

52 Weekly Stories About Canada

— Grades 7-8 —

Written by Ruth Solski

The 52 non-fiction stories in this book have been designed to familiarize and develop student awareness of the following Canadian topics while reviewing and strengthening various reading, language, and word study skills. The topics are: Canadian Capital Cities; Famous Canadian Bodies of Water and Islands; Canadian History; Canadian Folklore; Canadian Trivia; and Famous Canadians.



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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Printed in Canada

Published in Canada by:
On The Mark Press
15 Dairy Avenue, Napanee, Ontario, K7R 1M4
www.onthemarkpress.com

Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada





At A Glance

Learning Expectations

	Canadian Capital Cities	Canadian Bodies of Water and Islands	Canadian History	Canadian Folklore	Canadian Trivia	Famous Canadians
Reading Skills:						
Recalling Details, Events, Information	•	•	•	•	•	•
Drawing Conclusions	•					
Cause and Effect; Emotional Reactions			•	•		
Sequential Ordering	•	•	•	•		
Main Idea		•	•		•	•
Finding Proof; Locating Information	•		•		•	
Classifying Details/Events	•		•		•	
Fantasy/Realism				•		
Language Skills:						
Parts of Speech	•	•	•		•	•
Types of Sentences	•		•		•	
Paragraph Writing		•	•			•
Comparative Adjectives		•	•	•		
Singular / Plural Words			•		•	
Compound Sentences						
Conjunctions / Clauses			•	•	•	•
Word Gender			•			
Vocabulary Skills:						
Antonyms / Synonyms / Homonyms	•	•	•	•	•	•
Word Meanings	•	•	•	•	•	•
Root Words	•	•	•	•		•
Syllabication	•	•	•			
Compound Words	•	•				
Alphabetical Order		•	•	•		
Vowel Combinations			•			
Double Consonants						•
Spelling			•			

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TEACHING OBJECTIVES

STUDENTS WILL:

- read about and become more knowledgeable of the different aspects of their country, such as: Canadian Capital Cities; Famous Canadian Bodies of Water; Famous Canadian Islands; Important Historical Events; Canadian Folklore; Famous Canadian Women; Famous Canadian Men; Canadian Trivia; Canadian Sports; and Famous Male and Female Athletes.
- practise and review oral and silent reading, vocabulary, and language skills during an informal learning experience.
- use previously learned word attack skills to unlock new vocabulary.
- practise reading and discussing information in a large or small group situation.
- strengthen research skills using non-fiction materials.
- work independently while reading a non-fiction story and completing a follow-up activity worksheet.
- practise and strengthen written ideas, opinions, and thoughts.

TEACHING STRATEGIES:

The nonfiction stories and follow-up worksheets may be used in any of the following situations.

1. Independent Reading with Follow-up Activity: Reproduce the story sheet and worksheet for the students to use to practise their reading skills at school or for home study.
2. Reproduce each story and worksheet, mount the information story on one side of stiff cardboard and the worksheet on the back of the same card. This also could be done using file folders. Laminate the cards and folders for longer usage. The cards or folders should be stored in boxes labelled with the name of each section. Examples of titles to be used: Canadian Capital Cities; Famous Canadian Bodies of Water and Islands; Canadian Historical Events; Canadian Folklore; Canadian Trivia; Famous Female Canadians; Famous Male Canadians; Famous Canadian Sports; Famous Canadian Athletes.
3. Each story could be used as a teaching tool for the entire class or for small groups. Make an overhead of the story or show it on a white board. The students could read the story silently. Any new vocabulary in the story could be discussed and word attack skills should be applied by the students to figure them out. Discuss the story's content and have the students locate and read the sentences that answer the questions while applying research and comprehension skills.
4. Display the worksheet for the story on the overhead or a white board. The students could record the answers in a notebook or on the white board, or they could discuss them orally.
5. While the story is displayed on a white board, practise students' oral reading and word recognition. This could be done with a group or the entire class. Direct the students' fluency and speed with your



