

TORONTO STAR

CLASSROOM CONNECTION



# Hockey

## TEACHER GUIDE

Canadian Press reporter Dean Bennett takes a high-altitude look at Canada’s grand game, diving down in spots to focus on key issues and the personalities who animate it.

Hockey has grown with the country, first on its ponds and then in covered rinks that became community hubs in smaller centres and ornate palaces that to this day help define its big cities.

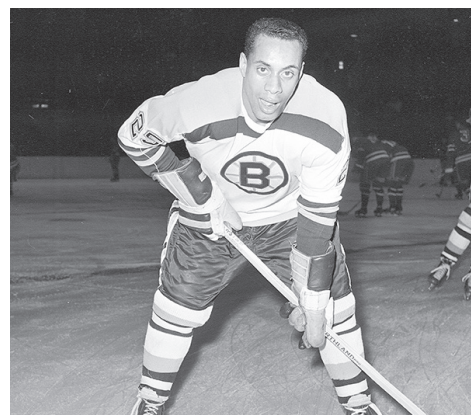
It touches a range of topics: minor hockey, the sociology and business of the sport, the development of leading edge equipment, the impact of digital and high-tech programs and analysis. Scratch a broader topic and its impact on and by hockey emerges: women in sport, concussions, TV, advertising, fantasy leagues, recreation leagues, minor leagues and Canada’s diminished dominance in the sport at a global level.

### Additional discussion/research points:

- A number of communities lay claim to being the birthplace of hockey. Assess their arguments and decide who makes the best case.
- Assess the National Hockey League and its plan in the last two decades to grow the game in large U.S. population centres that are not known as traditional hockey hot beds: Nashville, Florida, North Carolina, Las Vegas. Is this a sound or self-defeating long term strategy?
- Based on current trends, where do you see the game of hockey going in Canada by 2030? By 2050?
- To develop its best players, should youngsters focus on hockey exclusively or should Canada, like Australia, encourage youth to excel in a number of sports to turn out the best well-rounded athletes?
- What changes need to be made in the game to keep it growing and thriving in the years to come? What things should never be changed?
- Assess the impact of women in hockey, trailblazers and icons like Abby Hoffman, Hayley Wickenheiser, Manon Rheaume. What will women’s hockey look like in 20 years?



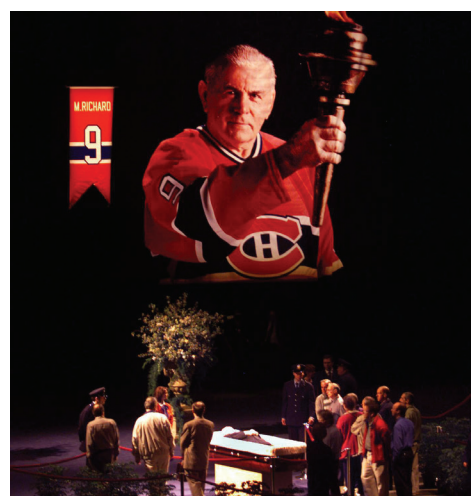
Hayley Wickenheiser celebrates after defeating the USA during the women’s final ice hockey game at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Vancouver. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Jonathan Hayward



25-year-old left wing Willie O’Ree, the first black player of the National Hockey League, warms up in his Boston Bruins uniform, prior to the game with the New York Rangers, at New York’s Madison Square Garden, on November 23, 1960.



A man signs a memorial wall as thousands of people line up to pay their respects to NHL hall-of-famer Gordie Howe as the casket rests in the Joe Louis Arena in Detroit, Mich., on Tuesday, June 14, 2016. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Nathan Denett



Fans file past hockey legend and former Montreal Canadiens Maurice Richard to pay their respect during the public viewing at the Molson Centre Tuesday, May 30, 2000 in Montreal. Richard died following a two-year battle with stomach cancer.

