

Scripting the Past

Exploring Valery Chkalov Flight through photographs and different primary and secondary sources.



Lesson Plan by:
Lyudmila Dyachenko
Evergreen High School
Vancouver, Washington

Lesson Plan:

Scripting the Past

Exploring Valery Chkalov's flight through photographs and different primary and secondary sources.

Subject: ELL World History

Grade: 9

Purpose: Teach students how "to dig deep" historical information and visual media to learn about the transpolar flight of Valery Chkalov to Vancouver, Washington on June 20, 1937.

Objectives: Students will:

- 1. Discover how to analyze photographs and different primary and secondary sources to learn about the flight of Valery Chkalov.*
- 2. Apply what they learn from the written documents and visualize in the photos to a certain historical time and certain historical personalities.*

Curriculum Fit:

Local History; US History, World History sections on Science, technology, society.

Standards:

Geography

Standard 9

Understands the nature, distribution and migration of human populations on Earth's surface.

Historical Understanding:

Standard 2

Understands the historical perspective.

CBA Components:

Museum Connection

(Using photographs from local museum collections)

Language Arts:

Standard 4

Gathers and uses information for research purposes

Standard 7

Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of informational texts

Standard 9

Uses viewing skills and strategies to understand and interpret visual media.

Materials:

For the class:

- Computer with internet access
- Printing copies of the photographs
- Printing copies of the newspaper articles, encyclopedia information, speeches and resolution no. 4711

For each group of students:

- One photograph depicting Valery Chkalov and people around him
- Take-Home Activity Sheet

Procedures:

1. Form groups of five. Lead students in brainstorming activity regarding the main topic of the lesson. Ask students what they know about the transpolar flight of Valery Chkalov and his crew to Vancouver, Washington on June 20, 1937. Write their ideas on the chalkboard. Then tell them that to keep alive Valery P. Chkalov's dream that the peoples of Russia and the USA should live peacefully on this same planet and with cooperative work beautify this ocean of human life. We should understand the importance of his flight and its contribution to the American-Russian relations.
2. Tell students that during this lesson, they are going to have an opportunity to be amateur historians and experts. They are going to analyze different photographs and written

sources reflecting the time of Chkalov's flight to Vancouver, Washington.

3. Divide the class into five groups. Each group will be assigned a photograph of Chkalov and a written document related to his flight to Vancouver.
 - a. Photo #1 J. Stalin and Sergei Ordzhonikidze talking with Soviet flier V.P. Chkalov at Moscow Central Airdome, May 1935.
 - b. Photo #2 The Russian Bear Awakes (Chapter 3). ANT-25 taking off from Shelkovo Airport.
The Online Encyclopedia
Soviet ANT-25 completes first transpolar flight at Vancouver on June 20, 1937.
 - c. Photo #3 The Russian Tupolev ANT-25, after landing at Vancouver, Washington
Reading Materials
House Resolution No. 4711 adopted by the House of Representatives on March 4, 2004.
 - d. Photo #4 Three Russian fliers.
Alexander Beliakov, Valery Chkalov, and George Baidukov pose at Pearson Field in Vancouver, Washington shortly after their arrival on June 20, 1937.
Reading Materials
Newspaper article from "The Columbian" of July 3, 2007 "Russian delegation to help honor Chkalov."
 - e. Photo #5 Army General George C. Marshall hosting the Russian fliers.
Reading Materials
Newspaper article (from Russian Newspaper) of September 11, 2006 "Russian pilots have repeated the route of Chkalov."
4. Have each group answer the following questions about the photo in the Classroom Activity Sheet: Creating of the Photo

Script. Students construct the script that includes the following elements:

1. Scene Description:

Students should include the scene's time period and geographic location, a description of what is visible in the photo and a physical description of the characters and their clothing.

2. Characters Description:

Students should include at least two characters in the dialogue.

3. Author's Note:

Students should write a paragraph at the end of the dialogue to explain characters' motivations, fears, expectations, and realization.

5. Explain to the students that in reading written documents, they will be seeking answers to the following questions:

- a. Why do you think Chkalov and his crew made this flight?
- b. What did they expect to find in America?
- c. What fears did the crew have about the flight?
- d. Was Chkalov's experience what he and his crew had expected? If not, how was it different?

6. After students have completed their analyses, ask them to complete written document analyses worksheet:

- Type of document
- Unique physical qualities of the document
- Dates of the document
- Document analyses

7. Have each group share its ideas about Chkalov's transpolar nonstop flight.

8. Assign the Take-Home Activity Sheet.

- What is the value of the photo documents?
- How do photos bring history to life?
- How do photos represent historical reality?

- What does the study of photographs teach about history that we couldn't learn in other ways?
- What are the limitations of the photo analysis? What can't we learn from them?
- Would you consider pursuing photography as a career? What do you think would be rewarding about it? What do you think would be frustrating?

9. The following day have a class discussion about the students' ideas. Did students think the activity was difficult? Did they have time putting themselves in the shoes of Chkalov and his crew members?

Links:

Valery Chkalov Museums:

www.chkalov.org/museums.html

Valery Chkalov Flight Overviews:

www.peoples.ru/technics/aviator/chkalov0102.shtml

Russia's Shortcut to Fame:

www.heretical.com

Valery Chkalov Home Page:

www.chkalov.org

Valery Chkalov

[En.wikipedia.org/wiki](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valery_Chkalov)

History Lesson Plans:

www.cloudnet.com

www.csum.edu/~hcedu013/plans.html

Pearson Field Airport-Wikipedia

[En.wikipedia.org/wiki/PearsonFieldAirport](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PearsonFieldAirport)