

The Canadian Reader

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



**Free
Sample**



Includes

- A News Story
- Lesson Plan
- Organizer

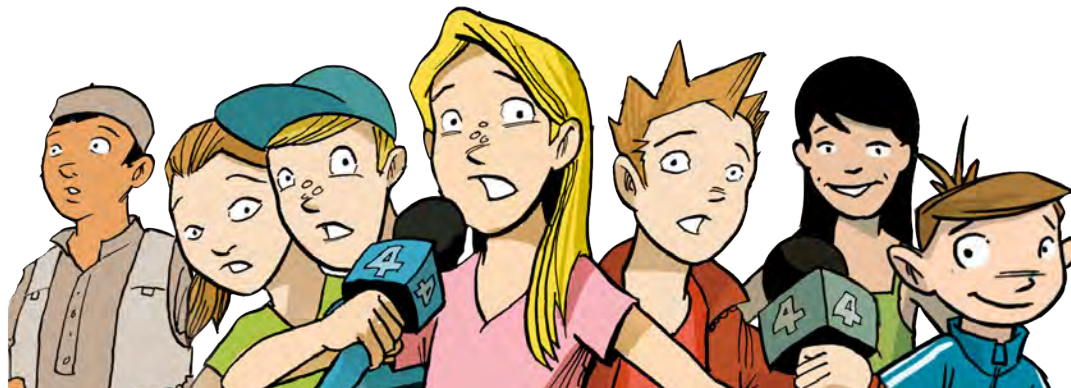
Subscribe to receive 2 additional articles, answer keys, & more!

4 Free Article: **Eyes on the Skies!**

6 Comprehension Check | 7 Language Focus

8 Lesson Plan | 10 Birding K-W-L Organizer

11 Map: **Southern Ontario** | 13 Comic: **Canada's Parks**



WHAT YOU'RE MISSING

Year-Round School



What did you do this summer? Did you spend time outside? Visit somewhere new? Hang out with friends or family?

Some Canadian kids went to school! . . .

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

Canada at the Olympics



Team Canada won't soon forget the 2024 Summer Olympics. The Games took place in Paris, France. There were challenges, including a soccer scandal and a swampy Seine River. Even so, our athletes made Canadians proud . . .

Subscribe to read the full article. 1 (888) 240-2246

* 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 \$230 per year (\$28.75 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.

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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.

Eyes on the Skies!



Quick, look outside! Do you see any birds? Can you name the species?

Starting young

Jeremie Corbeil is thirteen years old. He lives in North Bay, Ontario. Jeremie has been a birder for at least four years. In that time, he has spotted more than 150 species of birds!

Other birders envy his sharp senses. “They say it’s great to start at a young age,” Jeremie says. “It’s easier to hear and it’s easier to see.”

Another birder, Greg Blomme, is an adult now. He wasn’t when he got started. He was a young kid with energy to burn. Birding was his father’s hobby.

He remembers his father telling him, “Hey, go scare up those birds.” He would jump into ponds or hit trees with sticks. His father would see what birds appeared.

Birding online

Birding used to be seen as an old person’s hobby. That’s no longer true. Young people

are flocking to birding. That may be why the hobby is getting a technology boost.

Fisher Stephenson is a university student in Calgary. He spends his afternoons birding. He posts his best bird photos on Instagram.

Mr. Stephenson says younger birders connect with each other online. They use group chats. Social media. Digital photography.

Other birders use WhatsApp and Discord to share bird sightings. On TikTok, the hashtag #birdwatching has 1.9 billion views!

There are apps for birdwatchers, too. ‘Merlin’ analyzes birdsong to tell people what birds are around. ‘eBird’ lets people add the birds they see to an online database. This helps scientists and researchers.

Getting started

Birding can be a lifelong hobby. Some people keep a wishlist of birds

they'd like to see. Some even go on organized birdwatching trips.

Birding doesn't require fancy equipment. You can start in your own schoolyard, backyard, or balcony.

