

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: Saving the Whales
6 Comprehension Check | 7 Language Focus
8 Lesson Plan | 11 What's So Important?
12 Map: Island of Newfoundland



WHAT YOU'RE MISSING

Wheelchairs in the Wild



Andrée-Ann Madore grew up near Gorge Park in Coaticook, Quebec. As a teenager, she camped in the park and slept under the stars. She loved to run on the trails. . .

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Do you have a favourite beach? A favourite spot in nature? Imagine going there. Maybe you brought a camera along. You look through the camera and see... garbage. You. . .

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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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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.

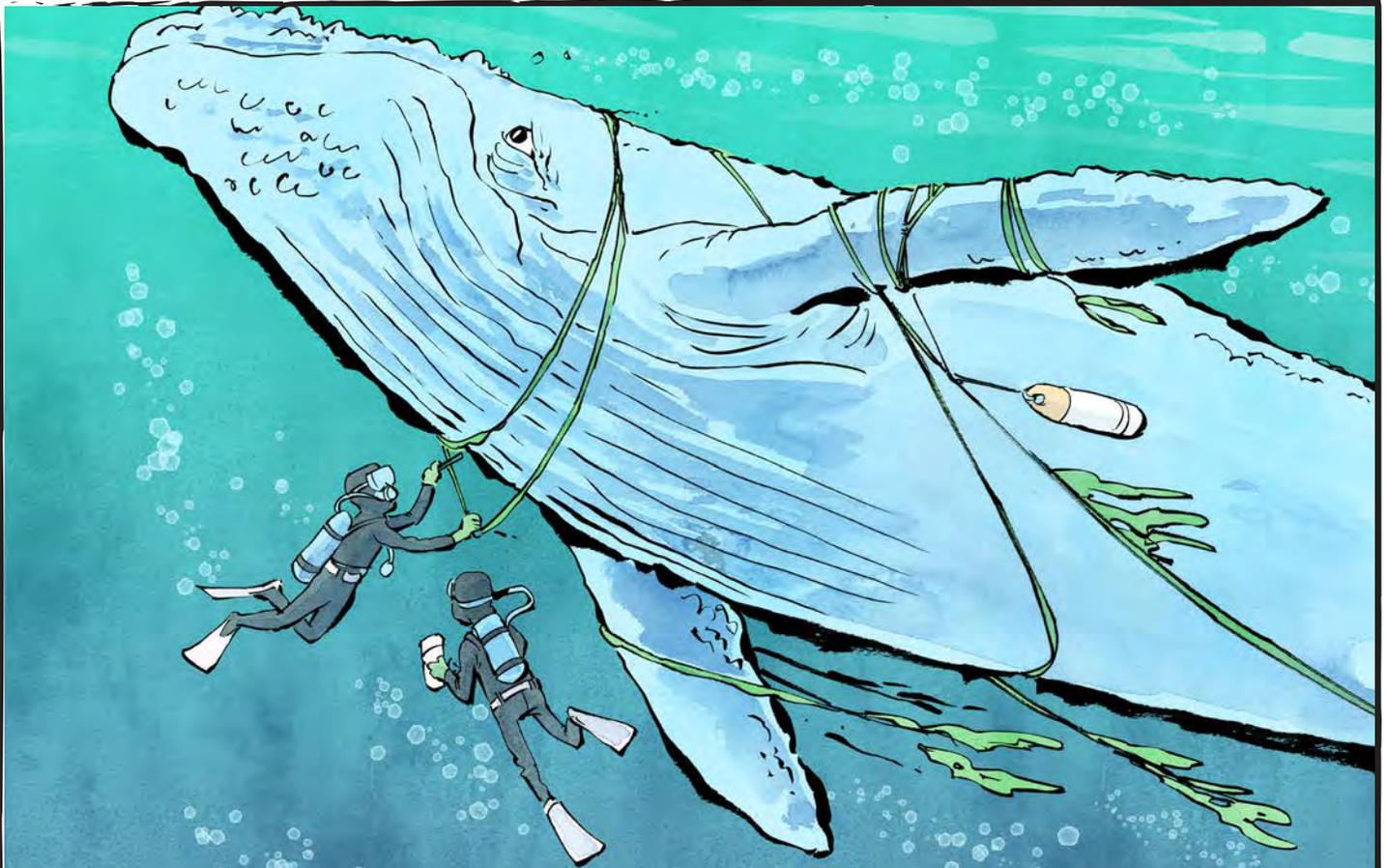
2. **Canadian news stories** – Each of the three articles is leveled and accompanied by Comprehension Check questions, a Language Focus, and a literacy-based lesson plan and supporting materials. Teach the lessons as they are presented, or pick and choose the activities and assignments you'd like to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