- hand or a pointer. Practise reading the story several times. Tell your students reading orally is like singing. It has its own rhythm, speed, types of sounds, and expression.
6. If you feel that your students may have difficulty with any of the words in the story, record them on a chart, white board, or a chalkboard and discuss them prior to reading the story. Encourage the usage of word attack skills by using any of the following questions.
 - How does the word begin and end?
 - Are there any vowels or vowel combinations inside the word?
 - Is it a compound word?
 - Does it look like another word that you know?
 - Do the words in the rest of the sentence give you any clues?
 - Is there a little word inside?
 7. Some of the stories could be used during history lessons and geography lessons.
 8. Many of the stories about Canada could be used during indoor recesses as an oral activity for fun.
 9. The stories could also be used with students who are experiencing reading difficulties and have been placed in higher grade levels than their reading ability.
 10. Some of the stories could be used with students or adults learning to read and speak English.
 11. Any story and follow-up can be reproduced and sent home as homework to strengthen the reading ability of a student.
 12. The information cards could be mounted and laminated and used to develop teacher-directed research skills.
 13. Stories in one section could be reproduced with their follow-up sheets to make individual books for students to practise their reading skills.

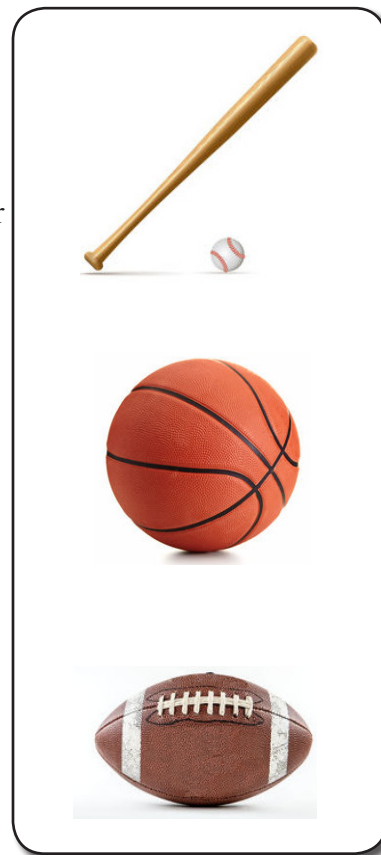
Canadian Sports Trivia

Popular Sports in Canada

Hockey is not the only sport played or participated in by Canadians. Some like and enjoy winter sports, while others prefer summer sports. Read the trivia facts to find out about other sports enjoyed by Canadians.

Did you know:

- Canada has only one major baseball league, called the Bluejays, but amateur baseball is played across the country at many different levels. Baseball players may be involved in hard ball, soft ball, and fast pitch softball. Baseball is played by two teams on a large field with three bases, a pitcher's mound, and a home plate. Each team has nine players that take turns batting and fielding. A hard ball or a softball may be used.
- Lacrosse is a contact team sport played between two teams. A small rubber ball and a long-handled stick called a *crosse* or lacrosse stick are used. The objective of the game is to get the ball into the opponents' net and to prevent them from scoring. It may be played inside an arena or on a large playing field.
- Football is played at many levels in Canada. The CFL league is the highest level of competition. Canada has nine professional teams. They are the B.C. Lions, Calgary Stampeders, Winnipeg Blue Bombers, Edmonton Eskimos, Toronto Argonauts, Ottawa Redblacks, Montreal Alouettes, Saskatchewan Rough Riders, and the Hamilton Tiger Cats. These teams all play for the highest award, which is the Grey Cup. Football is also played at high schools, colleges, and universities.
- Basketball was created by a Canadian named James Naismith. It is played by many men and women at the amateur level. Canada has only one professional basketball team, called the Toronto Raptors.
- Field hockey is played between two teams of eleven players, using hockey sticks and a solid plastic ball, on a field 40 metres by 20 metres. Many of the rules are similar to ice hockey.
- Tobogganing is a favourite winter sport for many Canadian children on a snow-covered slope. At one time, it was a favourite competitive pastime during the late 1800s in Montreal and Quebec City. Today, the luge and the bobsled have taken its place.
- Downhill skiing is another popular winter sport in Canada, especially where there are high mountains. People enjoy the thrill of sliding down snow-covered hills with fixed-heel bindings and two poles. Skiers control their direction and speed by making left and right turns and using a snowplough maneuver to stop by pointing one or both skis inwards.
- Cross country skiing involves skiing over flat terrain. Cross country skiers travel in the countryside on long, thin skis that allow the weight of the skier to be distributed quickly. Poles are used to propel the skier forwards. The skier also wears special boots that are attached to the ski with a binding, but the heel remains free.
- Ice skating outdoors has been enjoyed by many Canadians for 150 years. First Nations people skated on the ice by tying animal shin bones to their footwear using leather thongs. This was a faster way of getting across lakes instead of having to walk around them on the shore. Ice skating became so popular in Canada that ice rinks were built. Most were sheltered from the wind and snow with large shed-like coverings. In 1911, the first artificial ice rinks were built in British Columbia. Today, most communities have a rink with artificial ice on which hockey is played and ice skating and figure skating are taught.



