



Activity Ideas

Based on the award winning book "Charlie - A Home Child's Life in Canada"

Debates:

- Ask your class to debate whether or not Charlie's mother did the right thing sending him to a Barnardo's Home when she knew he would be far away from England and might never see his family again. What was her alternative?
- Was Dr. Barnardo's plan to send young unsupervised children to Canada a good idea? Was it even ethical? What were the alternatives for the large numbers of children needing care in England between 1860 and 1940?

Writing & Computer Research Skills:

- Ask the students to find a quiet time at home to interview their parents or grandparents about their lives. Four million Canadians are descendants of Home Children. Some students and teachers will find out they are one of them!
 - If a family connection is not found, have the students pair up, either use Charlie from the book or select a child's card from the package. Information on the child will be found on the back of the cards. Without reading this information, have the students research the child using the following these sites:
1. **Library and Archives Canada Home Child Shipping Records:**
This list will enable the students to identify when the BHC came to Canada, what organization brought them, how old the BHC was and where they were headed.
<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/immigration-records/home-children-1869-1930/immigration-records/Pages/search.aspx>
 2. **British Home Children in Canada web site**
Information on thousands of children is found on this site. Have the student put the child's name in the search bar located on the upper right of the web site to find information.
<http://canadianbritishhomechildren.weebly.com/>
 3. **Barnardo's Ups and Downs Index**
Many of the children in this area came through the Dr. Barnardo's Homes. Barnardo's published newsletters between 1895 and 1940. These newsletters give bits of information on thousands of their children. An index of the children mentioned is found at:
http://www.bifhsgo.ca/cstm_upsAndDowns.php
If prior to 1905, the magazines are available for searching at:
<http://canadianbritishhomechildren.weebly.com/ups-and-downs-magazine.html>
 4. **Library and Archives Canada - Soldiers of the First World War**
Many of our BHC served in the Wars. Library and Archives Canada are digitalizing all the attestation papers and service records from the First World War. Substantial information can be found in these records.
<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/canadian-expeditionary-force.aspx>

5. **Pier 21, Canada's Immigration Museum**

<http://www.pier21.ca/research/collections/online-story-collection/British-home-children>

- Have the students write about the child based on their lives in the era. Describe the reaction of boys and girls when they are told they will be leaving for Canada. What do they know about Canada? What would the students tell the child to expect on an Ontario farm in c1911.
- Write a letter from Charlie (or one of the children on the cards) to their mother/father or family about their life on the farm. Charlie is lonely and mistreated but didn't want to tell his mother.
- Have the students write a journal or a Facebook entry pretending they are thirteen and their mother has just told them she is sending them to an orphanage. If they could take only one treasure, what would they take? Pretend you are a time traveler interviewing boys and girls on the dock and they are about to sail for Canada. What do they know about Canada? What will surprise them? How do they feel leaving their friends and family behind?
- Assign the enclosed word searches based on BHC words for the students to do.

Based on the Charlie book:

- Have children do a tableau playing the roles of Charlie's mother, Charlie and Mr. Slinger
- Compare Canada from 1911 when Charlie arrived and Canada now using:
 - the Canadian Flag
 - provinces
 - farming methods
 - travel by land and by ocean
 - population
 - Prime Minister and government
 - the immigration process
 - the requirements for citizenship
- Draw a map of the places Charlie lived in Canada
- Have the students read about the Canadian Expeditionary Force and the Battle of the Somme in the First World War.
- Ask student to find out what is needed now for a child to be adopted in Canada and make a list of the many regulations and compare it to what Charlie needed to come to Canada.
- Ask students to research the requirements for a person to become a Canadian Citizen now. Why didn't Charlie have any of these requirements?
- Students in Grades 7 and up can study the research techniques used in the book, learning to record and cite sources in doing their own research.

Other internet resources for activities and lessons:

- **Citizenship - applying for Citizenship - Citizenship Test Questions**
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/citizenship/index.asp>
- **Discover Canada - The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship**
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/publications/discover/index.asp>
- **Canada Arts, Culture and Heritage**
<http://www.canada.ca/en/services/culture/index.html>
- **Link to Learning - Social Studies**
http://www.linktolearning.com/social_studies.htm

Online sources for researching the British Home Children

1. Library and Archives Canada Home Child index

This resource contains the immigration records of virtually all the children who came. This record will generally tell you what ship, when they left, when they arrived and usually what organization brought them. Please keep in mind that the majority of the children are in this data base, however many are also missing. If you cannot find your child here, you might have to search the incoming Canadian passenger lists or the outgoing UK lists held by Ancestry.ca or ancestry.co.uk or you can try the free site familysearch.org. Also be aware there may be many variations of spellings of the names, some also only have the first name as an initial. Be creative with your searches if the child is not found.

2. Born of Good Intentions - BHC Film

Produced by the BHCARA, this film gives a good comprehensive history of the migration programs, discussing why it started, how this was legal and what happened to the children in Canada. It also answered the glaring question, why don't we know about this? A shorter version or the full film is available upon request at info@BritishHomeChildren.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNsdzjlPukc>

3. British Home Children in Canada web site

Ranked as one of the top sites in Canada for researching British immigration into Canada, visit

www.canadianbritishhomechildren.weebly.com

This site is the most comprehensive source for information on the BHC on the Internet today.

4. British Home Children Registry

Started in 2000 by Perry Snow, this registry contains information on over 63,000 British Home Children. Published for the first time online in September of 2016

www.britishhomechildrenregistry.com

5. Board of Guardians

Sometime the children came from the poor houses (called Workhouses) in the UK. This site released inspection reports done in Canada up to 1930.

