

52 Weekly Stories About Canada

— Grades 1-2 —

Written by Ruth Solski

The 52 stories in this book have been designed to familiarize and develop student awareness of Canadian symbols, animals, birds, seasons, month of the year, special celebrations, famous places, and famous people. Each topic contains an information story and a follow-up exercise designed to review and develop strong reading and phonetic skills. The material in this book can be used in a variety of ways



RUTH SOLSKI was an educator for 30 years. She has written many educational resources and is the founder of S&S Learning Materials. As a writer, her main goal is to provide teachers with a useful tool that they can implement in their classrooms to bring the joy of learning to children.

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At A Glance

Learning Intentions

	Canadian Symbols	Seasons of the Year	Months of the Year	Canadian Animals	Canadian Birds	Famous Canadian Places	Special Celebrations	Famous Canadians
Reading Comprehension Skills:								
Using Context Clues	•			•				
Classifying Information	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Recalling Details	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Noting Details	•	•				•		
Brainstorming		•						
Seeing Relationships		•						
Cause and Effect					•			•
Sequential Ordering							•	
Following Written Instructions							•	
Recalling Events							•	
Evaluation								•
Drawing Conclusions						•	•	•
Following Directions							•	
Phonetic Skills:								
Initial Consonants	•	•	•		•		•	
Recognition of Blends	•		•	•		•	•	
Recognition of Digraphs				•		•		
Recognition of Long/Short Vowels	•		•	•	•	•		
Recognition of “qu” sound			•					
Word Study Skills:								
Rhyming Words	•	•	•	•		•		
Syllabication	•		•		•	•	•	•
Compound Words		•				•		
Antonyms, Synonyms, Homonyms			•	•	•	•		•
Alphabetical Order						•	•	•
Recognition of Proper Nouns							•	
Word Meanings								•

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TEACHING OBJECTIVES

STUDENTS WILL:

- read and become familiar with Canada, Canadian Symbols, Seasons in Canada, Months of the Year, Canadian Animals, Canadian Birds, Special Celebrations, Famous Canadian Places, and Famous Canadian People.
- practise and review reading skills in an informal learning experience.
- use previously learned phonetic skills to unlock new vocabulary.
- learn to read and to discuss information in a group.
- work independently while reading a nonfiction story and completing a follow-up reading activity worksheet

TEACHING STRATEGIES:

The nonfiction stories and followup worksheets may be used in any of the following ways.

1. Reproduce each story sheet and worksheet for the students to use to practise their reading skills at school or for homework.
2. Reproduce each story and its worksheet. Mount the information story on one side of stiff cardboard and the worksheet on the back of the same card. Laminate the card. The cards could be placed at a **“Let’s Read About Canada”** centre. All the cards could be placed in one box or they could be placed in individual boxes labelled “Canada’s Symbols”, “Canada’s Seasons”, “Canada’s Months of the Year”, “Canadian Animals”, “Canadian Birds”, “Famous Canadian Places”, “Special Celebrations in Canada”, and “Famous Canadians”. Pairs of students could work at the centre and read and complete the worksheet orally. Answers could be placed on an answer card for all the activities in each section and used for self-checking.
3. Each story could be used as a teaching tool. It could be used on an overhead or a white board. The students would read the story silently. Then the story’s content and new vocabulary could be discussed. This would be a time to practise fluency and expressive reading. Sentences could be read as a group or independently by the students. The worksheet for the story could be reproduced and worked on independently or in groups of two. The story should be left on display for student reference.
4. If you feel your students will have difficulty with new vocabulary, print the words on a chart and discuss them. Encourage your students to look closely at each one. Ask the following questions. Does the word have the same ending as another word that you know? Does the word belong to a word family? What is the beginning sound? What is the final sound? Are there any vowels in the word? What sound do you think it makes? Are there two vowels walking together? What do you think they say? Is this word made of two words?
5. Some stories could be used to announce the beginning of a new season or a new month on the calendar. The students could read the story and then discuss it. On a chart, have them brainstorm for other facts or events that will take place during this period of time. Locate their dates on a calendar.
6. The “Canadian Animals” and “Canadian Birds” stories could be used as an introduction to studying either topic during science lessons. The students could also brainstorm for other Canadian Animals and Birds. Their names could be recorded on charts.
7. The story pages could be reproduced to make nonfiction booklets for the students to read about Canada in class or for homework.
8. While reading about Canada and places to visit, use a large political map that shows the provinces, territories, and their capital cities. Invite students to locate their own province or territory and capital city. Discuss the names of the provinces/territories and oceans on each coast. Discuss the compass rose, its directions, and usage. While reading about a particular place, locate it on the map of Canada to give students an idea where it is. Discuss the location.
9. These stories could be used during indoor recesses as an activity.



