

Evaluation

I think the Royal BC Museum website is a great resource for students to browse and take charge of their own learning. It seems to be directed at older students, due to the amount of text, but I can see how it can be adapted to suit the needs of younger learners, by having it teacher directed. The Learning Portal is very user friendly so anybody can use it. The easy to follow navigation allows for more independent work with older students. I like that it allows users to search for specific themes by timeline or map. This resource would be a great starting point for inquiry based learning, where students choose what they want to learn about and do their own research to find answers to their questions. The resource provides examples of different inquiry based projects that have been completed by students. I also think it is a great idea to be able to publish your work on the website.

From a teacher's perspective, I like how there are direct links to the BC curriculum. It is easy to tell what fits in with the curricular competencies and content. The website also provides access to some free lesson plans that can be used with a variety of different grades. The lesson plans link the lesson plan to the subject, big ideas, curricular competencies, and content. New themes are always being added to the website by teachers and learners who request to be co-creators.

I think this resource would be very beneficial for teachers and students in Victoria, as the learning portal makes connections to artifacts they have at the museum. I think there is great value in being able to see artifacts in person, rather than just through photos. When working with younger students, I think the website provides a lot of great ideas and an easy way to search for primary sources that can open up discussion. However, the large amount of text and reading

level is not suitable for young learners. On the other hand, the videos and audio recordings I browsed were all quite short, making them very useful and appropriate for classroom use.

I appreciate that there is the option of ordering images through the website. Although there is a cost associated with the order, it is nice to have the option of having tangible sources to use in the classroom. Similarly, the Royal BC Museum will loan out artifacts to public institutions for educational purposes. This is convenient for those who are too far away to travel to Victoria.