



Gulf of Georgia Cannery NHS – School Program Cannery Stories (Grade 4-5)

Theme: The social history of the West Coast fishing and canning industries is characterized by cultural diversity, hard work, and discrimination based on race and gender.

Description: What was life like for the people who lived and worked in one of BC's cannery towns? After a tour of our canning line exhibit, the cannery's general store serves as the backdrop for a history mystery. Students will work in teams to discover the identity of six cannery workers. Conversations with store clerks, documents, and artifact replicas provide the clues that reveal the personal story of these workers and highlight their treatment in BC's fishing industry.

Key Messages: Although people from many cultural backgrounds worked together in early fish canneries, their experiences were not the same. Racism and discrimination were common during the early years of the canning industry. Learning about this social history highlights how immigration and multiculturalism shaped the industry and continues to shape our society today.

This 120-minute program includes:

- A tour of the canning line with a special focus on the social history of the multicultural workforce.
- History Mystery: role play, documents, and artifacts.

Big Idea/BC Curriculum:

Grade 4

- The pursuit of valuable natural resources has played a key role in changing the land, people, and communities of Canada.

Grade 5

- Canada's policies and treatment of minority peoples have negative and positive legacies.
- Natural resources continue to shape the economy and identity of different regions of Canada.
- Immigration and multiculturalism continue to shape Canadian society and identity.

First Peoples Principle of Learning:

- Learning involves recognizing the consequences of one's actions.

Booking notes:

- Maximum size = up to 2 groups of 20 students at the same time