The following vocabulary lists for each story may have to be presented before each story is read by some students. Train them to use their phonetic and word attack skills effectively.

CANADIAN SYMBOLS

STORY #1: CANADA; PAGE 9:

Canada, country, provinces, territories, United States, Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Arctic Ocean

STORY #2: CANADA'S FLAG; PAGE 11:

centre, people, proud

STORY #3: CANADIAN SYMBOLS; PAGE 13:

symbol, coins, pictures, dime

STORY #4: CANADA'S CAPITAL CITY;

PAGE 15: Ottawa, capital, Parliament Buildings, Prime Minister, leaders, rules, museums

STORY #5: CANADA'S PRIME MINISTER;

PAGE 17: votes, twenty-second, favourite, sport, hockey

STORY #6: CANADIAN COINS; PAGE 19:

metals, dime, nickel, quarter, dollar, two dollars

CANADIAN SEASONS

STORY #1: AUTUMN IN CANADA; PAGE 21:

change, gather, cooler, shorter, caterpillars, cocoons, squirrels, chipmunks, Thanksgiving, Hallowe'en

STORY #2: WINTER IN CANADA; PAGE 23:

snowy, short, cardinals, bluejays, chickadees, feeding, stations, warm, trouble, driving, icy, toboggans

STORY #3: SPRING IN CANADA; PAGE 25:

melts, flowers, tulips, daffodils, eggs, kites, plowing, fields, bud

STORY #4: SUMMER IN CANADA; PAGE 27:

cloudy, hiking, camp, picnics, vegetables

MONTHS OF THE YEAR

STORY #1: SEPTEMBER IN CANADA; PAGE 29:

number, teachers, weekend, Labour Day, parades, International Peace Day, grandparents

STORY #2: OCTOBER IN CANADA; PAGE 31:

turkey, Thanksgiving, Hallowe'en, costumes

STORY #3: NOVEMBER IN CANADA;

PAGE 33: Remembrance Day, dead, soldiers, quietly, minute, peace, wreaths, monuments, poppies

STORY #4: DECEMBER IN CANADA; PAGE 35:

holidays, light, candle, decorated, stockings

STORY #5: JANUARY IN CANADA; PAGE 37:

promise, Ukrainian, Chinese, people, parade, dragon, fireworks, Québec, carnival, Bonhomme, blocks

STORY #6: FEBRUARY IN CANADA; PAGE 39:

smallest, Leap Year, shadow, Valentine's Day

STORY #7: MARCH IN CANADA; PAGE 41:

almost, St. Patrick's Day, parties, maple syrup, holiday

STORY #8: APRIL IN CANADA; PAGE 43:

Easter, Easter Bunny, Jewish, special, The Passover

STORY #9: MAY IN CANADA; PAGE 45:

warmer, supper, famous, Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth II, weekend

STORY #10: JUNE IN CANADA; PAGE 47:

June, month, warm, cheer, loudly, gifts

STORY #11: JULY & AUGUST IN CANADA;

PAGE 49: holiday, parades, fireworks, cottage, Canada Day

CANADIAN ANIMALS

STORY #1: THE BEAVER; PAGE 51:
thick, furry, teeth, strong, chew, paddles, steers,
enemy, warn, build, dams, lodges, branches