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/immigration-records/home-children-1869-1930/boards-guardians/Pages/search.aspx>

6. The First World War

Over 10,000 BHC enlisted in the First World War alone. Over 1,000 perished. Library and Archives Canada are releasing online and for free all the personal service records of all who enlisted. This is an invaluable resource for researching our BHC.

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/Search.aspx>

BHC First World War Casualties

This site lists comprehensive details of all the BHC, to date, who have been identified as having lost their lives in this war.

<http://bhc-who-died-in-the-first-world-war.silk.co/>

7. Facebook

The group: British Home Children Advocacy & Research Association is the largest and most active BHC group on Facebook today. With over 3,500 members, it is a close knit BHC family who always welcome new member. We have many great researchers who are always happy to help others looking for information. The students are encouraged to join, interact with the descendants and ask questions.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Britishhomechildren/>

Additional Reading for Students

- **Orphan at my Door: The Home Child Diary, Scholastic**
by Victoria Cope, 1980. Part of the “Dear Canada” series for 9 to 12 years old.
- **Gwen**
by Carolyn Pogue, a story of a British Home Child for ages 10 to adult published in 2010
- **Gwen in West Wind Calling**
by Carolyn Pogue, the sequel to Gwen published in 2012
- **Ned: Barnardo Boy**
by Barbara Coyle, published 2009, the story of a boy, Ned, abandoned as a toddler on the streets of 1870's London, he must fend for himself and survive by his wits. Suitable for 9 years to adult
- **Flower**
by Irene Watts, Tundra 2005 - a delightful fictional story for ages 9 to 12
- **Home Child**
by Barbara Haworth-Attard, Rousson, 1966 - about a 13 year old boy sent to work on a Canadian Farm
- **The Tin Lined Trunk**
by Mary Hamilton, Kids Can Press, 1980. Out of print but available at libraries
- **The Accidental Orphan**
by Constance Horne, Beach Holme, 1998 - a girl mistakenly gets on a ship and is taken for a Home Child
- **The Reluctant Canadian: Inspired by the True Story of a Canadian Home Child**
by Brad Barnes, 2012. Suitable for grades 9 and up.

A comprehensive listing of the books and literature published on the British Home Children can be found at:

<http://canadianbritishhomechildren.weebly.com/book-article--image-library.html>

Resources for Adults

- **The Little Immigrants: The Orphans who came to Canada**
by Kenneth Bagnell, 1980. This book, which spent 3 years on the best seller's list in Canada, is a tale of compassion and courage and a vivid account of a deep and moving part of Canadian heritage.
- **Nation Builders: Barnardo Children in Canada**
by Gail Corbett, Dundurn Press, a comprehensive overview of Barnardo children sent to Canada. Barnardo's was the best known and the largest organization bring children to Canada. Many first hand accounts of British Home Children are in this book.
- **The Golden Bridge: Young Immigrants in Canada**
by Marjorie Kohli, Natural Heritage Books, 2003. The most comprehensive book which covers the organizations responsible for the immigration of the British Home Children.
- **In 2014 Lori Oschefski** of the British Home Children Advocacy & Research Association put together a presentation movie which covers the background history of these migration schemes and the laws which made this legal. This film is available upon request at info@britishhomechildren.com
- Many films about the British Home Children, including *Childhoods Lost: The Story of Canadian Home Children*, and excellent film with many interviews with then surviving BHC can be found at:
<http://canadianbritishhomechildren.weebly.com/films.html>

British Home Child Word Search

s e r v e d m g d l o c m e h
h c l p h s n f h z p w v s d
u t o n i o n o a i b d i l e
q h x e r v r i h m d t i a k
t s l t m s b s q v i h p y c
r k s r e a c i s r c l r u i
u l c e t b h f b s n g y f s
n o h d l h r s a l o t r c e
k n o l d e t a s r e l g c m
h e r i i v m n v c m q n o o
a l e u a d q o b e a d u k h
r y s b r l a k h p a r h y d
d j e i f p t n e l i s e k c
a m d n a l g n e r n i t d o
z z b y h o m e a d a n a c w

british	family	strong	loss
home	cow	scared	builder
child	horse	homesick	serve
ship	chores	england	bible
farm	cold	trunk	homeless
lonely	canada	afraid	silent
brave	hope	hard	
shame	hungry		

British Home Child Word Search

t x m p i h s d r a h s c a r e d
o r h v a l i a n t c a n a d a b
d z u s w s x j o u r n e y x a u
v l e n i v u d h h o m e s i c k
d d o a k t p r e s e l b i b q e
o c e c s k i z v t t k f e e r c
m s o t m t s r c i c r s i m v n
e o e m e h r s b c v e o x o p e
s q r p p r u e e f i o j n h i l
t r z p a a m n n l a o r e g h i
i p h z h r s i g g e r r b r s s
c w o n s a a s n r t m m e h m t
l o n e l y n t i e y h o c h a h
p l u f e p o h i o d a l h k e o
f o u n d e r s a o n l h m o t r
u q e c i v r e s o n k m o f s s
h r d i a r f a e g a r u o c p e

scared	compassion	british	horse
homesick	hungry	home	snow
trunk	heroic	steamship	cold
journey	service	farm	canada
afraid	valiant	domestic	founders
courage	bible	lonely	hopeful
separation	orphan	strong	strength
hardship	homeless	survivor	determined
rejected	silence		