

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: 15 Article: Saving the Ojibwe Horse
6 Comprehension Check | 7 Language Focus
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WHAT YOU'RE MISSING

Room to Improve



Think back over this past week. When were you the most active? What were you doing? Who were you with? Was it fun?

The ParticipACTION team hopes . . .

Subscribe to read the full article. www.lesplan.com

Counting Canadians!



How many kids are in your class? How many are wearing lace-up shoes? How many were born in the summer?

If you counted everyone up . . .

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* 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 \$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.

Phone (toll-free): 1-888-240-2212
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.

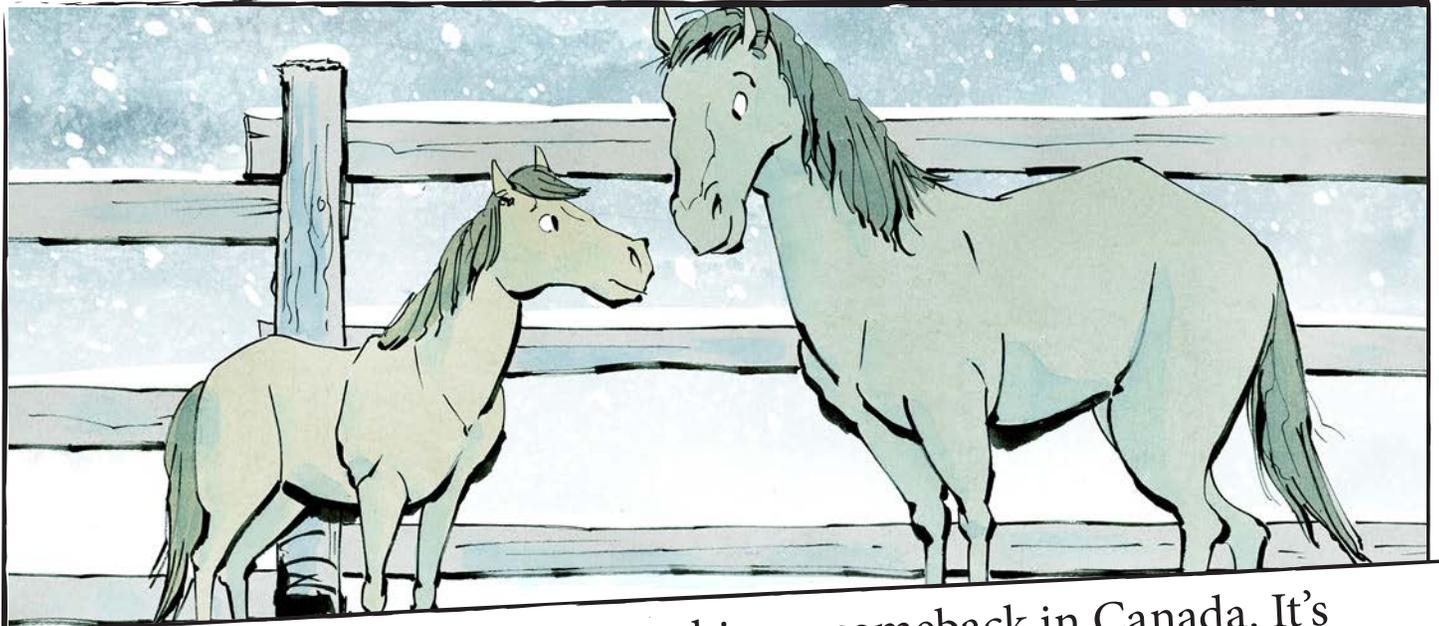
2. **Canadian news stories** – Each of the three articles is leveled and accompanied by Comprehension Check questions, a Language Focus, and a literacy-based lesson plan and supporting materials. Teach the lessons as they are presented, or pick and choose the activities and assignments you'd like to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

Saving the Ojibwe Horse



A special breed of horse is making a comeback in Canada. It's called the Ojibwe Horse, or the Lac La Croix Indigenous Pony. This horse was bred by Ojibwe people. It is thought of as a spirit animal.