There aren't many of them. They work along Canada's coastlines. Their job is difficult and dangerous, but they love it.

They are Canada's whale rescuers.

Whales can get tangled in fishing gear. A tangled whale can become injured. It can even drown.

There are other dangers in the ocean, too. Underwater phone or Internet lines can snare the large mammals. Even a plane wreck can tangle up a whale.

Freeing a whale is a big job. It can take hours, sometimes days, to cut through all the ropes. Sometimes it's difficult to find the animal. Whales

travel great distances. The tangled whale may be far from where it was spotted.

The *Department of Fisheries and Oceans* looks after our waters and manages Canada's fisheries and oceans resources.

Rescuing whales is not easy. "These are 40-50-tonne animals," explains Paul Cottrell. Mr. Cottrell works for the **Department of Fisheries and Oceans** in B.C.



The whales are huge. They're also upset and scared. "You must be very careful and patient, and not move in too quickly," Mr. Cottrell says. Once an animal gets tired,

it is easier and safer to move in. That's when the rescuers can cut the ropes that tangle it.

Mr. Cottrell's team uses drones to help them see the whale. They want to know what it is tangled in. They also want to see how the whale is caught. Is the fishing gear around its mouth or its tail? It makes a difference.

Sharing stories

Last March, Canada's whale rescuers finally got to meet.

The town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's, Newfoundland is home to a whale rescue group. It's called Whale Release and Strandings. They invited other whale rescuers to a workshop. Groups came from British Columbia, Quebec, and New Brunswick.

The workshop topic? How to untangle whales.

The whale rescuers talked with each other and shared stories. They learned what works and what doesn't.

Testing tools

The workshop took place at Newfoundland's Marine Institute. The institute holds a

1.7-million-litre tank of water. At 8 metres wide, 4 metres deep, and 22.25 metres long, it's the largest "flume tank" in the world!

The whale rescuers used the flume tank to test different tools. One side of the flume tank has a large window. This lets the whale rescuers study how the tools move underwater. They can't see that when they're out on the ocean.

Some of the tools they tested were new inventions. "We will all walk away with new ideas," said Julie Huntington of Whale Release and Strandings.

