

The Canadian Reader

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

Free
Sample

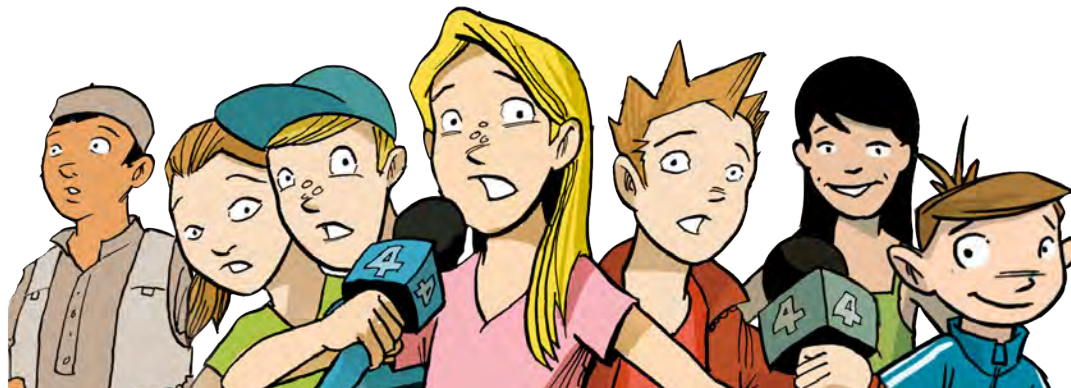


Includes

- A News Story
- Lesson Plan
- Organizer

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

4 Free Article: Alec Bélanger: Extra Awesome
6 Comprehension Check | 7 Language Focus
8 Lesson Plan | 10 Why volunteer?
11 Map: Nova Scotia



WHAT YOU'RE MISSING

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How big does a forest need to be? It turns out, not very big! Even 100 square metres is enough. That's about half the size of a tennis court. Tiny forests are popping up across Canada . . .

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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

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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.

Alec Bélanger: Extra Awesome



Alec Bélanger has played hockey his whole life. The 21-year-old forward even plays hockey at school. Mr. Bélanger goes to Dalhousie University. The school is in Nova Scotia.

Mr. Bélanger brought something important with him to Dalhousie. It wasn't his textbook. It wasn't his hockey skates. It was something he couldn't pack. Something he didn't want to live without.

He brought along an idea for a program. An Extra Awesome program.

Community service

Before university, Mr. Bélanger played in the Ontario Hockey League. His coaches taught more than hockey skills. They taught the players to volunteer in the community.

Mr. Bélanger was a teenager. He didn't understand. Why volunteer? What did helping have to do with hockey?

André Tourigny coached the Ottawa team. Mr. Bélanger played there for a time. Mr. Tourigny views hockey players as role models. They can help people and change lives. "It's an unbelievable power," the coach says.

But volunteer work won't improve anyone's hockey skills. Or will it?

When they volunteer, the players see what other people go through. They see people who are resilient and never quit. When you see that, "It's tough to feel sorry for yourself," Mr. Tourigny said.

Extra Awesome

In 2021-22, Mr. Bélanger played for the Kingston Frontenacs. One day, he was sent

to skate with some kids. They were part of a program called Extra Awesome.

The program is run by Queen's University students. Student volunteers spend time with kids who have Down Syndrome, and their siblings. They do fun activities. Sometimes it's Bingo. Sometimes it's a scavenger hunt. Sometimes they play catch.

Sometimes they work on reading or schoolwork together. Extra Awesome is about support and friendship.

One visit with this awesome group wasn't enough. Mr. Bélanger went back again and again! "Every time I would leave with a smile on my face," he says.

A big job

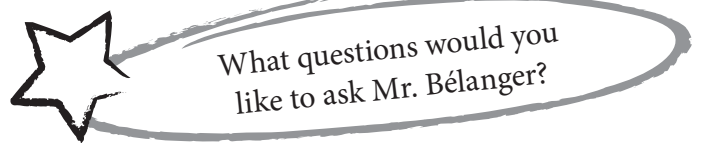
Mr. Bélanger started an Extra Awesome program at Dalhousie. It was a big

job. He found a space. He recruited volunteers and participants. He even arranged insurance. One of his friends from the Kingston group helped him.

