WHAT YOU’RE MISSING

Census 2021

One, two, three... How many people live in Canada? There’s one way to find out – count ‘em! That’s what the government does every five years. This nation-wide count is called a census . . .

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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.

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- A. Eisler, Burnaby, B.C.

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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 $210 per year ($26.25 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.

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.
Beaver Trouble

Beavers — Canada’s national emblem. North America’s largest rodent. Large furry animals with buck teeth and broad, flat tails. They are industrious and ingenious. Always busy building and repairing their dams. What’s not to like about this clever animal?

Just ask the folks living in Grenville-sur-la-Rouge, in southern Quebec! Some of them would happily get rid of every last one.

The problem? Beaver dams made of sticks, rocks, and mud block streams. The dams also prevent water from flowing through culverts. The result? The blocked water backs up to form ponds and wetlands.

As the upstream water continues to rise, it floods nearby land. It damages farmers’ crops. It washes out roads that then need repairs.

It’s a big headache, according to the mayor of the Quebec town.

“It’s a problem that we have to get rid of,” he said. “The beavers have to be eradicated.”

A bit about beavers

Beavers are semi-aquatic. They spend part of their time in water, part on land. For protection, they build their lodges out in the middle of a pond. The underwater entrance leads up to a dry living area.

Beavers are a keystone species. That means they create wetland habitat that many other species, such as waterfowl and amphibians, depend on.

Wetlands are important for many reasons. They act like a natural filter. They remove silt and even chemical pollutants from the water so they don’t end up downstream.

A culvert is any kind of channel or tunnel that directs unwanted water away from roads. To eradicate something is to get rid of it.
They help control flooding by holding back spring snowmelt or storm flows.

**Beaver hats, anyone?**

Beavers can be found around lakes and streams all over Canada. In the past, the animals were over-hunted. Beaver pelts were shipped to Europe to make beaver hats. So many beavers were trapped, the population plummeted. In some areas, the beavers were completely wiped out.

Times have changed. People no longer wear beaver hats. As a result, beaver populations have bounced back. That’s good news for wetland dwellers. It’s not so good for those who think beavers are a nuisance.

**How to manage beavers**

Experts say that trapping and killing the beavers is not a long-term solution. It won’t work. More beavers will move in. Instead, people need to find ways to co-exist with beavers. Let them build their dams, but reduce the damage they do.

For instance, wire fencing can keep beavers away from the mouth of culverts. Wire mesh can be wrapped around tree trunks to protect them from being chewed.

To prevent flooding? Plastic pipe can be installed from the upstream side of a beaver dam to the downstream side. The water in the upstream pond will only rise to the level of the pipe. Any extra water will flow out through the pipe.

Beavers aren’t the only ones who can be ingenious!

A beaver’s front teeth never stop growing. Chewing on tree trunks and branches helps keep the teeth from getting too long.
Comprehension Check

Answer the questions below in complete sentences:

1. What does semi-aquatic mean?

2. Where do beavers build dams?

3. Why are beaver dams problematic in some areas?

4. Why have beaver populations grown?

5. Why is trapping and killing beavers not a long-term solution?
A contraction is a shortened form of a word or phrase. Most contractions are formed by replacing some letters with an apostrophe.

Example: should not – shouldn't

Can you make contractions for the word combinations below?

1. it is
2. was not
3. will not
4. should not
5. is not
6. let us
7. he is
8. could not
9. we have
10. can not

Challenge: How many contractions can you find in the article?
Lesson Plan

Beaver Trouble

Before Reading:
- Using appropriate technology, project several images of beavers (e.g., dams, swimming, chewing on trees, standing on land) such as those found on www.istockphoto.com. Invite students to brainstorm as many words as they can to describe beavers’ appearance, behaviour, habitat, and/or diet. Add these words to a class word web.
- Read the title of the article and first paragraph aloud. Challenge students to predict what problems beavers might cause. Record their predictions.

During Reading:
- As they read, ask students to mark the text, underlining or highlighting important facts or details about beavers and the trouble they create.

After Reading:
- As a class, place a check mark √ next to the predictions that were confirmed in the article. If relevant, discuss new problems suggested by the article.
- Distribute to each student, or pair of students, a copy of The Trouble With Beavers. Direct students to record or sketch the problems caused by beavers and potential solutions, as described in the article.
- When students have completed their organizer, invite them to draw an informative blueprint or create an educational diorama showing the solution to one or more of the problems beaver dams cause.
- **Criteria for Assessment:** An effective 2-D or 3-D representation clearly shows the problem and solution, includes helpful captions/labels (or other text features), and is accurate and proportional.