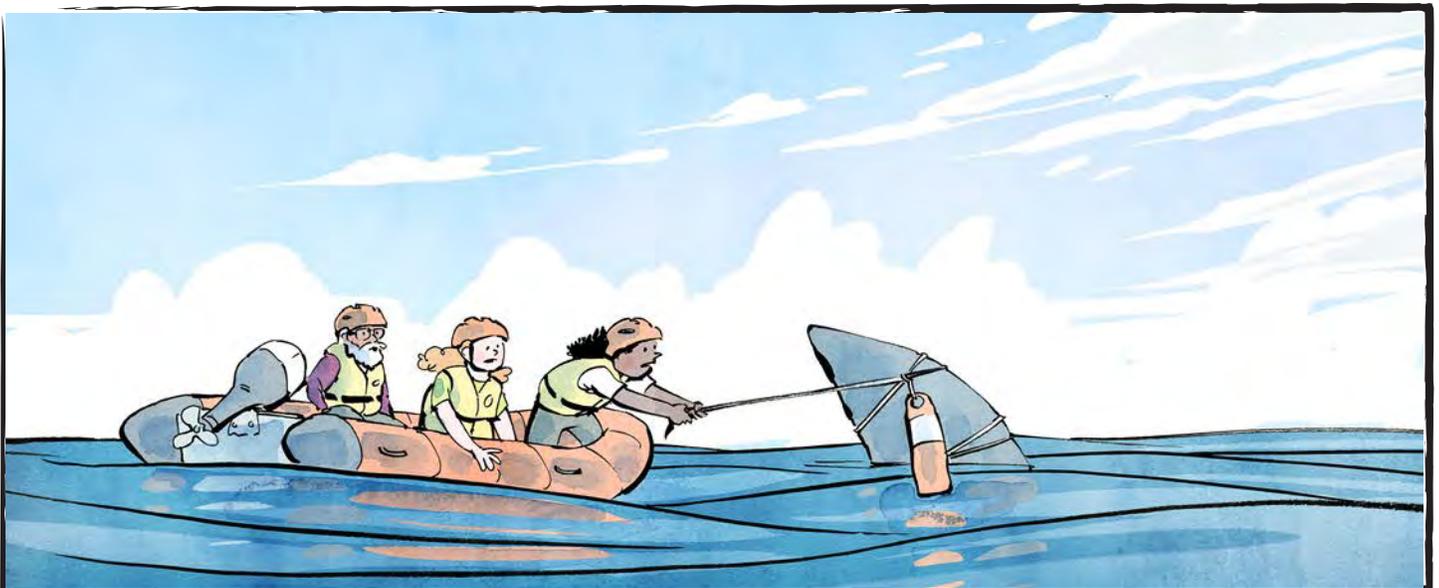
The best job in the world

Every rescue is different. Every rescue is a challenge. The rescuers try, but they can't save every whale. They give each rescue their all.

"When... you're successful, and you see those whales swim off, it's just incredible," said Mr. Cottrell. "I feel like I have the best job in the world."



What questions would you like to ask Mr. Cottrell?



Saving the Whales

Comprehension Check

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

_____ 1. Where do Canada's whale rescuers work?

- a) Along Canada's coastlines.
- b) At the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.
- c) Only in Newfoundland.
- d) Across the Pacific Ocean.

_____ 2. Why is it sometimes difficult to find a tangled whale?

- a) They are huge.
- b) They travel great distances.
- c) They are heavy.
- d) They are upset and scared.

_____ 3. What does Mr. Cottrell's team use to help them see the whale?

- a) Cameras.
- b) Fishing gear.
- c) Internet lines.
- d) Drones.

_____ 4. What was the workshop topic?

- a) Why whales get tired.
- b) How whales get caught in fishing gear.
- c) How to untangle whales.
- d) How to use a flume tank.

_____ 5. Why did the whale rescuers use the flume tank?

- a) To test different tools.
- b) To practice cutting through ropes.
- c) To study tangled whales.
- d) To share whale rescue stories.

Saving the Whales

Language Focus

Synonyms are words that have almost the same meaning.

For example: Synonyms for **big**: large, huge, gigantic

A. Circle the two synonyms for each set of words:

- | | | | |
|------------|---------|---------|----------|
| 1. toasty | chilly | cool | happy |
| 2. walk | crawl | stroll | run |
| 3. argue | scare | confuse | frighten |
| 4. bravery | honesty | courage | joy |
| 5. cook | drink | eat | munch |

B. Write a synonym for each of the following underlined words:

1. Their job is difficult, but they love it. _____
2. A tangled whale can become injured. _____
3. Freeing a whale is a big job. _____
4. Whales travel great distances. _____
5. They want to see how the whale is caught. _____
6. They tested gear, too. _____
7. Some of the tools were new inventions _____
8. Every rescue is a challenge. _____
9. I have the best job in the world. _____

Saving the Whales

Lesson Plan

Before Reading:

- Using appropriate technology, watch a video of Humpback whales swimming (see **Internet Connections**). Facilitate a **Think-Pair-Share** discussion, inviting students to consider dangers and threats whales face. Record their responses.
- Read the title of the article and introduction aloud. Ask students to predict what the article is about.

