

# The Canadian Reader

Current Canadian events and issues for students in Grades 3 and up



**Free  
Sample**



## Includes

- A News Story
- Lesson Plan
- Organizer

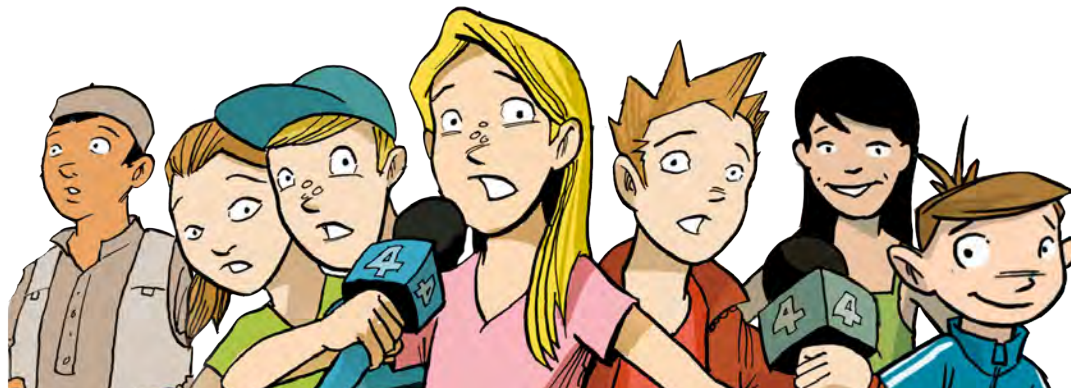
Subscribe to receive 2 additional articles, answer keys, & more!

4 Free Article: **Ghost Gear**

6 Comprehension Check | 7 Language Focus

8 Lesson Plan | 11 **Ghost Gear: Problems and Solutions**

12 Map: **Canada's Coastlines**



# WHAT YOU'RE MISSING

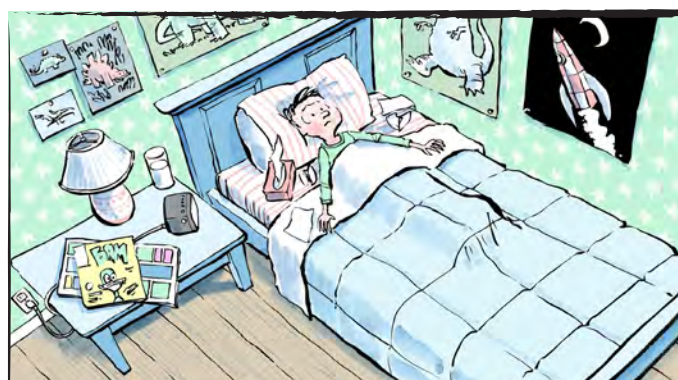
## Truth and Reconciliation



Canada's fifth National Day for Truth and Reconciliation takes place on September 30. The federal government created this statutory holiday in 2021. Why? To honour Residential . . .

*Subscribe to read the full article.* [www.lesplan.com](http://www.lesplan.com)

## Measles on the Rise



Canada has placed in the world's top ten! It scored three times higher than the United States. The problem? Nobody wants to be on this "top ten" list. It lists countries with the most cases of measles. From January to . . .

*Subscribe to read the full article.* 1 (888) 240-2246

## \* SUBSCRIBE TODAY & GET IT ALL \*

With a subscription, you'll receive **eight full issues**.

Each issue combines current **Canadian events and issues** with **geography** to expand students' knowledge of Canada while enhancing their ability to read and understand informational text.

Three **levelled news stories** are accompanied by detailed **literacy-based lesson plans, organizers, and criteria for assessment**, as well as comprehension checks and a language focus.

*"Your package will be a part of my classroom for many years to come!!!"*

- M. Schneider, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

*"I love this publication! It is an excellent complement to my Social Studies curriculum and the activities enable me to cover many provincial outcomes."*

- S. Giffin, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

*"When I have kids in grade 4/5 wanting to know when the next issue is coming, even in December and June, that's when I know I have an excellent resource."*

- A. Eisler, Burnaby, B.C.