Canadian Sports trivia

Popular Sports in Canada

A

READING ACCURACY

Record the name of the sport that each group of words describes.

- played on a large field; oval ball used; score touchdowns; kick or run carrying the ball

- eleven players per team; played on a field; goals are scored by hitting a ball into a net with a stick

- done on a flat trail in the country; long slim skis, two poles; special boots with free heel

- played on a marked field with bases; points are made with a bat and ball; two teams; umpire

- a long-handled stick and a ball are used; players toss, catch, and score using the ball and the stick

- done on high hills and mountains; travel quickly on skis using poles; person controls the direction of travel with the poles _____
- popular sport in schools; invented by a Canadian; only one professional team in Canada; played in a gym _____
- done on frozen water; can be done inside or outside; some jump and twirl about while doing it

B

LANGUAGE REVIEW

Underline the subordinate clause in each sentence.

- There was a time when the only place to skate was outside on frozen water.
- We waited in the rain until the baseball game was over.
- No one was around when the downhill skier ran into a tree.
- While he was tobogganing down the hill, the boy was wearing a helmet.
- My father knows the famous hockey player whom you were lucky to meet.

C

UNDERSTANDING VOCABULARY

Record the **antonym** for each of the following words found in the information.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------|------------|-------|
| 1. minor | _____ | 6. trap | _____ |
| 2. professional | _____ | 7. real | _____ |
| 3. allow | _____ | 8. friends | _____ |
| 4. destroyed | _____ | 9. smooth | _____ |
| 5. hilly | _____ | 10. soft | _____ |

Incredible Canadian Trailblazers

Women Who Have Made Big Changes

During Canada's growth as a nation, many changes were made to improve the people's quality of life and the role of women. Many of these changes were made by brave and determined women in various areas such as politics, science, health care, human rights, and other areas.



Emily Murphy

Dr. Emily Howard
Stowe

Irene Parlby

Henrietta Muir
EdwardsLt. Col. Maryse
Carmichael

Nellie McClung



Roberta Bondar

Here are some famous women to read about and appreciate.