During Reading:

- Encourage students to highlight or underline important facts about how whales are saved along Canada's coastlines.

After Reading:

- As a class, discuss the dangers faced by the whales in the article. If the threats were not included in the before reading brainstorm, add them to the list.
- Distribute to each student or pair of students a copy of **What's important? And, why?** (p. 27). Direct students first to identify 5 important facts about Canada's whale rescuers and record them in the left-hand column. Discuss what makes a fact important—a detail that is necessary to understand the topic.
- Then explain to the class that they will *infer* why each fact is important in the right-hand column. Suggest that an inference is a plausible guess (likely to be true given the fact and students' background knowledge).
- You may find it helpful to work through an example with the students, using a fact from the introduction, such as:

Important facts about whale rescuers	Why are these facts important?
<i>Canada doesn't have many whale rescuers.</i>	<i>This suggests that the rescuers must have special skills to rescue whales and that they must work together and learn from each other about how best to rescue entangled whales.</i>

- Students may benefit from using one or more of the following sentence stems to record their inferences: *This suggests...* *This shows...* *I conclude...* *This makes me think...* *It could be...*
- When students have completed the organizer, have them use loose parts to create a 3-D model, or add 3-5 objects that represent what they learned about saving entangled whales in Canada to a paper bag. Alternatively, invite students to draw a picture summarizing what they learned. Arrange for students to share their finished products in small groups.
- Criteria for Assessment:** An effective summary *identifies important facts on the topic; is logical given the information in the article; and includes specific, accurate details.*

Saving the Whales

Lesson Plan

Extensions:

- Students may be interested in learning more about whales or ways they can help to save whales. Direct them to the related links in **Internet Connections**. Ask students to brainstorm 5-10 questions on their selected topic, then use their questions to guide their research. Have them summarize their findings in an illustrated **Q & A flip booklet** (see **Internet Connections** for a video showing how to make one).

Internet Connections:

- Learn more about this news story:
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/whale-disentanglement-marine-institute-1.6769199>
<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2179087427985>
- Read a related article about whale entanglements on the rise:
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/humpback-whales-entanglements-pinky-rescue-1.6217506>
- Learn more about the whale rescue organizations in Canada:
<http://newfoundlandlabradorwhales.net/>
<https://www.canadianwhaleinstitute.ca/campobello-whale-rescue-team>
<http://newfoundlandlabradorwhales.net/home-1>
<https://coastalfirstnations.ca/how-coastal-guardians-research-protects-whales/>
<https://www.bcwhales.org/>
- Discover how you can protect whales and marine animals:
<https://savethewhales.org/balloon-ambassador/>
<https://www.pacificwhale.org/conservation/>
<http://campaign-whale.org/kids-page/what-threats-are-whales-facing/>
- Find out more about whales:
<https://youtu.be/Ozi7lcyatto>
<https://youtu.be/B4dwXKONyro>
<https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/whale>
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/10-wonderful-whale-facts>
<https://ocean.si.edu/ocean-life/marine-mammals/whales>
<http://campaign-whale.org/kids-page/facts-about-whales-dolphins-and-porpoises/>
- See how whales get entangled in fishing gear:
https://ocean.si.edu/sites/default/files/styles/article_full_width/public/29000_1.jpg?itok=7uEC4lxO
- See what the flume tank looks like:
<https://www.mi.mun.ca/departments/centreforsustainableaquaticresources/facilities/>
<https://youtu.be/M8O-Lw9K6Wo>

Saving the Whales

Lesson Plan

□ For teachers:

Humpback whales swimming: <https://youtu.be/tfFgZnrtCk4>

Loose Parts: <http://bkc-od-media.vhost.psu.edu/documents/TIPS1107.pdf>

Flip Book video (the first minute shows how to create the booklet): <https://youtu.be/kUgnUh3kFoA>

Whale Release and Strandings educator resources: <http://newfoundlandlabradorwhales.net/for-educators-1>

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

Saving the Whales

What's important? And why?