# The Canadian Reader

Current Canadian events and issues for students in grades 3 and up.

**The Canadian Reader** is published eight times during the school year in English and in French from September through May by LesPlan Educational Services Ltd.

Subscribe to **The Canadian Reader** at a cost of \$230 per year (\$28.75 per issue), by contacting us at:

LesPlan Educational Services Ltd.  
#1 - 4144 Wilkinson Road  
Victoria, BC V8Z 5A7

**The Canadian Reader** is protected by copyright. Subscribers receive one copy of the publication each month and may photocopy each issue for use by all students and teachers within one school.

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**Fax** (toll-free): 1-888-240-2246  
**Email:** info@lesplan.com  
**Internet:** www.lesplan.com

## How to use this resource:

**The Canadian Reader** is a made-in-Canada teaching and learning resource featuring all-Canadian content. It has three main components; use the entire package, or pick and choose the pages that suit your class the best.

1. **Literacy Focus** – This generic lesson plan focuses on seven key non-fiction reading comprehension strategies, presented in the following order:

Issue 1: *Using Text Features*

Issue 2: *Making Connections*

Issue 3: *Visualizing*

Issue 4: *Asking Questions*

Issue 5: *Making Inferences*

Issue 6: *Determining Importance*

Issue 7: *Transforming/Synthesizing*

Issue 8: *Reading Strategies Review and Assessment*

Teachers may introduce and practice each month's strategy using any of the articles in the issue, or save it for another time or text.

2. **Canadian news stories** – Each of the three articles is leveled and accompanied by Comprehension Check questions, a Language Focus, and a literacy-based lesson plan and supporting materials. Teach the lessons as they are presented, or pick and choose the activities and assignments you'd like to explore with your students.

3. **Did You Know? comic** – This comic provides basic information about a current news story or event, or supports one of the articles with background information. It's a great way to engage reluctant readers and build students' background knowledge in a fun and graphic way.

**Note:** All URLs referenced in **The Canadian Reader** are posted as links on our student website at <http://www.lesplan.com/en/links>. Bookmark this URL on your school's computer network to give students easy access to our recommended sites.

Share **The Canadian Reader** with other staff members in your school, including itinerant, relief, and substitute teachers.



# Ghost Gear



What do you think “ghost gear” is? No, it’s not a gadget for ghost hunters.

Ghost gear is fishing equipment left behind in the ocean. It includes nets and ropes. It even includes lobster traps.

Abandoned gear is a big problem! Each year, it kills about 136,000 large marine animals, such as whales, seals, and sea lions. Many smaller animals are harmed as well.

How? Ghost gear just keeps on fishing. A small fish gets trapped in a net.

It becomes bait. A larger fish comes along, hunting food. It gets trapped, too. Then another, and another.

Ghost gear also ruins habitats.

A single net can destroy an entire coral reef. “Wherever ghost gear lands becomes a cemetery,” says scuba diver Neyi Ibarguen.



Every year, about 640,000 tons of ghost gear enter the world’s oceans. Weight-wise, that’s about five CN Towers.

## Where does ghost gear come from?

Some gear is lost by accident. It can snag on rocks. It can be damaged on the sea floor. It can be blown loose by storms.

On the other hand, some gear is left on purpose. For instance, a fisher might abandon worn-out or broken gear.

## A plastic problem

People have been fishing for thousands of years. Why is ghost gear suddenly a problem now?

It’s a matter of materials. Fishing ropes used to be made from natural fibres. Traps were built from wood. These broke down over time.

Now most fishing gear is plastic. Even the ropes are plastic-based. Deep in the ocean, plastic can last up to 600 years.



## Dangerous decay

Ghost gear that floats on the ocean surface decays faster. That's a problem, too. The gear breaks into smaller and smaller bits of plastic.

These plastic bits are eaten by fish, birds, and animals. Some die from it. Some become ill. When those animals are eaten, the plastics make their way up the food chain.

## Ghost(gear) Busters

People around the world are fighting ghost gear.

In Colombia, trained scuba divers like Neyi Ibargüen hunt and retrieve ghost gear underwater. They are careful not to hurt habitats. Some divers even rescue whales trapped in nets.

