

# **The Exile of the People of Longfellow's *Evangeline: A Tale of Acadie***

## **Lesson Plan**

A resource developed through the *Longfellow and the Forging of American Identity* program

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**Suggested Grade Level:** 5-8

**Subject Area:** Social Studies

### **Learning Results:**

*Social Studies:*

History: C3

**Time Required:** 2 weeks

### **Materials and Resources Required:**

*All of the following resources are included in this lesson packet:*

- Introduction
- Student instructions and rubric
- Research outline pages
- Extension activity

*The following resources are also required:*

- Copy of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's *Evangeline: A Tale of Acadie*
- Print media and Internet access for research
- Deportation Orders (may use primary document with a secondary source interpretation) – links to the orders may be found on page four of this document

### **Learning Objectives:**

Students research using a variety of primary and secondary sources and write an editorial. The editorial will first explain the main points of Lt. Gov. Lawrence's Deportation Orders. Second, the editorial will present a point of view with support concerning the removal of the Acadians.

### **Preparation Required/Preliminary Discussion:**

- Students should read and discuss Longfellow's *Evangeline: A Tale of Acadie*.
- Students should understand the history of the hostilities between England and France through the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- Students should be exposed to a brief history of Acadia (The people, settlements, society and economy).
- Students should practice or have prior skills in evaluating historical documents and artifacts.
- Students should practice or have prior experience in editorial writing and interpretation.

- Teacher and students should have ongoing current events discussions surrounding the exile of people by a dominating government and/or people.

**Instructions:**

Students will be asked by the citizens of Grand Pré to write an editorial concerning Governor Lawrence's actions to remove the French population from Acadia. Their editorials will be addressed to the members of England's Parliament in an effort to put an end to such unjust deeds.

The lesson plan resources that are included will guide the students through the research process, from the beginning steps to the final editorial.

Throughout the course of history there have been many events in which great suffering was inflicted upon innocent people. The story of the Acadian expulsion is one such event. Britain and France, the two most powerful nations of Europe, were at war off and on throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century. North America became a coveted prize for both warring nations. The French Acadians of present day Nova Scotia fell victim to great suffering. Even under an oath of allegiance to England, the Acadians were advised that their families were to be deported and their lands confiscated by the English. This event was immortalized by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's epic poem *Evangeline: A Tale of Acadie*, which was published in 1847.



--Grand Pré National Historic Site, Grand Pré, Nova Scotia, Canada

## Part 1: Research

**Research – Step 1** – Record all the major events concerning the Acadians’ deportation beginning with the conception of the deportation orders through the last ship’s departure from Grand Pré for both the poem *Evangeline: A Tale of Acadie* and at least one of the given websites. Create and record this information on a T chart. Compare any commonalities between *Evangeline: A Tale of Acadie* and other sources.

- History of Nova Scotia (Peter Landry, 2000)  
<http://www.blupete.com>  
This is by far the most comprehensive source of information. Contains separate chapters on the Deportation of the Acadians (part 6) including the plan, the oath, the Deportation Orders, Winslow’s departure for Grand Pré, Winslow’s arrival at Grand Pré, preparations at Grand Pré, the deportation at Grand Pré, and the voyages.
- History of the Acadians  
<http://www.acadian-cajun.com/hisacad1.htm>  
Information on the following: Acadian Origins, first hand accounts of Old Acadie, Acadia 1632-1755, the exile, resettlement, Acadians in Canada, and Cajun history.
- The Exile of the Acadians; Mde. Morel de la Durantaye  
<http://www.canadiana.org/ECO/PageView/13788/0003?id=56f1abdd15bfb46f>  
This short story was published in 1888. The pages are scanned from an original copy. To go to the next page click on the single arrow under “navigation”. A few pages have a few words cut off at the margin, but for the most part is legible. 30 pages plus illustrations. Good heart felt reading.
- The Acadian Odyssey  
<http://collections.ic.gc.ca/acadian/english/toce/toce.htm>  
Brief information on the following: Origins of the name, Acadian roots, life and events leading to the expulsion, a look at the deportation, and the conditions during exile.

## Research – Step 2

Using a variety of primary and secondary sources, research to learn about the Deportation Orders and describe two different perspectives on the legitimacy of the orders. You may use the outline page below to organize your notes.

What are the main points of the “Deportation Orders”?

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Point of view 1 (Why did the Acadians feel removal was unfair?)

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Point of view 2 (Why did the English feel it was necessary to remove the Acadians?)

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**Research – Step 3**

Research to find a controversial *current* issue that relates to the expulsion of a group (ethnic, religious, etc.) from their homeland and find three reasons why there is a controversy. You may select your own current issue or brainstorm with your teacher or classmates.

Write a brief description of a current issue concerning the expulsion or removal of a group of people from their homeland.

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List three reasons why there is a controversy.

Controversial reason 1 \_\_\_\_\_

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Controversial reason 2 \_\_\_\_\_

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Controversial reason 3 \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Part Two: The Editorial**

Based on your research, write an editorial that includes the following:

- The main points of the Deportation Orders, September 5, 1755.
- Description of events following the orders through the departure of the last citizens of Grand Pré.
- Your point of view – Is the Deportation Orders fair? Why or why not?
- Information to support your position (from primary and secondary sources).
- Bibliography included at the end of your editorial.



## EDITORIAL SCORING GUIDE

### Maine Learning Results-

#### History C-Historical Inquiry, Analysis, and Interpretation

1. Students will be able to use information from a variety of primary and secondary sources to identify and support a point of view on a controversial historical topic.

#### Source of Evidence:

Editorial and Bibliography

1 – attempted demonstration (does not meet standards)	Editorial demonstrates little or no understanding of the events surrounding the Deportation Orders and no position of the issue is taken.
2 – partial demonstration (partially meets standards)	Editorial demonstrates some understanding of the events surrounding the Deportation Orders and position of the issue is taken with minimal support.
<b>3 – proficient demonstration (meets standards)</b>	<b>Editorial demonstrates a clear understanding of the events surrounding the Deportation Orders and arguments are presented clearly and supported with accurate research.</b>
4 – sophisticated demonstration (exceeds standards)	Editorial demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the events surrounding the Deportation Orders and arguments are presented clearly and supported with accurate research and rich detail.

### **Extension activity: The exile of the Acadians map activity**

Students research a variety of web links and using a map of the east coast of North America, draw the routes of the Acadians from their respective villages to their new destination.

Students will label the number of transport vessels with the number of Acadians on each vessel on the route. Also include the dates of departure from Acadia and the arrival at their new destination.

#### **Materials and resources:**

Map of the eastern coastline of North America

Map of Acadia (Nova Scotia)

<http://www.blupete.com/Hist/NovaScotiaBk1/Part1/Maps/MapNS1.gif>

The Ships of the Acadian Expulsion

<http://www.landrystuff.com/ExpulsionShips.html>