

HL Twinned School Viking School, Viking Alberta, Grade Eleven Students Featured In New Textbook

The Viking grade eleven students are featured in the new Social Studies 10 textbook, *Perspectives On Globalization*, by The Oxford University Press. The picture and article included on page 382 of the textbook includes a brief write-up of the efforts to aid the country of Lesotho by Canadian students as well as a description of conditions experienced by children in Lesotho. There is also a picture of students from Molapo High School, who have shared correspondence with the Viking Social Studies class through Help Lesotho.

The school twinning project began during the 2005-2006 school year and will continue until the spring of 2008 when the Viking students graduate. The Oxford textbook will not only be used in Alberta within the Social Studies 10 curriculum, but it will also be used across Canada in various other Social Studies curriculums and different grade levels. Community members can help contribute to the school project by contacting either Robert Shaw or Christy Fraser at Viking School.

INVESTIGATION

Canadian Students Extending Helping Hands to Students in Lesotho

Something to Think About: To what extent do Canadian students have a responsibility to help students in other countries?

Example: In 2006, seven schools in Ontario, two schools on Salt Spring Island in British Columbia, one school in Québec, and Viking School in Alberta had twinned members of their school populations with students in 11 schools in Lesotho. Lesotho is one of the poorest countries in the world, and it has the third-highest rate of HIV/AIDS on earth. More than 30 per cent of children are orphans, and more than 60 per cent of the population is under 24 years of age. Life expectancy is about 31 years. Through the experience of twinning, Canadian students have explored life in this small African country by learning Lesotho vocabulary, and the country's geography, history, and local customs. Through exchanging letters with Lesotho students, Canadian students encourage their pen pals to stay in school—currently only about 8 per cent of Lesotho students graduate from high school. The funds Canadian schools provide also help with a variety of programs in Lesotho schools.

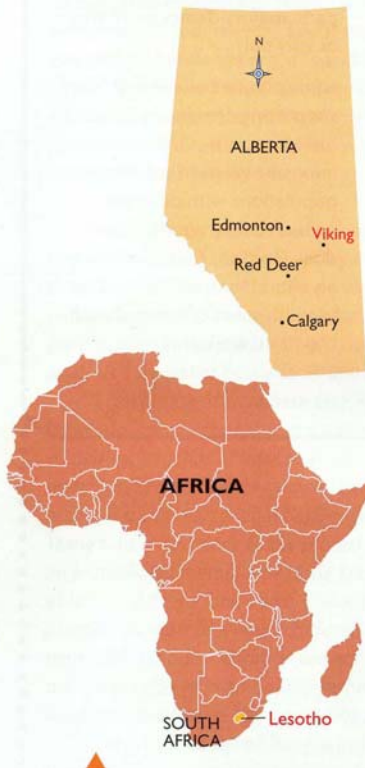


Figure 18-5

Location of Viking, Alberta and of Lesotho, Africa.

Figure 18-6

In 2006, the grade 10 students at Viking School (at left) were twinned with Molapo High School in Lesotho, Africa. Viking students carry out fundraising activities to support the Molapo school, and exchange letters with the students (at right).