We almost lost these beautiful horses forever.

The Ojibwe Horse lived free in the forests around the Great Lakes. The Ojibwe people bred them to be helpers in winter.

The horses helped them work their traplines. Sometimes they pulled sleds or other loads. In return, the people gave them food and shelter.

When spring came, the horses were set free. They found their own food in the wild.

Built for the north

These horses were built for the northern woods. They are small—less than 1.5 metres at the shoulders. Their small size helps them push through the brush.

Their hard hoofs are perfect for rocky ground. In winter they grow shaggy coats. Special nose flaps protect them from cold air in winter.

Their ears are small and hairy, and their manes are thick. This helps protect them from the cold, and also from bugs!

Seen as a nuisance

In the early 1900s, thousands of Ojibwe Horses roamed free.

Settlers saw them as a nuisance. They got angry when the wild horses grazed on their fields. So, they hunted the horses. Sometimes they were used for dog food. Their numbers shrank.

Fifty years ago, Darcy Whitecrow was a child. He lived in Seine River First Nation, in northwestern Ontario. He remembers the horses roaming free like deer.

But by 1977, only four mares were left. They were the last of their kind.

A daring rescue

The mares lived on reserve at Lac La Croix First Nation. The Canadian government said they were a health risk. It wanted them killed.

Five men rescued the mares. There were no roads they could use, so they waited for winter. When Lac La Croix was frozen, they rounded up the mares and loaded them onto a trailer. Then they drove over the ice.

It was a dangerous, difficult journey. But at the end, the mares found safety on a farm in Minnesota.

Growing numbers

There were no male Ojibwe Horses left. To keep the breed from dying out, the mares were bred with a mustang. Over time, the population grew.

Eventually, some of the horses were brought back to Canada. Thanks to Darcy Whitecrow

and his wife, Dr. Kim Campbell, they even came back to Seine River First Nation!

Saving the Ojibwe horse

Mr. Whitecrow and Dr. Campbell run Grey Raven Ranch. They offer programs for Indigenous youth.

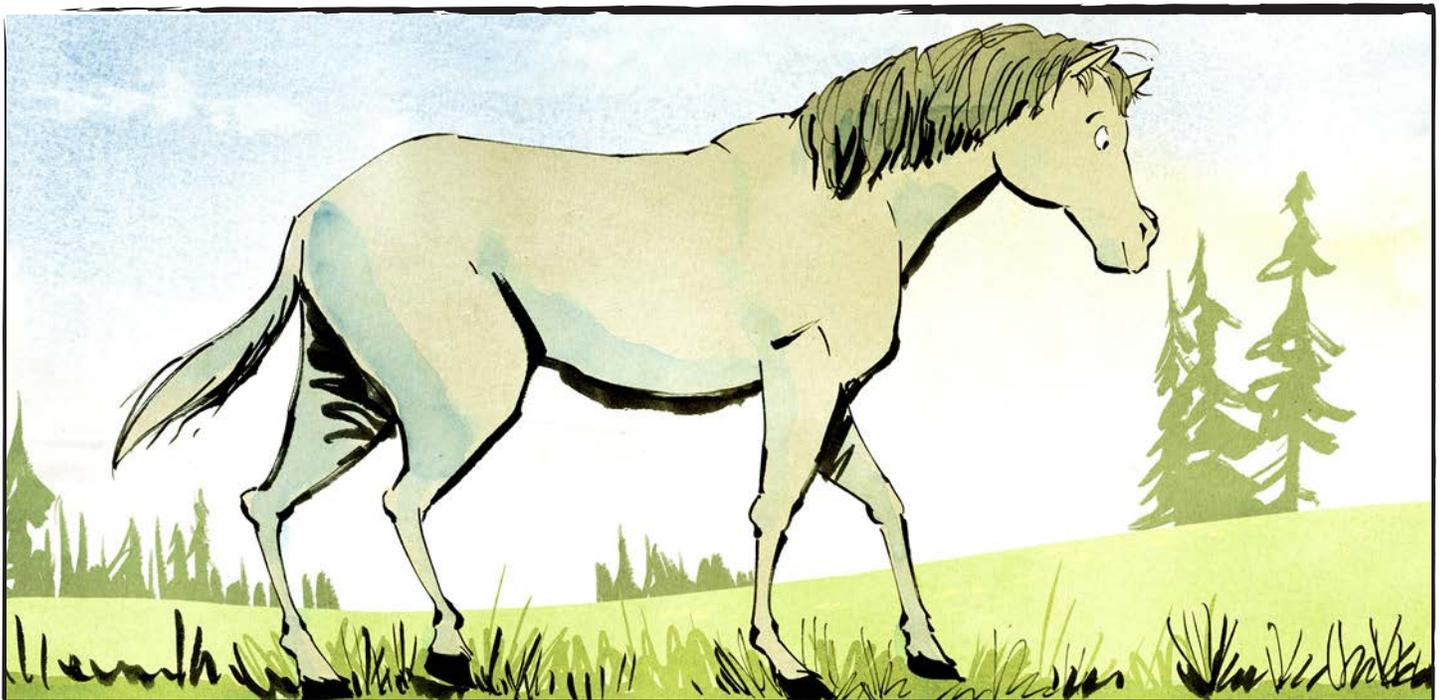
The young people spend time in nature and work with the horses. They learn about their culture. They are part of something important, too. By helping the Ojibwe Horse, they are saving the breed their ancestors developed.

