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“Edmonton Eskimos” is the name of a Canadian football team. At least, it used to be. The team still exists. But the word “Eskimos” is gone from the name... 

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- A. Eisler, Burnaby, B.C.

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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.
UNESCO Geoparks?

UNESCO is an organization within the United Nations (UN). It promotes science and culture around the world. UNESCO chooses some places to become Global Geoparks. These places are internationally significant. They are geological superstars. They provide a fascinating window into our Earth’s past.

When an area is designated a Global Geopark, tourists know it’s worth visiting.

“It immediately puts you on the world stage,” says one park manager.

Cliffs of Fundy Global Geopark

The new Nova Scotia geopark is on the Bay of Fundy. Huge cliffs mark the shoreline. Along a 165-kilometre stretch, there are 40 designated sites.

What’s special about the geology here? Go back 300 million years! At that time all the continents of the world formed one supercontinent. It was called Pangea. Then, 100 million years later, the continents split.
apart. **Magma** flowed up – the largest outpouring of lava in Earth’s history. It created the rock that’s on the surface today.

This is the only place on Earth where there’s evidence of both Pangea’s formation and its breakup.

Other features of this geopark? The area has the world’s highest tides. Also, this was – and is – the home of the Mi’kmaq. The geopark honours more than 11,000 years of Mi’kmaq history. There are plans to build a new Mi’kmaw cultural centre here.

**Discovery Geopark**

The second geopark is on Newfoundland’s Bonavista Peninsula. The rocks there are over half a billion (500 million) years old.

At this geopark, you can learn about a dramatic event in the Earth’s past. It was a time of immense change. New kinds of animal life began to appear. These strange creatures lived in the dark, murky depths of ancient seas.

Today, the geopark has some of the best fossils from that long ago period. “They’re right at our doorstep,” says a local volunteer.

Another feature? This area was home to the Beothuk. This Indigenous Nation is now extinct. The Beothuk died out after European settlers arrived. Visitors can learn about the Nation’s unique language and culture.

**A big deal**

Becoming a UNESCO Global Geopark is significant. There are only 161 in the world. Local businesses hope the designation brings tourists to their areas.

“This is big,” says the chair of the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark. “People are going to come and see what we have to offer.”

Would YOU be interested in visiting one of the newest geoparks? Explain.
Comprehension Check

Write the letter of the best answer in the space beside each question.

_____ 1. Where are the Cliffs of Fundy?
   a) Alberta.       b) New Brunswick.
   c) Newfoundland. d) Nova Scotia.

_____ 2. The Bonavista Peninsula is located on the traditional land of the…?
   a) Beothuk.      b) Lekwungen.
   c) Mi’kmaq.     d) Maliseet.

_____ 3. What is Pangea?
   a) The area with the world’s highest tides.
   b) The supercontinent that existed 300 million years ago.
   c) The UN organization that promotes science and culture.
   d) The southern portion of the Earth.

_____ 4. How old are some of the rocks found in the Bonavista Peninsula?
   a) 500 million years old.       b) 700 million years old.
   c) 900 million years old.       d) One billion years old.

_____ 5. Who designates Global Geoparks?
   a) Geology teachers.           b) Local businesses.
   c) Tourists.                  d) UNESCO.
Initialism is an abbreviation formed from a string of initials and often pronounced as individual letters.

For example:
- DVD (Digital Versatile Disc)
- UFO (Unidentified Flying Object)
- LOL (Laugh Out Loud)

Find examples of initialism in the article. Write them, and what they stand for, below.

Now list as many other examples of initialism as you can think of:
Lesson Plan

Before Reading:

☐ Write the title of the article on the board, a piece of chart paper, or an overhead transparency. Invite students to discuss the title and use it to predict the topic of the article.

☐ Distribute to each pair of students a copy of Make Connections (p. 30). Suggest that the vocabulary words are found in the article. Direct partners to cut out, then sort and classify the words in logical ways on a ‘placemat’ (8.5” X 11” piece of paper) to show how they are connected (or might be connected in the article). Encourage them to label their categories.

☐ When finished, either:
  • invite two groups of partners to take turns sharing and explaining their sorts and classifications with each other, OR
  • copy each of the words onto flashcards (backed with magnetic or masking tape) and invite pairs of students up to the board to arrange and explain one of their categories and related words.

Alternatively, if you have a Padlet account (sign up for free) you could create a ‘Canvas’ with the vocabulary words and invite students to sort and classify collaboratively online (https://padlet.com).

During Reading:

☐ Encourage students to mark the text as they read, highlighting important information about Canada’s newest geoparks as well as circling any of the vocabulary words.

After Reading:

☐ Redirect pairs of students back to their pre-reading sorts and categorizations. Challenge them to either re-arrange and re-label the words into new categories using what they learned about geoparks from reading (work on the back of their placemats). Or, distribute another copy of Make Connections to each student and ask them to individually cut, sort, and categorize the words into meaningful categories based on the article.

