

The Landscape of Travel

Activity set 8

Activities

- Discussion
- Make a photograph album

Goals

- To stimulate an appreciation of travel as movement through time and space
- To foster understanding of the role travel played in exploration, discovery, recreation and leisure in the twentieth century
- To explore the documentation of time and place, changes and experiences

Levels

- Elementary
- Intermediate
- Senior

Curriculum connections

- Visual arts
- Social studies
- Language arts

Materials

- Image set H
 - OR all images in Byron Harmon fonds
(access through: <http://asalive.archivesalberta.org:8080/access/asa/archaa/display/WHYTE-272>)
- Empty scrapbooks, albums or binders with pages
- Pencils, glue
- Display materials such as coloured background paper

Background

- Byron Harmon travelled extensively through the mountain landscape of western Canada. He travelled by railway, pack train, automobile and foot, visiting towns and communities as well as numerous remote backcountry locations. All the while he photographed.
- Travel for pleasure flourished during the twentieth century. While initially an activity for the wealthy, it became enormously popular after World War I with the entire western population. Travellers were anxious to tell, and show, family and friends details of their travels, and were especially enthusiastic about the landscapes, amenities and cultures of places visited. They sent postcards, purchased photographic prints and viewbooks, and, after returning home, constructed scrapbooks and photograph albums. (see Image set I)
- Byron Harmon sold many photographs to tourists through retail outlets and his own businesses. Harmon's business in Banff displayed a wide selection of images and sold large quantities of prints and postcards.

ACTIVITIES

1. Harmon travelled to many areas via the Canadian Pacific Railway. What types of images might the CPR be interested in acquiring to sell to tourists? What types of images might the railway company have acquired for its own use? What would the company have used the photographs for?
2. Discuss tourist travel as an activity and have students place it within the context of their own lives. How many have travelled by train? Have them describe what train travel along the same route would be like today.
3. Ask students to review all the images or in Image Set H. (Those students wishing to search further might wish to look at the entire Byron Harmon fonds, available on-line at the link above (see Materials))

Have the students identify which images would likely have been popular with tourists? Before 1914? What popular interests of the time influenced photography? Which types of images would be most popular after 1918? Why were these images popular?

4. Have students imagine that while travelling from Calgary to Vancouver on the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1910, they purchased prints and postcards by the photographer Byron Harmon. Once home, they create a photograph album of their trip through the mountains.

Students select and print 20 to 50 views for their own personal photograph album. The views are glued into the album with captions written below. The album is given a title which is written inside the front cover. What order are the photographs placed in? Why? What sort of information might a traveller want to include in each caption?

5. Encourage students to collect or make photographs on their next family vacation and create an album from them.