- Emily Murphy from Alberta became the first female magistrate in the British Empire in 1916. She felt married women and their children should be protected, so she fought for their right to share ownership in their husbands' property. Her efforts created *'The Dower Act,'* which was passed in 1911.
- Louise McKinney organized and supported the Women's Christian Temperance Union that fought for the *Prohibition of Alcohol* in order to protect women and children from destructive incidences in their homes. Her hard work and determination gave women the right to vote in Alberta and led to the Prohibition of Alcohol in 1916. This law was later repealed in 1923.
- Nellie McClung was a reformer, suffragist, novelist, and journalist. She was strong-minded and feisty. Nellie fought for the equality of all North American women. Her efforts led to Manitoba becoming the first province to grant women the right to vote in 1916.
- Henrietta Muir Edwards was a legal expert who women went to for advice over issues affecting them and their children. She helped found the *National Council of Women of Canada*, which still strives today to improve the quality of life for women, families, and societies. She also felt women should not be slaves to fashion, as their focus should be on more important issues. In order to set an example, Henrietta refused to wear corsets, which were fashionable in her day.
- Irene Parlby was a western Canadian farmer's wife who fought for women living on farms. In 1916, she organized and led the first *United Farm Women's Association* in 1916. In 1921, she was elected to the Alberta Legislature as a member of the governing United Farmers of Alberta party. She also became the first female cabinet minister in Alberta.
- Dr. Emily Howard Stowe was the first woman to practise medicine in Canada and fought for women's rights to become involved in the medical field of work. She also put a great deal of pressure on the University of Toronto to reverse its policy on letting women train to be doctors. In 1883, Emily's own daughter was the first woman doctor to graduate from a Canadian medical school.
- Roberta Bondar became the first Canadian woman in space in January of 1992 on the Mission STS-42. She was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario and is a woman of many talents. She is also a medical doctor and earned a doctorate in neurobiology.
- Lt.-Col. Maryse Carmichael is an accomplished pilot who became the first woman in Canadian history to fly with the famous Snowbird Aerobatic Team. During her career, she has: served as an air cadet; joined the Canadian Forces to train as a pilot; and served as a Flying Instructor and the School Operations Officer. She has also flown important people such as Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Governor General Adrienne Clarkson all over the world. In 2010, Maryse became the commander of the Snowbirds and is the first female pilot to lead the squad.



Incredible Canadian Trailblazers

Women Who Have Made Big Changes

A

READING ACCURACY

Record the name of the Canadian Trailblazer who accomplished each change to improve the lifestyle of Canadian women.

1. The voices of women living on prairie farms could be heard through her as she was an elected member in the Alberta Legislature and also became the first female cabinet minister.

2. She became famous for her flying ability and became the first woman commander and pilot ever to fly with the famous Snowbirds Aerobatics Team. _____
3. This feisty, intelligent woman fought for women’s rights, and her province was the first to grant women the right to vote. _____
4. Protection for women and their children was a very important issue for this trailblazer as she fought for their rights to share ownership of their husbands’ property. An act was passed in 1911 called ‘*The Dower Act.*’ _____
5. Becoming the first woman doctor in Canada led her to fight to allow women to practise medicine.

6. This woman wanted to protect families from the abusive treatment caused by excessive drinking of alcohol. Her efforts gave women the right to vote in Alberta. Their votes led to the ‘*Prohibition of Alcohol*’ in 1916 for seven years. _____
7. This intelligent and well-trained woman was born in northern Ontario. She became the first Canadian woman to fly on a space mission in January of 1992. _____
8. Many women sought her legal advice on their family problems. She helped to found the ‘*National Council of Women,*’ which still exists today. Following fashion trends was not a top priority with this Trailblazer as she refused to wear corsets, which was the fashion then. _____

B

LANGUAGE REVIEW

Which of the trailblazers impressed you the most? On the lines below, create a letter expressing your feelings about the change that she made for women.

C

UNDERSTANDING VOCABULARY

Skim through the fact card to find words that match the following meanings.

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. defend, shield, guard | _____ |
| 2. causing great harm or damage | _____ |
| 3. a person working for women’s rights | _____ |
| 4. important topics or problems | _____ |
| 5. persuade, influence, intimidate someone into doing something | _____ |
| 6. strategy, system, plans, guidelines | _____ |
| 7. fairness, justice, equal rights | _____ |
| 8. spirited, gutsy, spunky | _____ |
| 9. standard, condition, form, value | _____ |
| 10. achievement, act, deed, effort | _____ |