In January 2024, the program launched! They meet every Sunday. The program will run until the end of the school year. Mr. Bélanger hopes to plan some summer events, too.

This year, Mr. Bélanger won an award for his hockey playing. He was named Rookie of the Year. He won a community service award, too. That award honoured his work with Extra Awesome.

For Mr. Bélanger, the program itself is the reward. It's even more important to him than hockey. "I live my week around this," he says.



Kids who have Down Syndrome are born with an extra copy of a chromosome. Can you guess where the name "Extra Awesome" might have come from?

Alec Bélanger: Extra Awesome

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. Dalhousie University is in Nova Scotia.

_____ 2. Mr. Bélanger's coaches did not want him to volunteer in the community.

_____ 3. The Extra Awesome program is run by the Kingston Frontenacs.

_____ 4. Extra awesome volunteers spend time with kids who have Down Syndrome.

_____ 5. Mr. Bélanger's Extra Awesome program launched in 2021-22.

_____ 6. This year, Mr. Bélanger won a community service award.

Alec Bélanger: Extra Awesome

Language Focus

In English, there are three basic **verb tenses**: **past, present, and future**. Tenses indicates when in time an action or event happened.

Directions: Complete the table below with appropriate **past** or **present** tenses.

Past	Present
<i>Example: They <u>watched</u>.</i>	<i>Example: They <u>watch</u>.</i>
He <u>brought</u> something important with him.	
Mr. Bélanger <u>played</u> in the OHL.	
	Student volunteers <u>spend</u> time with kids.
	They <u>work</u> on reading or schoolwork.
	They <u>meet</u> every Sunday.
Mr. Bélanger <u>was</u> a teenager.	

Find three more examples of verbs in the past and present tenses from the article, or think of your own:

Past	Present

Can you identify patterns in each tense (words or endings)?

Alec Bélanger: Extra Awesome

Lesson Plan

Before Reading:

- Facilitate a *Think-Pair-Share* discussion, posing the following questions:
 - What is community service or volunteering?
 - Have you or someone you know done community service or volunteered? Explain what you or the other person did.
 - Why might someone volunteer?
 - Who benefits more: the person who volunteers or the person/organization receiving the help or service?
- Read the title of the article aloud. Invite students to predict what the news story might be about. Then, show the cartoon and read the caption aloud. Ask students to adjust their predictions. Finally, read the introduction aloud. Invite students to revise their predictions once more.
- Then, suggest that they will read to find out the connections between Alec Bélanger, community service, and Extra Awesome.

During Reading:

- Encourage students to underline or highlight important information about Mr. Bélanger, Extra Awesome, and community service as they read.

After Reading:

- Discuss the connections between the three phrases as a class.
- Next, introduce the word *reciprocal* (e.g., something that is done, given, or felt equally by two people). Invite students to consider how volunteering is a reciprocal relationship between the volunteer and the person/people who are receiving help/benefitting from the service.
- Distribute to each student, or pair of students, a copy of **Why volunteer?** (p. 12). Explain that students will use the information in the article (and their own experiences, if applicable) to explore the reciprocal relationship Alec Bélanger had with the program Extra Awesome. They will describe the benefits to both Alec and the participants of the Extra Awesome program in each of the boxes. Finally, direct students to think about the reciprocal relationship between Alec Bélanger and Extra Awesome and draw an overall conclusion that explains why volunteering or community service is so important.
- Criteria for Assessment:** An effective conclusion includes *relevant ideas* (describes the main benefits of volunteering) and is *convincing* (helps readers understand the reciprocal nature of volunteering).

Extensions:

- Explore volunteer opportunities in your community:** Many communities have a volunteer bureau or similar organization that advertises volunteer opportunities or matches volunteers to experiences in the community. Consider inviting someone from this organization to discuss

Lesson Plan

volunteering with your students. Prepare students for the visit by having them develop powerful questions to ask the guest. See **Internet Connections** for a link to the critical thinking challenge *Asking Powerful Questions* prepared by The Critical Thinking Consortium.