Extensions:
- **Learn more about the fur trade:** The fur trade was an important part of Canada’s history. Invite students to use the links in Internet Connections to learn more about the historic contribution of the beaver. Students may wish to summarize their learning in an acrostic poem (try this online generator: https://www.acrosticpoem.org/) or a 3-2-1 Reflection—3 things I learned/that were confirmed about the fur trade; 2 reasons it was an important part of Canada’s past; 1 thing I still wonder.
- **Participate in a U-shaped debate:** Direct students to the links found in Internet Connections to learn more about beavers and the decision to make them one of Canada’s official emblems. Invite students to complete a Yes, because... No, because... organizer, looking for evidence to both defend and refute the decision to keep the beaver as one of Canada’s national symbols. After researching, structure a U-shaped debate inviting students to share their perspectives on the following statement: The beaver should be kept as one of Canada’s official emblems. Encourage students to remain open-minded, see the merits of both sides, and be willing to change their
Beaver Trouble

Lesson Plan

☐ position if they hear convincing evidence. This link provides an overview of how to structure this discussion strategy: http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/sssm/html/u-shapeddiscussion_sm.html

Internet Connections:

☐ Read more about this news story:

☐ Find out about beaver trouble in other places:
  https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/may/14/canada-beaver-population-problems

☐ Learn more about the Fur Trade in Canada
  https://indigenouspeoplesatlasofcanada.ca/article/fur-trade/
  https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/fur-trade
  https://youtu.be/JGoVlgcT6tM
  https://fur.ca/fur-trade/canadas-fur-trade-a-timeline/
  http://www.hbcheritage.ca/things/fashion-pop/beaver-hats

☐ Learn more about beavers:
  https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/beaver
  https://www.canadiangeographic.ca/article/animal-facts-beaver
  https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/beaver

☐ Watch these videos on beavers:
  https://youtu.be/oL5SD6z7AG8
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ic3x8OVYe8o
  https://youtu.be/82DiWd7KGto
  https://youtu.be/EggzVRVYIlA
  https://youtu.be/iyNA62FrKCE

☐ Why is the beaver Canada’s national emblem?
  https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/official-symbols-canada.html#a1
  https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2011/07/01/canadian-symbols-beaver_n_886777.html
  https://www.canadiangeographic.ca/article/animal-facts-beaver

Note: All URLs are posted as links at http://www.lesplan.com/en/links
# Beaver Trouble

## The Trouble With Beavers

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<th>Problems Caused By Beavers</th>
<th>Solutions</th>
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Map: Quebec

Complete this map assignment to help you better understand the context of the article Beaver Trouble.

Label the following, then colour:

- Provinces
  - Quebec
  - Ontario
  - Newfoundland and Labrador
  - New Brunswick
  - Prince Edward Island (P.E.I.)
  - Nova Scotia

- Capitals
  - Quebec City
  - Charlottetown
  - Fredericton
  - Halifax
  - Ottawa

- Water bodies
  - James Bay
  - Hudson Bay
  - Atlantic Ocean
  - Gulf of St. Lawrence
  - St. Lawrence River

- Other
  - United States
  - Montreal

Challenge:

Grenville-sur-la-Rouge is located on the southern border of Quebec, approximately half-way between Ottawa and Montreal. Can you locate and label this town on your map?

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

Password Security

There are three ways to access data from a Word file that is password protected:

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) To remove the password from a protected Word file, use Save As to make a new copy of the file. You can then change the Security settings and remove the password.

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 Google Docs 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)
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.** (Five, 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. 36 pages. Available in English and in French for grades 3 and up.

**What in the World?**
- **PDF/Word resource**
  - National and international news stories
  - Key vocabulary
  - Background information
  - Varied assignments that build content-area knowledge and enhance critical thinking
  - Maps and illustrations

**Product details:** 8 issues. 38 pages. Available in English and in French, and in two reading levels, for grades 5 and up.

**Building Bridges**
- **PDF/Word resource**
  - Builds understanding of current events that impact Indigenous Peoples and all Canadians
  - Two theme-based articles and lesson plans
  - Background information
  - Consistent with First Peoples Principles of Learning
  - Encourages a respectful, reflective, empathetic, and inquiring frame of mind

**Product details:** 5 issues. Variable page length. Available in English and in French, and in two reading levels, for grades 5 and up.

**Currents4Kids.com**
- **News4Youth.com**
  - Online interactive resource
  - Weekly news stories
  - Auto-graded quizzes
  - Comment page for students to respond to the stories
  - Links to relevant articles, resources, maps, photos and videos
  - Extension activities

**Product details:** 38 issues. One subscription allows all teachers and students access from any Internet-connected device at any time. Available in English and in French. Currents4Kids/Infos-Jeunes: Grades 3 and up. News4Youth/Infos-Ados: Grades 7 and up.

Contact us for a sample copy or free demo.

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Wish your students knew more about their country? Help them to learn who’s who, what’s where, and what’s going on in Canada with a subscription to **The Canadian Reader**.

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Subscribe now for the 2021 - 2022 school year, and get the September and October issues FREE!

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.

B. Thibodeau, Saskatoon, SK

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

See next for page samples and ordering details!
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