Important facts about whale rescuers	Why are these facts important?

Map: Island of Newfoundland

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

Label the following, then colour:

Provinces

- Newfoundland and Labrador
- Quebec

Peninsulas

- Burin Peninsula
- Avalon Peninsula
- Bonavista Peninsula
- Northern Peninsula

Capital City

- St. John's

Salt Water Bodies

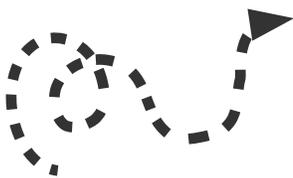
- Atlantic Ocean
- Gulf of St. Lawrence
- Strait of Belle Isle
- Trinity Bay
- Placentia Bay
- Fortune Bay

Other

- St. Pierre and Miquelon (France)

Cities and Towns

- Corner Brook
- Grand Falls-Windsor
- Gander

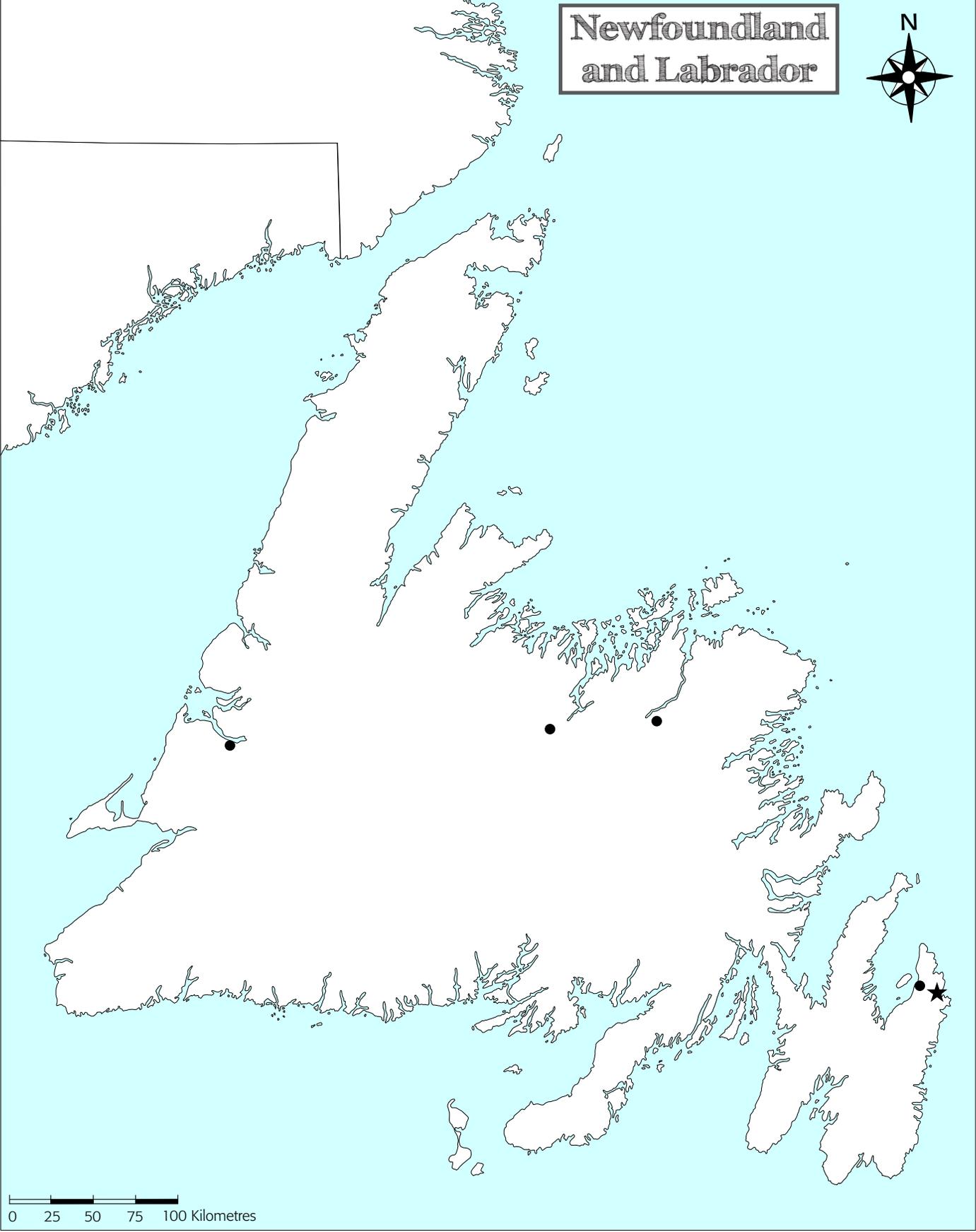


Challenge:

The town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's hosted the whale rescue conference. Can you locate and label this town on your map?

