information and communications technologies;
- To establish links;
- To explain and defend project choices.

For more details, see heading **7. Curricula links.**

2. Process

Through photography and various ICT, this activity invites students to use a creative, hands-on approach to reflect on their understanding of landscapes and heritage. Students observe local landscapes and identify signs of territorial appropriation. By selecting and then photographing a particular landscape, students are able to create a personal illustration of that landscape.

After scanning the photo and saving it in a computer³, each student visits the McCord Museum database of images, specifically the *Notman Photographic Archives* containing more than 63,000 items, with the goal of linking his or her photo to an

³ Students must digitize their photos in JPEG format, with 300 DPI maximum resolution and 350 KB maximum weight. In order to be viewed on the McCord Museum Web site later on, photos must be saved (on a computer, school server or CD).

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McCord Museum, December 2005, www.mccord-museum.qc.ca/eduweb

historical photograph according to subject, region, physical markers, landscape evolution, composition, atmosphere, etc. Once an historical photograph is selected, the student creates a **folder** to which his or her original photo is added (note: students must remember to write down the folder's name and password). The student presents the two photographs by describing what they have in common. If possible, he/she describes the complexity of the territorial issue, by specifying the role of certain natural and human factors of the past and present. Each presentation (in the form of a Web folder) is preserved on the McCord Museum Web site where it can be accessed at any time.

With the support of their teachers, Quebec students can carry out this activity as part of the annual *Photographic Experience of Heritage* contest run by the *Conseil des monuments et sites du Québec*⁴. Students usually register for this contest in the fall (deadline: **December 16, 2005**) and present their work in the spring. The *Photographic Experience of Heritage* is the Quebec edition of the *International Photographic Experience of Monuments* contest launched in 1996 in Catalonia, Spain. Each year, more than 20 countries take part in this activity that invites young people to use art and photography to raise their awareness of their communities' heritage.

Photographic pairs created as part of this contest become eligible for publication by the McCord Museum. To qualify, a student must email his or her contact information and *pair* name to marie-claude.larouche@mccord.mcgill.ca, prior to April 15, 2006. At the close of the school year, the McCord Museum awards prizes to three finalists from among those whose photographic pairs have been published.

The **Student Handout** contains the technical information necessary for this activity⁵.

⁴ For details of the *Photographic Experience of Heritage* contest, visit the following address: www.cmsq.qc.ca/photos.htm

⁵ Check out the following address: www.mccord-museum.qc.ca/notman , select "Educational Activities", then "Landscape – Student Handout."

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3. Tools for creating a photographic pair: The *Web folder*

The end result of this activity is a *Web folder* (visual and written presentation), created by the student and saved on the Museum's server. Each student presents a photographic pair comprised of one photo that he or she has taken and a second photo that he or she has chosen from the museum's database. To complete this stage, students must follow three simple steps:

1. Search the digitized collection (by an "Advanced Search", in the *Notman Photographic Archives*) and select a photograph by clicking on "Select image";
2. Display their images selection and create a *folder* by clicking on "Create a folder";
3. Add their original photo (previously saved in their computer) to the folder by clicking on "Add an image."

At any time, the *Web folder* can be viewed on the Museum's Web site or printed for evaluation purposes.

4. Role of the teacher

Pedagogical aspects

Teachers may adapt this activity to the needs of individual classes by emphasizing which aspects and skills their students should focus on.

Technical aspects

Teachers can help their students use the site by:


- helping them to search the database of the Notman Photographic Archives⁶, containing more than 63,000 images;
- reminding them of the importance of writing down their folder's name and password.

⁶ Check out the following address: www.mccord-museum.qc.ca/en/collection , select "Advanced Search", then "Notman Photographic Archives."

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5. Evaluation

Here is an evaluation guide that can be used to assess students' work.

 II-292807.0.2	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Excellent	
Student was able to:	1 point or less	2 points	3 points	
create a quality photograph;				/3
describe his or her photo by pointing out signs of human activity;				/3
link his or her photograph to an historical photograph;				/3
establish and explain the connection between the two pictures;				/3
write a well-structured text using precise vocabulary.				/3
Comments:				Total /15

6. Material equipment

- Digital camera or traditional camera with scanner to digitize photographs.
- One computer per student (recommended).
- Technical parameters:
 - If possible, *Internet Explorer 6* (or latest version) or *Safari*;
 - *Macromedia Flash* plug-in.
- A high-speed connection provides the best view of high-definition images.
- A multimedia projector for in-class presentations of the site and completed *pairs* (optional).

7. Curricula links

QUEBEC

Quebec Education Program, Secondary School Education, Cycle One (2004)

- **Geography:**
 - **Urban Territory: Metropolis**
 - Competency 1: Understands the organization of a territory;
 - ◆ Deconstructs landscapes in the territory: Identifies signs of human activity in landscapes; Explores the feelings these landscapes arouse.
 - Competency 2: Interprets a territorial issue.
 - ◆ Describes the complexity of the territorial issue: Specifies the role of certain natural and human factors of the past and present.
- **Visual Arts :**
 - Competency 1: Creates personal images.
 - Organizes his/her visual arts production : Shapes the material and language elements and organizes them in space.
- **English Language Arts :**
 - Competency 4: Writes a variety of genres for personal and social purposes:
 - Follows a process to produce written texts in specific contexts.
- **Cross-Curricular Competency:**
 - Competency 6: Uses information and communications technologies.

Visual Art/communication, 324 – sec. III (1982)

- **Gesture and technique Module:**
 - Making images: 3.2 To transform material to produce images, concentrating primarily on representation and expression in his/her work.
 - 3.2.1 To develop gestures in techniques and processes as means of representing and expressing his/her world, in works of art... Photography (I).
- **Art et society Module:**
 - 3.2 To describe past and present photographic images found in his/her immediate cultural environment.
 - 3.2.2 To describe some characteristics of these photographic images.

Credits

From the McCord Museum: Dr. Marie-Claude Larouche.