STORY #2: THE CHIPMUNK; PAGE 53:
chipmunk, animal, reddish, stripes, tummy, burrow,
tunnels, cheeks, pouches, noisy, chirps, chatters

STORY #3: THE RED FOX; PAGE 55:
woodlots, beautiful, reddish, pointed, bushy, sneaks,
coops, male, female, vixen

STORY #4: THE GROUNDHOG; PAGE 57:
parts, chubby, bushy, sharp, fields, spy-hole,
favourite, clover, hibernate, shadow

STORY #5: THE RACCOON; PAGE 59:
hollow, burrow, warm, robber, claws, fruits, garbage

CANADIAN BIRDS

STORY #1: THE CANADA GOOSE; PAGE 61:
cheeks, chest, greyish, plants, mate, life, marsh

**STORY #2: THE BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE;
PAGE 63:** south, bib, rounded, insects, air, sunflower,
hammers

STORY #3: THE ROBIN; PAGE 65:
return, bill, breast, grubs, earthworms, fruits,
caterpillars, berries, hawks

STORY #4: THE CARDINAL; PAGE 67:
crest, feathers, backyards, edge, shrubs, vines

**STORY #5: THE WHITE-BREASTED
NUTHATCH; PAGE 69:** insects, chubby, strong,
bark, tummy, twigs, branches, build

FAMOUS PLACES IN CANADA

STORY #1: THE CN TOWER; PAGE 71:
Toronto, city, metres, concrete, world, build,
restaurant, elevators, deck, clear, Niagara Falls, Lake
Ontario, climb, metal, earthquakes

**STORY #2: CANADA'S WONDERLAND;
PAGE 73:** Wonderland, theme, roller coasters,
splash, planet, whirl, swoop, different, mazes,
special, funnel

STORY #3: GREEN GABLES; PAGE 75:
famous, Prince Edward Island, shutters, gables,
museum, visit, famous, author, fiery, temper

STORY #4: THE TORONTO ZOO; PAGE 77:
suit, gorillas, monkeys, apes, jungle, zebras, rhinos,
polar bears, buildings, country, learn trails

**STORY #5: BLACK CREEK PIONEER VILLAGE;
PAGE 79:** blacksmith, tools, horseshoes, metal,
cooper, barrels, costumes, pictures

**STORY #6: PEGGY'S COVE LIGHTHOUSE;
PAGE 81:** Nova Scotia, village, Peggy's Cove, giant,
building, steel, concrete, metres, warn, danger,
crashing, against, swept, drown

**STORY #7: BANFF NATIONAL PARK;
PAGE 83:** famous, government, forest rangers,
glaciers, mountains, grizzly

**STORY #8: CONFEDERATION BRIDGE;
PAGE 85:** Confederation Bridge, New Brunswick,
Prince Edward Island, lane, highway, kilometres,
curved, toll, ferries



The Canada Goose



The Canada goose is a big water bird found all over Canada.

It has a black head with white cheeks and a black neck.

Its wings and tail are black too.

The feathers on its back and chest are greyish brown.

Its belly and behind are white.

The Canada goose eats grasses and corn and wheat plants.

A male and female Canada goose mate for life.

In the spring they build a nest of twigs, grass, and weeds in a marsh or pond.

In the nest, the female lays four to six white eggs.

In the fall, Canada geese honk loudly when they are flying south.

The Canada Goose

A Join the beginning and ending of each sentence with a line.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. A male and female •
Canada goose | • as they fly south. |
| 2. The pair of Canada geese • | • head with white cheeks. |
| 3. Canada geese like to eat • | • mate for life. |
| 4. The female Canada •
goose lays | • are black too. |
| 5. A Canada goose has a black • | • build a nest in the spring. |
| 6. Its wings and tail • | • four to six white eggs in
the nest. |
| 7. Canada geese honk loudly • | • corn and wheat plants
and grass. |

B The word "goose" begins with the sound that "Gg" makes. Colour only the pictures that begin with that same sound.