The horses are still **endangered**. Today, there are fewer than 200 in the world. At Grey Raven Ranch and in other places, people are working to keep these special horses alive.

Thanks to them, the Ojibwe Horse has a future.



What questions would you like to ask Mr. Whitecrow or Dr. Campbell?



Saving the Ojibwe Horse

Comprehension Check

Answer the questions below in complete sentences:

1. What is another name for the Ojibwe Horse?

2. What happened to the horses when spring came?

3. What protects the horses from cold air in winter?

4. Who brought Ojibwe Horses back to Seine River First Nation?

5. The horses are still endangered. How many Ojibwe Horses are there in the world today?

Saving the Ojibwe Horse

Language Focus

An **antonym** is a word that means the opposite of another word.

Examples: good/bad, true/false, high/low

Directions: Complete the table below.

Word	Antonym
lost	
beautiful	
pull	
wild	
cold	
small	
thick	

Now choose two pairs of words from the table above. Use each of the words in a sentence that shows its meaning.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Saving the Ojibwe Horse

Lesson Plan

Before Reading:

- Facilitate a **Think-Pair-Share** discussion, inviting students to consider the following questions:
 - What is an endangered animal? (*a species that is seriously at risk of extinction*)
 - What causes an animal to become endangered?
 - How do we prevent animals from becoming endangered?
- Using appropriate technology, project several photos of an Ojibwe Horse (see **Internet Connections**).
- Read the title of the article aloud and invite students to make and share predictions about the article. Write the article's subheadings on the whiteboard, a piece of chart paper, or overhead projector. Ask students to revise their predictions to reflect this new information.

During Reading:

- Ask students to mark the text by underlining or highlighting important information about the Ojibwe Horse, what caused it to become endangered, and how it has been saved from extinction.

After Reading:

- Distribute to each student or pairs of students a copy of **How the Ojibwe Horse was Saved** (p. 21). Draw students' attention to each of the headings and explain how they will use the information in the article to summarize the history of this special breed.
- Criteria for Assessment:** Effective summaries are *accurate, complete (include important information), and concise (short and to the point)*.