Canada is taking action too. The federal

government's Ghost Gear Program spent more than \$58 million between 2020 and 2024. Some of that money helped fund companies that recycle ghost gear.

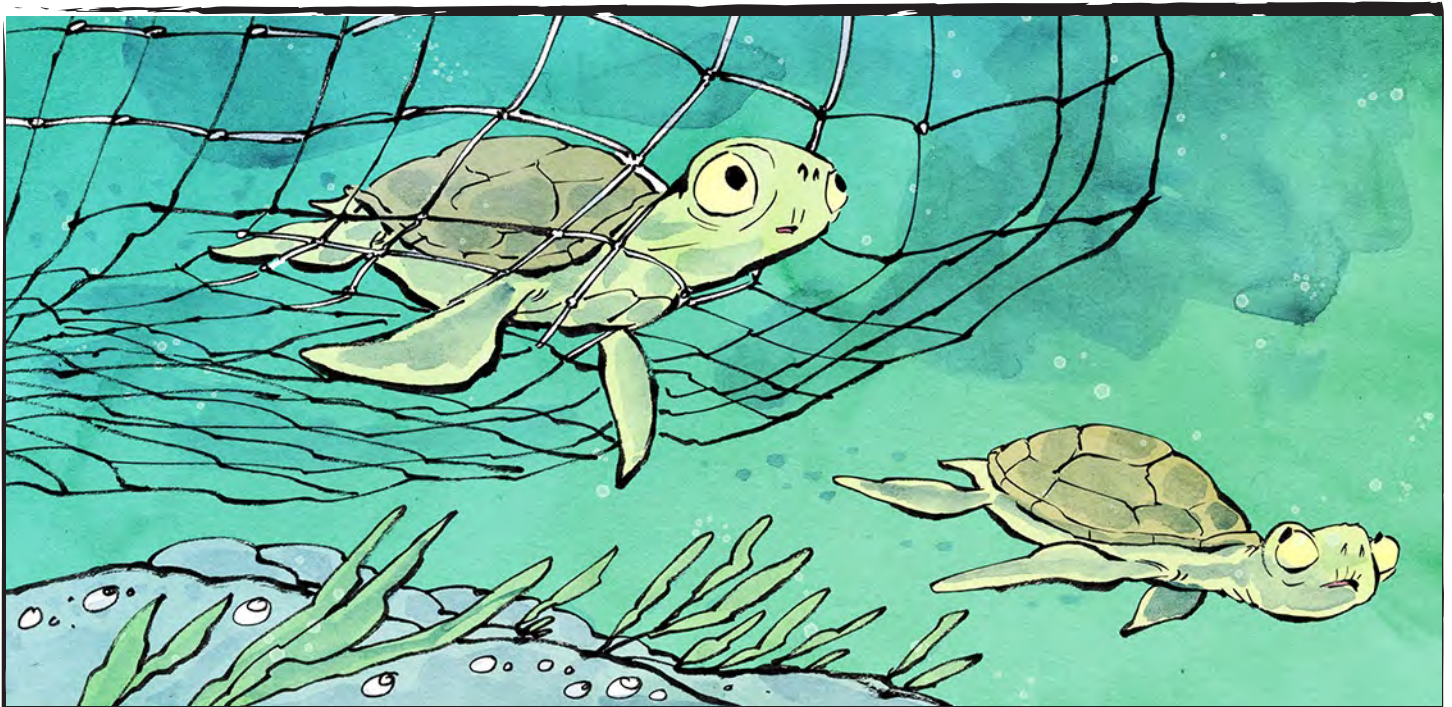
The Saltwater Collective in Toronto is one of those companies. It turns abandoned fishing nets into fabric. The fabric is used for swimwear.

Ocean Legacy is based in British Columbia. Volunteers collect ghost gear that washes up on shore. Then the company turns it into new products. They make zippers and buttons. They even make boards for construction.

Their most popular product? Ghost gear flower pots. Talk about going green!



What other solutions can you suggest to help reduce ghost gear?



In Canada, people must report lost fishing gear. However, only about half the gear reported lost in the past four years was found. Mostly, that included lobster and crab traps.