☐ Finally, ask students to individually reflect on the use of the word sort as a reading strategy, using the following 3-2-1 structure (You may find it helpful to copy these statements on ‘exit slips’ for students):

  3 things I learned (or 3 things that were confirmed) about Canada’s newest geoparks...
  2 things I noticed about my reading, after thinking and talking about the words and their connections...
  1 way I could use this strategy when reading other texts is...

☐ Criteria for Assessment: A thoughtful reflection is clearly expressed, includes specific details supporting the reader’s experience, and shows a logical application of the strategy.
Extension:

- **Option 1: Learn more about Canada’s geoparks**
  Invite students to virtually explore each of Canada’s geoparks (see Internet Connections for links) and select the one they would most like to visit. Have them explain and justify their decision in a persuasive response. Introduce the **PREP strategy** to help students focus their thinking:
  - **Point** (which park they’d like to visit);
  - **Reason** (tell why);
  - **Evidence or Example** (support their reason with a fact or an example);
  - **Paraphrase** (restate their point and offer the ‘so what’—how visiting the park will make a difference to those who go).

  PREP can easily be expanded into a paragraph with 3-4 supporting reasons and examples. Alternatively, invite students to use an online brochure template to create a persuasive tourist pamphlet that includes revealing images about the selected park with 5-7 compelling reasons to visit.

- **Option 2: Explore curriculum-related activities**
  You may wish to check out the Teacher Resources related to the Cliffs of Fundy and/or the Discovery Geopark and choose an activity or extension you think your students would enjoy engaging in. You can find direct links to these geoparks in the Networks of Geoparks in Canada website listed in Internet Connections.

**Internet Connections:**

- Learn more about this news story:

- Visit the Network of Geoparks in Canada:
  - [https://en.ccunesco.ca/networks/geoparks](https://en.ccunesco.ca/networks/geoparks)

- Interested in Discovery Geopark? Click here:
  - [https://discoverygeopark.com/](https://discoverygeopark.com/)

- Check out the Cliffs of Fundy Global Geopark:
  - [https://fundygeopark.ca/](https://fundygeopark.ca/)

- Explore UNESCO’s website:
  - [https://en.unesco.org/](https://en.unesco.org/)

*Note: All URLs are posted as links at [http://www.lesplan.com/en/links](http://www.lesplan.com/en/links)*
# Canada’s Newest (Very Old) Geoparks

## Make Connections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNESCO</th>
<th>rocks</th>
<th>Nova Scotia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cliffs</td>
<td>continents</td>
<td>shoreline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>geoparks</td>
<td>peninsula</td>
<td>bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tides</td>
<td>Newfoundland</td>
<td>magma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>extinct</td>
<td>formation</td>
<td>Beothuk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pangea</td>
<td>global</td>
<td>geology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fossils</td>
<td>lava</td>
<td>science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth</td>
<td>culture</td>
<td>Mi’kmaq</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Completing the following map assignment will help you to better understand the context of Canada’s Newest (Very Old) Geoparks.

Label the following, then colour:

**Provinces**
- ☐ New Brunswick
- ☐ Nova Scotia
- ☐ Prince Edward Island

**Salt water bodies**
- ☐ Bay of Fundy
- ☐ Minas Basin
- ☐ Atlantic Ocean
- ☐ Strait of Canso
- ☐ Northumberland Strait
- ☐ Gulf of St. Lawrence

**Fresh water bodies**
- ☐ St. John River

**Capital cities**
- ☐ Halifax
- ☐ Charlottetown

**Other**
- ☐ Cape Breton

**Town**
- ☐ Truro

**Challenge:**
Cliffs of Fundy Geopark is one of five UNESCO Global Geoparks in Canada. It is located on the north shore of the Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia. Can you locate and colour this geopark on your map, then complete the key with your chosen colour?

*A good map is complete, accurate, and visually appealing.*
Completing the following map assignment will help you to better understand the context of Canada’s Newest (Very Old) Geoparks.

Label the following, then colour:

- **Provinces**
  - Newfoundland and Labrador
  - Quebec

- **Peninsulas**
  - Burin Peninsula
  - Avalon Peninsula
  - Bonavista Peninsula
  - Northern Peninsula

- **Cities and Towns**
  - Corner Brook
  - Grand Falls-Windsor
  - Gander
  - Bonavista
  - Southern Bay

- **Salt Water Bodies**
  - Atlantic Ocean
  - Strait of Belle Isle
  - Trinity Bay
  - Placentia Bay

- **Other**
  - St. Pierre and Miquelon (France)

**Challenge:**

Discovery Geopark is one of five UNESCO Global Geoparks in Canada. It is located between Bonavista and Southern Bay. Can you locate and trace this 280-kilometre stretch of coastline on your map, then complete the key with your choice of highlighter colour?

A good map is complete, accurate, and visually appealing.
Students Can Work In Word . . . 

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 the 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* to 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. Visit: [www.libreoffice.org](http://www.libreoffice.org)
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### What in the World?

**PDF/Word resource**
- National and international news stories
- Key vocabulary
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- Maps and illustrations

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### 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

**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

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**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
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