**Sealing Notes – Grade 8 Social Studies**

SEALING INDUSTRY: PG 58-60

* Two branches of the seal industry were:

1. *landsman’s hunt*- near the shore (like the inshore fishery)

2. *offshore hunt -* “the front”- off Labrador

“the gulf”- Gulf of St. Lawrence. Done in much larger ships with crews)

* OIL was the main profit item from seals, commercially it could be used in many items including: -lamps

-machine lubricants

-softening textiles

-paint

-explosives

-margarine

* At one time 84% of exports in Newfoundland and Labrador were from seal oil

***Why was the seal fishery the most dangerous ?***

1. the location of the seal herds (on foot on the icefloes)

2. the season of the hunt (Feb-March) when weather was bad

3. the method used to hunt the seals (gaff/towing)

***What was the Southern Cross?***

The *Southern Cross* was a sealing ship in NL during the 1900's. For many years it had been successful but in 1914 it was lost at sea. The ship was returning from the Gulf of St. Lawrence with a full load of seal pelts when it encountered a severe blizzard. There were 173 men aboard the ship. All were lost at sea. It is remembered as one of Newfoundland’s worst sealing disasters.

Sealing vocab:

**Gaff**- long iron tipped pole used to kill seals

**Sculpin**g- the practice of removing the pelt with a thick layer of white fat still attached.

**Skinner**- parson who removed the fat from the skin, they could do 450 seals in 10 hrs.