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

Newfoundland and Labrador



0 25 50 75 100 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.

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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. 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

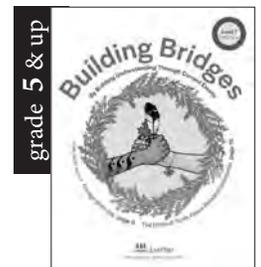
Product details: 8 issues. 60 pages. Available in English and in French, and in two reading levels, for grades 5 and up.



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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Contact us for a sample copy or free demo.

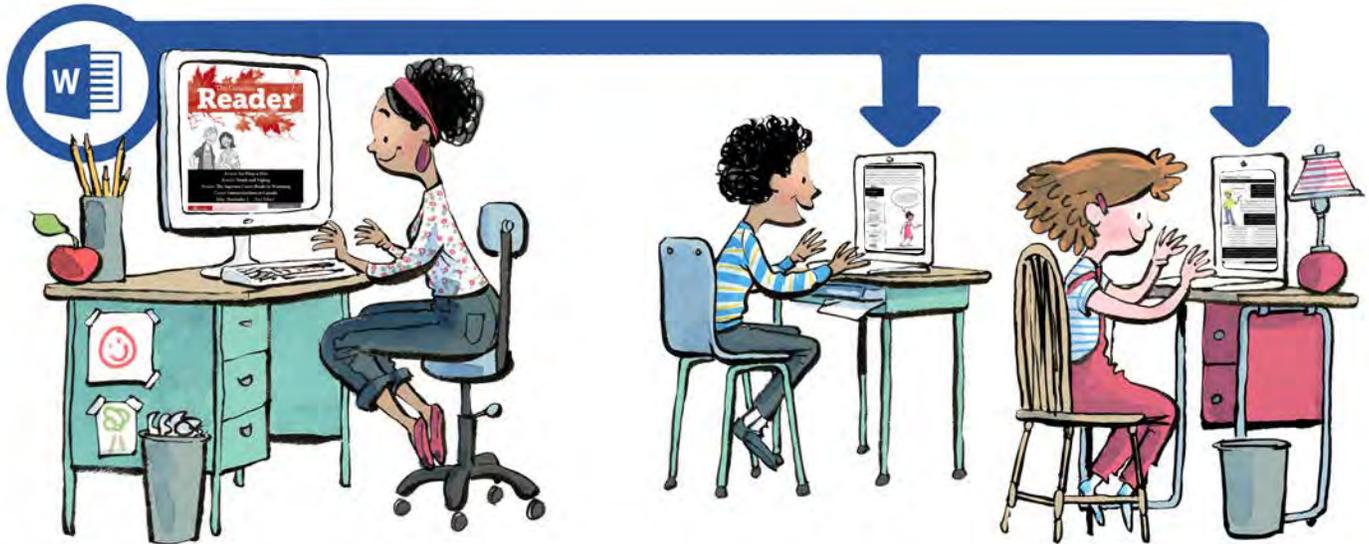
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Students Can Work In Word/Google Docs...