- Participate in a community service project:** Students may be interested in brainstorming ideas for a simple community service project that addresses a need someone, a group of people, or an organization in your community has. The Canadian Teachers' Federation and The Critical Thinking Consortium have a free, downloadable publication for teachers who want to involve their students in community service/social action projects. See **Internet Connections** for a link to the pdf.

Internet Connections:

- Learn more about this news story:
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/dalhousie-hockey-player-down-syndrome-volunteer-1.7126648>
<https://chl.ca/ohl-frontenacs/article/inspiring-unity-alec-belangers-commitment-to-community-shines-on-at-dalhousie/>
- Interested in the hockey career of Alec Bélanger? Check out these links:
<https://www.eliteprospects.com/player/503267/alec-belanger>
<https://youtu.be/92pLdvR7-ck?si=wsIHPaGbs1XVCg9->
- Find out more about volunteering:
<https://youtu.be/8KxwtJH6NSo?si=XhSu5brVDOdzCojE>
<https://youtu.be/pKRmcjmJwQ?si=jtpdalWR-6wzIecd>
<https://youtu.be/tYmvsrkN8po?si=AWynUPedvfVvd9Ew>
- For teachers:
Social action projects: MAKING A DIFFERENCE: https://tc2.ca/uploads/PDFs/Social%20Action%20Projects/IA_Handbook_9-12_EN_FINAL.pdf
Asking powerful questions: https://tc2.ca/uploads/PDFs/CC_samples/ACCAC_Powerfulquestions.pdf

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

Alec Bélanger: Extra Awesome

Why volunteer?

Alec Bélanger



How did volunteering help?



Extra Awesome kids

The most important thing I learned about volunteering...

This is important because...



Map: Nova Scotia

Complete this map assignment to help you better understand the context of the article *Alec Bélanger – Extra Awesome*.

Label the following, then colour:

Provinces

- New Brunswick
- Prince Edward Island
- Nova Scotia

Capital cities

- Halifax
- Charlottetown

Other

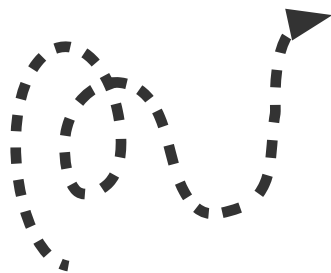
- Cape Breton Island

Salt water bodies

- Bay of Fundy
- Minas Basin
- Atlantic Ocean
- Gulf of St. Lawrence
- Northumberland Strait
- Strait of Canso