# Ghost Gear

## Comprehension Check

Mark the statements **T** (True) or **F** (False). If a statement is *true*, write one fact to support it on the lines below. If a statement is *false*, write the word or words that make it true on the lines below.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Ghost gear includes nets, rope, and lobster traps.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Ghost gear only affects large marine animals.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Ghost gear helps habitats grow.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Ghost gear that floats decays faster than ghost gear deep in the ocean.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Ghost gear can be recycled.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Ocean Legacy turns ghost gear into new products.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Ghost Gear

## Language Focus

☆ *Find four interesting or challenging words from the article and write the definitions.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

☆ *Now use the words from above to make your own sentences.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson Plan

### Before Reading:

- Create the following chart on the board, a piece of chart paper, or an overhead transparency:

	Title of Article	Images			Headings
Text Features	<i>Ghost Gear</i>	<i>Fish in entangled fishing net</i>	<i>Fishing gear on seabed</i>	<i>Turtle caught in net</i>	<i>Where does ghost gear come from?</i> <i>A plastic problem</i> <i>Dangerous decay</i> <i>Ghost(gear) Busters</i>
Predictions					

- Write the title of the article in the appropriate box in the chart. Facilitate a *Think-Pair-Share* discussion, asking partners to predict what they think “ghost gear” is. Record their initial predictions.
- Then, using appropriate technology, project three images of ghost gear, one at a time (see *Teacher’s Corner* in **Internet Connections**). Summarize the focus of each image in a corresponding box in the chart. Invite partners to revise their predictions. Record them.
- Finally, add the article headings to the chart. Challenge partners to predict what they will learn about ghost gear from the article. Summarize key ideas.

### During Reading:

- Encourage students to underline or highlight important facts about ghost gear, its problems, and how people are finding solutions to it.

### After Reading:

- As a class, discuss students’ surprises, questions, and connections from the reading. Revisit the Before Reading chart. Put a checkmark next to predictions that were confirmed in the article.
- Distribute to each student, or pair of students, a copy of **Ghost Gear: Problems and Solutions**. Review the sections of the handout. Direct students to use the information from the article to define what ghost gear is, identify the problems it causes, and record some of the solutions. Students may write or sketch their notes. Encourage them to come up with their own solution.
- When students have finished recording their notes, tell them they will be designing a poster to raise awareness of one of the problems with or solutions for ghost gear.



## Lesson Plan

- As a class, examine the poster examples in *Teacher's Corner*. Invite students to notice the design features (e.g., images, colours, font—size & style, layout, shape, use of lines).
- Then, co-create the criteria for a powerful educational poster (e.g., *visually appealing*, *easy to read*, *images support the message*, *clear call to action or message*). If you have access to a computer lab, students may wish to use Piktochart or Canva to complete their posters.
- Criteria for Assessment:** A powerful educational poster is *informative* (includes a clear call to action or message about ghost gear); *visually appealing* (organizes information effectively, uses fonts and colours thoughtfully to emphasize the message); and *includes supporting visuals* (uses relevant images that catch the viewer's attention).

### Extensions:

- Learn more about ghost gear:** The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has published *Ghost Gear: Educational Guide and Activity Book* (see *Teacher's Corner* in **Internet Connections**). Download this free resource to find information or activities your students might enjoy engaging in to learn more about ghost gear.
- Write a letter or email of appreciation:** Encourage students to research one or more of the organizations that are fighting ghost gear—see links in **Internet Connections**—to learn more about the organization and what they do.

After teaching the elements of an appreciation letter (or email), instruct students to write to a chosen organization.

You may find it helpful to introduce the following structure: Start by expressing thanks for the organization's contributions to fighting ghost gear. Then, describe one specific example of what the organization is doing to stop ghost gear and how it's making a difference or why it's important. End by encouraging the organization to continue its great work.