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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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 2023 - 2024 school year, and get the March, April and May issues FREE! (a \$86.25 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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LesPlan Teachers serving teachers since 1990 2022-2023: Issue 5

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March, April and May issues FREE*
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Publication	English	French	Grade Level	Price	Amount
			8 issues (Sept. – May)		
The Canadian Reader	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grades 3 and up	\$230	
What in the World? Level 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grades 5 and up	\$230	
What in the World? Level 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grades 8 and up	\$230	
			Online Weekly (Sept. – June 40 issues)		
Currents4Kids	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grades 3 and up	\$230	
News4Youth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grades 7 and up	\$230	
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				NB, NL, NS & PEI add 15% HST	
				All others add 5% GST	GST
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 **LesPlan**
THE CANADIAN READER
 Sample Pages

Literacy Focus

Reading Strategy Review

Good readers... make connections. As they read they think about what the text reminds them of. This thinking or reminding is called **connecting**.

...ask questions before, during, and after they read. Sometimes, the answers to these questions can be found right in the story. Sometimes, the answer has to come from you.

...visualize. As they read, they make pictures or movies in their heads. These pictures or movies are called **visualizing**.

...make inferences. They fill in, in their heads, what is not written or shown on the page. Predicting is one kind of inference.

...transform their thinking. They add their background knowledge, their experience, and their thinking to what they are reading to come up with a new way to think about something.

Lost Viking Settlement?

It's a 10-year-old mystery. Where did the Vikings land in North America? When they returned home to Greenland, they told stories about a place called "Vinland." A land with grapes. Where, exactly, was Vinland? One Canadian archaeologist thinks she has figured it out!

...determine importance. They ask and sort information in their heads, making decisions about what information they need to remember and what information they can ignore.

...transform their thinking. They add their background knowledge, their experience, and their thinking to what they are reading to come up with a new way to think about something.

Sunscreen by the Squirt

David Wright got an idea when he was 10. David Wright had a vision. He wanted to create a product that would help people protect their skin from the sun. He called it "Squirt".

Reflection

His goal is to create a new sunscreen that is safe and effective. He wants to protect people and their long-term health.

Entrepreneurship

David is a young entrepreneur. He is using his ideas to create a business that will help people.

The Canadian Reader

Answer Key



Canada's Great Trail



It started with a dream. The dream was to build a trail across Canada. From coast to coast, and up north, too. The longest trail in the world! It would connect all Canadians. It would encourage them to explore more of this amazing country.

Bold project

Work on the Great Trail started in 1992. It was a community effort. Volunteers built trails and bridges near where they lived. Others donated money.

The organizers hoped the Trail would be completed by 2000. It wasn't. But in 2017 – Canada's 150th birthday – the Great Trail was finally connected from coast to coast. It linked 15,000 communities along 24,000 kilometers. Celebrations were held across Canada to mark this milestone.

It's the longest trail system in the world, and it's in our backyard. This is Canada's path," said a supporter.

Wait a moment...

Not everyone was excited. Some said that the Trail might be connected, but it wasn't finished. It wasn't the foot path across Canada that some people had dreamed about. Not yet.

For instance, the original dream was for a non-motorized trail. It would be for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing only. But in the end, parts of the trail were opened up to recreational vehicles such as ATVs and snowmobiles.

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