Fresh water bodies

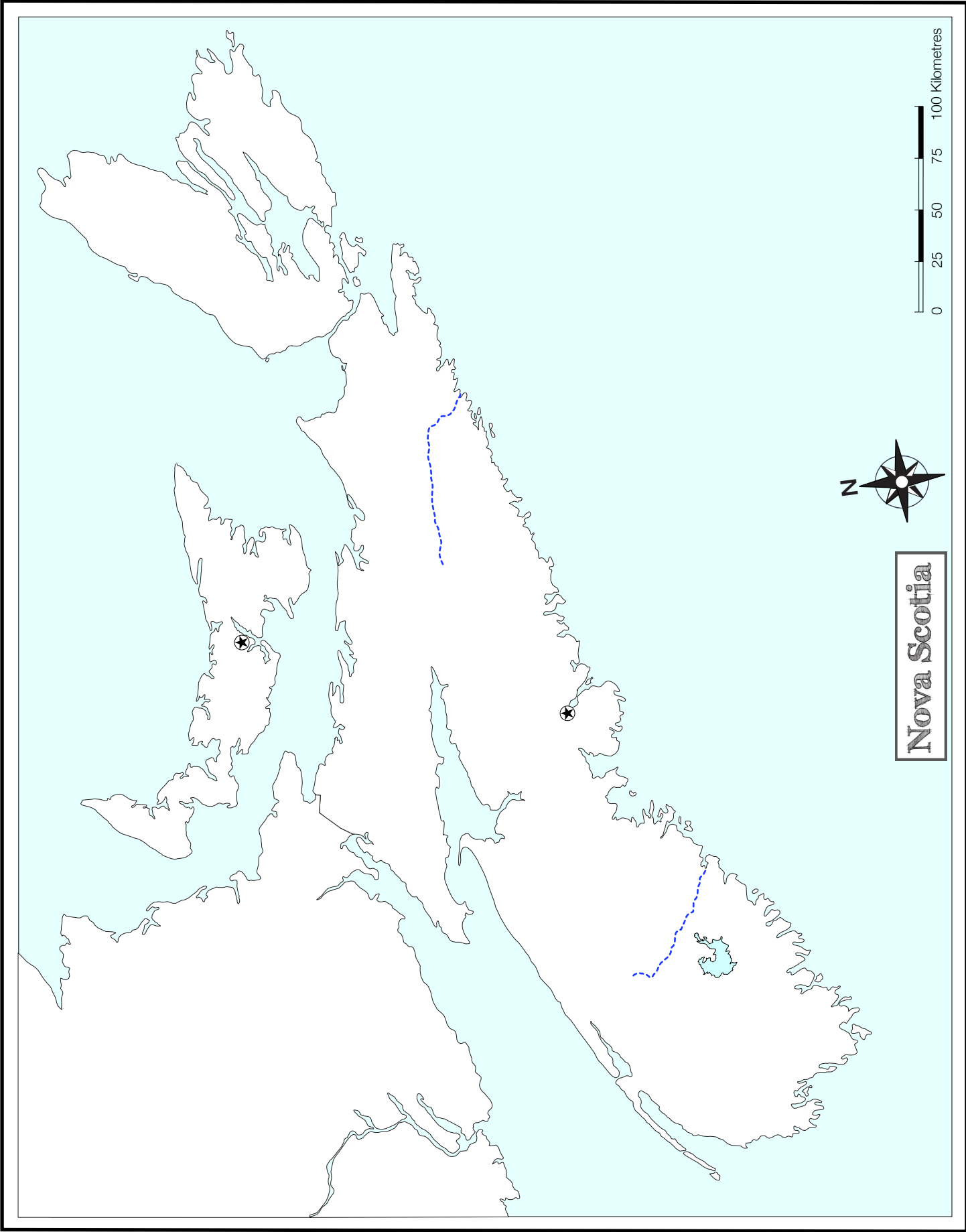
- St. Marys River
- Medway River
- Bras D'or Lake
- Lake Rossignol
- St. John River



Did You Know . . . ?

There are different kinds of water bodies. Can you infer from your map or use a dictionary or other resource to help you determine the differences and similarities among a *bay*, a *strait*, a *gulf*, an *ocean*, a *lake* and a *river*?

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



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Nova Scotia

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.

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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 News4Youth.com

- ✓ **Online** and interactive
- ✓ Weekly
- ✓ 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 (1 reading level).
News4Youth/Infos-Ados: Grades 5 and up (3 reading levels).

What in the World?

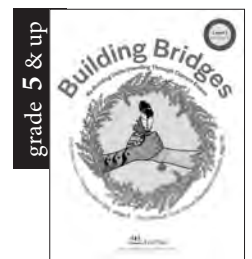
- ✓ PDF/Word resource
- ✓ National and international news stories
- ✓ Key vocabulary
- ✓ Background information
- ✓ Varied assignments that build content-area knowledge and enhance critical thinking
- ✓ Maps and illustrations



Product details: 8 issues. 60 pages. Available in English and in French, and in 2 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 2 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

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

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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.

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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15 Article: Helping through Haircuts
22 Article: Summer Makes a Splash
29 Comic: Health Care in Canada | 31 Answer Key

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* Offer only applies to new subscriptions.

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What in the World?* Level 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grades 5 and up	\$230	
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News4Youth** Level 1, 2 & 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grades 7 and up	\$440	
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