### Internet Connections:

- Learn more about ghost gear:  
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/science/what-on-earth-fishing-gear-1.7581496>  
<https://oliveridleyproject.org/what-are-ghost-nets/>  
[https://youtu.be/emcwvvl-KIE?si=815LbVG\\_M2stIUAX](https://youtu.be/emcwvvl-KIE?si=815LbVG_M2stIUAX) [2:15]  
<https://www.britannica.com/story/talking-ocean-trash-ghost-gear-keeps-on-fishing>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/jul/11/ghost-nets-colombian-divers-old-fishing-gear-commercial-fishing-equipment>
- Find out more about the impact of ghost gear from these statistics:  
<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/management-gestion/ghostgear-equipementfantome/what-quoi-eng.html>

## Lesson Plan

- View an infographic showing the destructive cycle of ghost gear:  
<https://oliveridleyproject.org/what-are-ghost-nets/ghost-fishing-cycle-of-devastation/>
- Curious to know how AI is being used to find ghost gear?  
<https://www.wwf.mg/en/?17053441/With-AI-against-Ghost-Nets-Mission-GhostNetZero>
- Organizations that are fighting ghost gear:  
*Fisheries and Oceans Canada:* <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/management-gestion/ghostgear-equipementfantome/program-programme/program-programme-eng.html>  
*Ocean Legacy:* <https://oceanlegacy.ca>  
*Global Ghost Gear Initiative:* <https://www.ghostgear.org>  
*Ocean Conservancy Organization:* <https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/plastics-in-the-ocean/the-global-ghost-gear-initiative/>  
*World Animal Protection Canada:* <https://www.worldanimalprotection.ca/education/animal-welfare-issues/ghost-gear/>  
*The Saltwater Collective:* <https://www.nsnews.com/living/west-van-designer-makes-waves-with-fishing-net-swimwear-3079685>

### Teacher's Corner:

- Ghost gear images:  
<https://www.istockphoto.com/photo/ghost-nets-are-commercial-fishing-nets-that-have-been-lost-abandoned-or-discarded-at-gm1140339034-305117027?searchscope=image%2Cfilm>  
<https://www.istockphoto.com/photo/lost-fishing-gear-lies-underwater-on-the-seabed-problem-of-ghost-gear-any-fishing-gm1412658445-462001836?searchscope=image%2Cfilm>  
<https://www.istockphoto.com/photo/man-with-knife-rescuing-critically-endangered-hawksbill-sea-turtle-tangled-ghost-net-gm983150148-266900302?searchscope=image%2Cfilm>
- Poster examples:  
<https://piktochart.com/tips/poster-examples>
- Ghost Gear: Educational Guide and Activity Book (Fisheries and Oceans Canada):  
<https://waves-vagues.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/library-bibliotheque/41065785.pdf>
- How to write letter of appreciation:  
[https://ca.indeed.com/hire/c/info/samples-of-appreciation-letters?gad\\_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwwNbEBhBpEiwAFYLTGK3JymrnMewTljzVkQu13C-7J1vWNbxGkpzz5p8UM7mdCABmjXfoohoCUW4QAvD\\_BwE&gad\\_campaignid=12408546664&gbraid=oAAAAADf\\_OYHJqrJAhpPgGiPEJ2zNH-Cw-&aceid=&gclid=aw.ds](https://ca.indeed.com/hire/c/info/samples-of-appreciation-letters?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwwNbEBhBpEiwAFYLTGK3JymrnMewTljzVkQu13C-7J1vWNbxGkpzz5p8UM7mdCABmjXfoohoCUW4QAvD_BwE&gad_campaignid=12408546664&gbraid=oAAAAADf_OYHJqrJAhpPgGiPEJ2zNH-Cw-&aceid=&gclid=aw.ds)

*Note:* All URLs are posted as links at <http://www.lesplan.com/links>

# Ghost Gear

## Ghost Gear: Problems and Solutions

What is ghost gear?

Problems with ghost gear?	Solutions for ghost gear



# Map: Canada's Coastlines

Complete this map assignment to help you better understand the context of the article *Ghost Gear*.