Extensions:

- Learn more about the Ojibwe Horse:** Students may be interested in exploring the links in **Internet Connections** to learn more about this special breed, then create an animal poem or an acrostic poem summarizing its unique features. [See poem examples and templates at: <https://www.poetrygames.org/poetry-machine/>]
- Create a comic strip:** Encourage students to use their organizer to create a 6-12 panel 'comic-like' historical account of the Ojibwe Horse. There are several online comic strip templates that students can use for inspiration.

Internet Connections:

- Read more about this news story:
<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/unreserved/ojibwe-spirit-horses-1.6612491>
<https://www.aptnnews.ca/national-news/a-miracle-in-the-making-birth-of-ojibwe-pony-in-manitoba-first-in-decades/>

Saving the Ojibwe Horse

Lesson Plan

- Watch a video that tells the story of the Ojibwe Spirit Horses:
<https://youtu.be/Y7MVkF6kw8U> [watch from 2:50-5:00]
- See an Ojibwe Horse run in a field:
<https://youtu.be/Rp-NPRIp8Y4> [watch from 2:09-2:48]
- Discover more about the Ojibwe Horse:
<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/lac-la-croix-indigenous-pony>
- Learn more about the history of the Ojibwe Horse:
<https://ojibwehorse.ca/whats-in-a-name-how-the-lac-la-croix-indian-pony-got-its-name/>
<https://www.horsejournals.com/popular/breed-profiles/ojibwe-spirit-horses>
- See photos of Ojibwe Horses:
https://ojibwehorse.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/IMG_4977.jpg
<https://indigenous.knowhistory.ca/files/grey.jpg>
https://ojibwehorse.ca/wp-content/gallery/ojibwe-horses/Blaze_herd_1.jpg
<https://gallop.pl/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/original-mares-1.jpg>
- Visit the Grey Raven Ranch website:
<https://greyravenranch.vpweb.ca/>

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

Saving the Ojibwe Horse

How the Ojibwe Horse was Saved

Somebody (The Ojibwe people)	
Wanted (What did the Ojibwe want?)	
But (What was the main problem?)	
So (How did the settlers try to solve the problem?)	
Then (What was the result?)	
Now (What is happening now?)	

Map: Northwestern Ontario

Complete this map assignment to help you better understand the context of the article *Saving the Ojibwe Horse*.

Label the following, then colour:

Provinces

- Ontario
- Manitoba

U.S. States

- Minnesota
- Wisconsin
- Michigan

Salt Water

- Hudson Bay

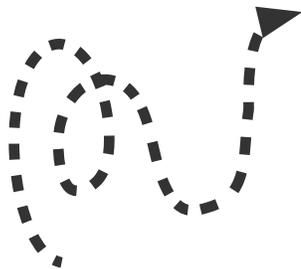
Cities and Towns

- Sault Ste. Marie
- Thunder Bay
- Dryden
- Kenora
- Fort Frances

Fresh Water

- Lake Superior
- Lake Nipigon
- Lake of the Woods
- Albany River
- Severn River

Challenge:

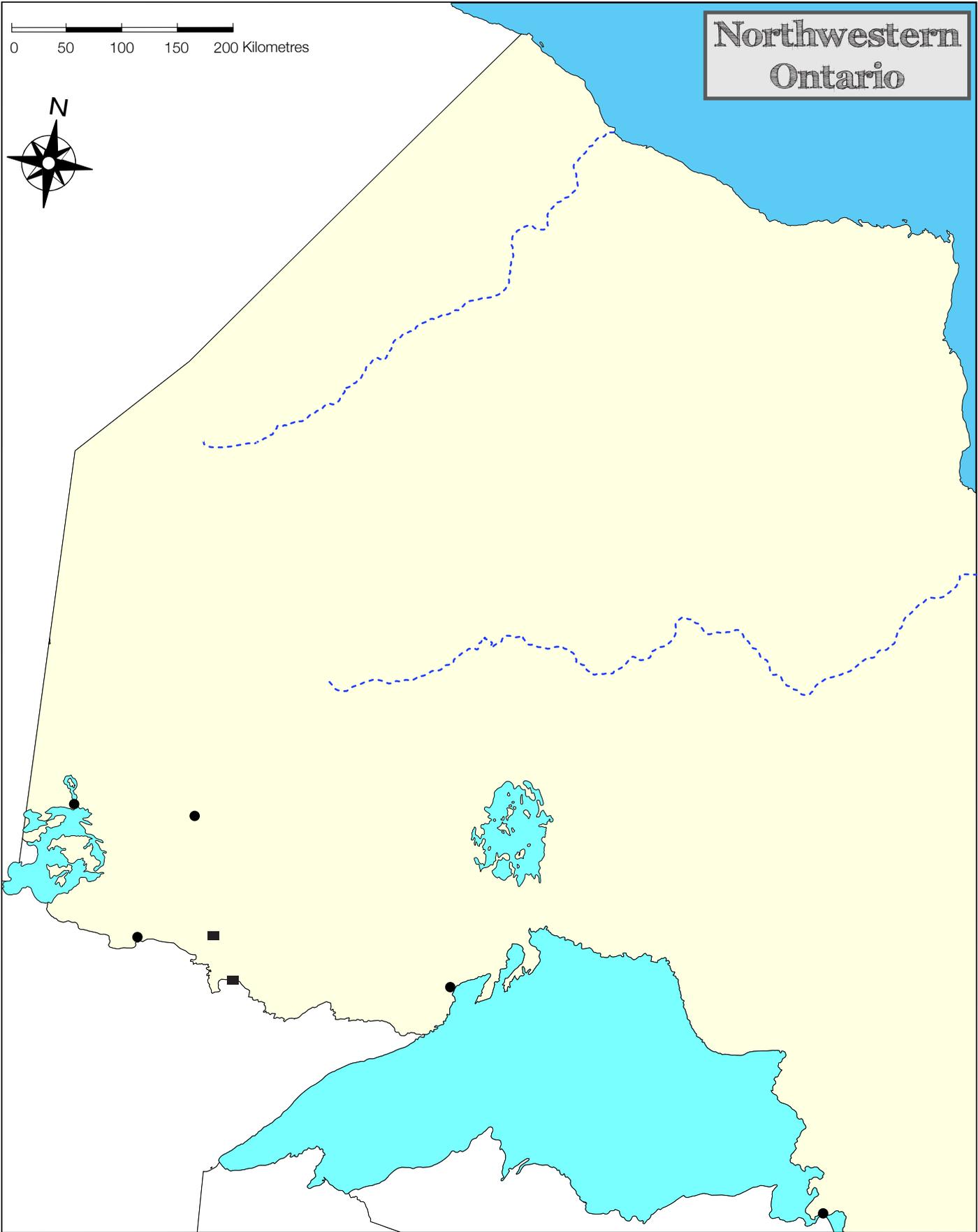


Ojibwe Horses lived in the boreal forest around the Great Lakes. Darcy Whitecrow remembers the horses roaming free like deer around Seine River First Nation, where he grew up. In 1977, the last four Ojibwe Horses lived on the Lac La Croix First Nation. Can you label these two First Nations on your map?

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

Northwestern Ontario

0 50 100 150 200 Kilometres



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. (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.

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: 40 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.

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

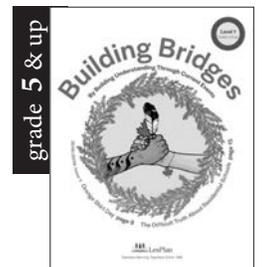
Product details: 8 issues. 60 pages. Available in English and in French, and in two reading levels, for grades 5 and up.



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.



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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

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

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THE CANADIAN READER.

This classroom-ready resource combines current Canadian events and issues with geography to expand students' knowledge of their country while enhancing their non-fiction literacy skills.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS



Subscribe now for the 2022 - 2023 school year, and get the November and December issues FREE! (a \$52.50 value)

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

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

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Please circulate to:

SEE NEXT FOR PAGE SAMPLES AND ORDERING DETAILS!