Label the following, then colour:

## Provinces

- British Columbia
- Alberta
- Saskatchewan
- Manitoba
- Ontario
- Quebec
- New Brunswick
- Prince Edward Island (PEI)
- Nova Scotia
- Newfoundland and Labrador

## Territories

- Yukon
- Northwest Territories
- Nunavut

## Other

- United States (x2)
- Greenland (Denmark)
- Iceland

## Salt Water

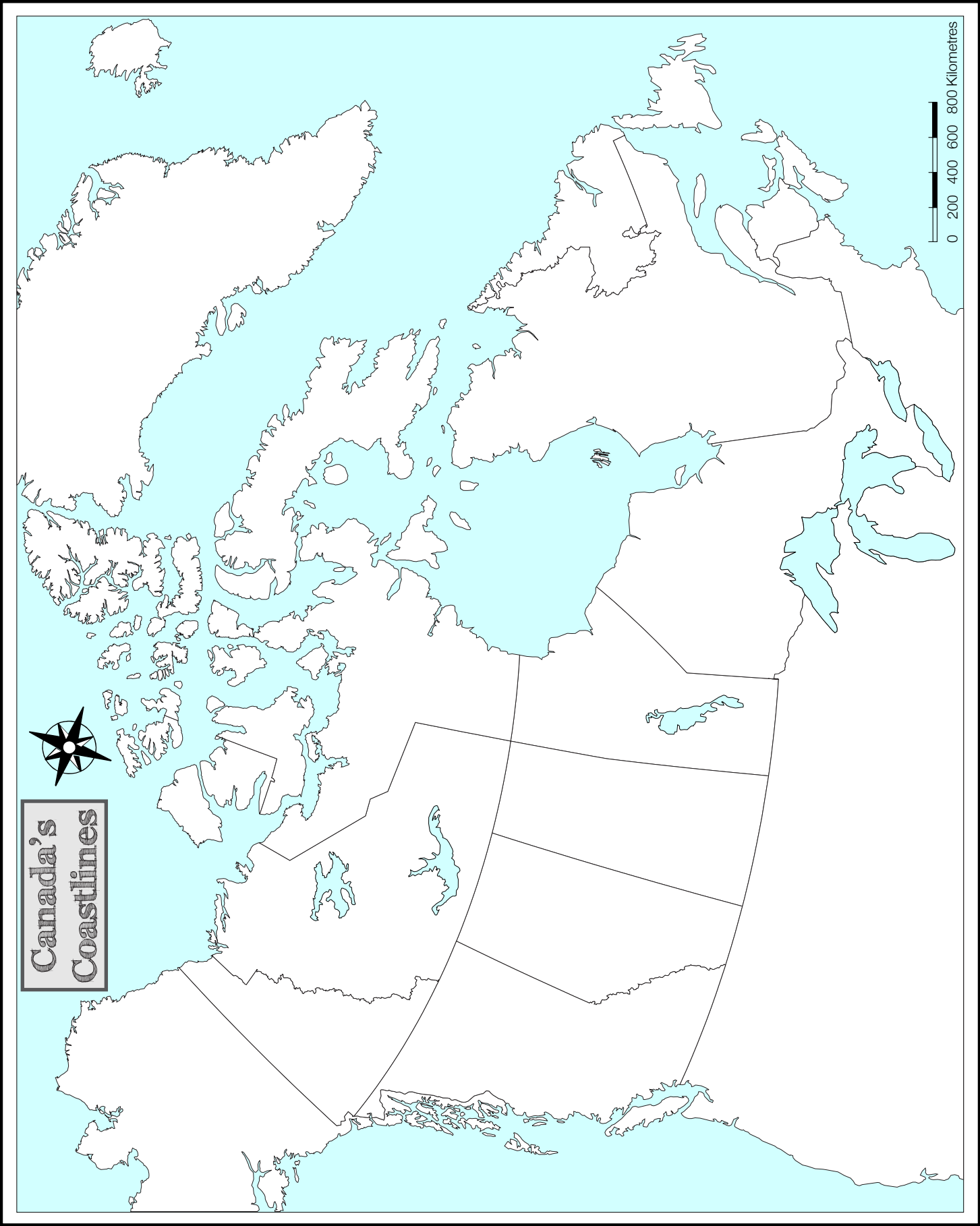
- Pacific Ocean
- Arctic Ocean
- Atlantic Ocean
- Hudson Bay

## Did You Know?

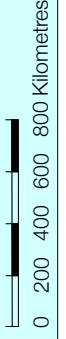


A compass rose is a circular diagram on a map that shows the direction of north and other main points of the compass. It is called a 'rose' because its design looks like a flower. Use your atlas to help you label the compass rose on your map with north, east, south, and west. Which ocean is to the west of your province or territory? Which ocean is to the east? To the north?

A good map is complete, accurate, and visually appealing.



Canada's  
Coastlines



# Current Events, Clearly Explained



Students want to know what's happening in their world – but the news can be difficult and time-consuming to teach.

## WE HAVE THE SOLUTION. (Four, actually.)

### *The Canadian Reader*

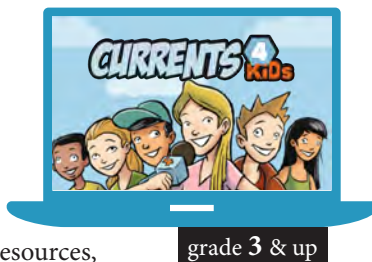
- ✓ PDF/Word resource
- ✓ Clearly written, leveled Canadian current events articles
- ✓ Literacy-based lesson plans
- ✓ Engaging, original illustrations
- ✓ Comics
- ✓ Map assignments



**Product details:** 8 issues. 38 pages. Available in English and in French for grades 3 and up (1 reading level).

### *Currents4Kids.com*

- ✓ **Online** and interactive
- ✓ Weekly
- ✓ Auto-graded quizzes
- ✓ Reader responses
- ✓ Links to relevant articles, resources, maps, photos and videos
- ✓ Extension activities



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- ✓ Reader responses
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- ✓ Extension activities



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# Students Can Work In Word/Google Docs...



## Did you know...

... that each issue of *The Canadian Reader* includes a PDF file (complete document) and a Word file (articles and questions only)

Students can complete assignments directly in a Word file. Teachers can email the file to students or post it on the Internet. The Word file also allows teachers to:

- easily modify and format content including changing **fonts** and **text sizes**
- create a PDF document and use **Adobe Reader's** 'Read Out Loud Mode'
- save paper and copying costs and help protect the environment
- promote and encourage students' computer skills

## Data in the Word file

There are **three** ways to access data from a Word file:

- 1) Select the data you wish to **Copy** and then **Paste** it into any word processing program. Use **Select All** to copy the entire document.
- 2) Import the entire **Word** file into **LibreOffice** (or another similar program) and then save as a new file.
- 3) Create a new file in a different format. Use the **Word Save As** command to choose: 1) plain text, 2) rich text format (RTF), 3) Web page (.htm), 4) PDF, etc.

## Google Docs and LibreOffice

- You can easily upload the **Word** file to **Google Docs** and share it with students or other teachers.
- You can translate a **Google Docs** file into another language (see *Tools>Translate document*) but you will need to edit the document to suit your requirements. **Google Docs** can translate into over 100 languages including Spanish, Mandarin, and German.
- **LibreOffice** is a free alternate to **Microsoft Office** and offers the same functionality. It's easy to install and use. See: [www.libreoffice.org](http://www.libreoffice.org)

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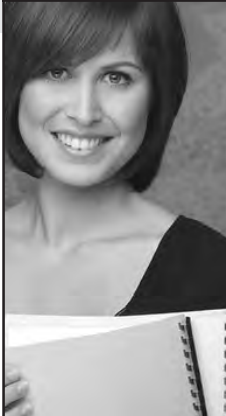
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## THE CANADIAN READER.

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*These current events are the perfect supplement for any Social Studies program. They are a wonderful jumping point for class discussion. Keep up the good work!*

**K. Faltin, Erskine, AB**

*It is a relief to have a resource that fits with the curriculum and is teacher-friendly (ready to hand out). The added bonus of having the answers to the questions and discussion notes makes my life just a little bit easier.*

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*I have been using your product for seven years. There isn't a month that goes by that I don't get into challenging discussions with my students with the leads you provide and go in directions I could never imagine. Thank you for this terrific teaching aid!*

**D. Faerber, Pembroke, ON**

**The Canadian Reader**  
Current Canadian events and issues for students in Grades 3 and up

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