If you can, set up a bird feeder. Find out what foods local birds like.

You will need help identifying the birds you see. Look for a book or webpage about local birds. You might also want a notebook, to track your findings.

Binoculars are nice to have. Fancy apps are optional.

Start by training your observation skills. When you see a bird, what do you notice about it? How big is it? What colours do you see? What shape is its beak?

Watch it in motion. Different birds use different movements when they fly. Woodpeckers fly with a 'hopping' motion.

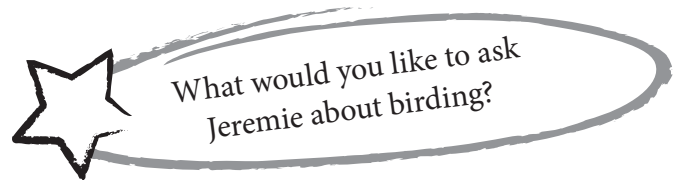
Mental health benefits

Birding is good for your mental health. A 2022 study backs this up. The study said seeing or hearing birds makes you feel better. The effect lasts up to eight hours!

Even backyard birders see benefits. Birding requires patience. You must be present in the moment.

Listening to birdsong can be calming. Plus, birdwatching gets you out in nature.

Birdwatching is fun, easy, and good for you. Train your eyes on the skies!



Eyes on the Skies!

Comprehension Check

Answer the questions below in complete sentences:

1. How long has Jeremie Corbeil been a birder?

2. How did Greg Blomme “scare up those birds”?

3. How do younger birders connect with each other online?

4. How does the app ‘Merlin’ help birdwatchers?

5. List three ways birding is good for your mental health.

Eyes on the Skies!

Language Focus

Write the vocabulary word or phrase from the box at the bottom of the page beside its definition.

- _____ 1. A group of living organisms.
- _____ 2. An activity done for fun
- _____ 3. Became visible
- _____ 4. Coming together in large numbers
- _____ 5. A collection of words, numbers, images, or videos
- _____ 6. Lasting throughout a person's life
- _____ 7. The necessary items for a particular purpose
- _____ 8. An advantage
- _____ 9. Possible but not necessary
- _____ 10. The hard pointy part of a bird's mouth

beak species hobby benefit flocking
lifelong equipment optional appeared database

Lesson Plan

Before Reading:

- Using appropriate technology, display a variety of bird images on the board or screen. [Conduct an image search for 'Common birds of Canada'.] Invite students to identify any of the birds shown.
- Pose the following questions: “How many of you have ever gone birdwatching or noticed birds in your neighbourhood? Can you name the species? What did you observe about the birds?”
- Introduce the hobby of birding (e.g., observing and identifying different species of birds in their natural habitats). Explain that students will explore this fascinating topic by reading the article.
- Distribute a copy of the **Birding K-W-L** organizer to each student. Introduce or review the strategy, guiding students to fill out the “K” (What I Know or Think I Know) and “W” (What I Want to Know) about birding before they begin reading.

During Reading:

- Explain that as students read, they should be looking for information to fill in the “L” (What I Learned) column. You may wish to encourage students to read the article twice:
 - 1st read – highlight or underline key ideas about birding;
 - 2nd read – add new information to their K-W-L chart.

After Reading:

- Have students skim over their completed chart and put a “√” next to any known fact that was confirmed in the article and an “A” next to any question they found the answers to in the article. Facilitate a *Think-Pair-Share* discussion. Invite partners to share their charts and discuss the most interesting or surprising things they learned about birding.
- Invite students to create a “Birding Basics” infographic that includes key information from their organizer and the article, such as:
 - definition of birding;
 - benefits of birding;
 - how to get started with birding;
 - use of technology in birding;
 - at least 3 interesting facts about birding.
- As a class, you may wish to look at some online infographic templates, such as those found in *Canva.com*, to identify the design features of infographics (e.g., *visually appealing*—uses colour and images to enhance understanding; *informative*—presents information clearly and concisely; easy to understand at first glance; *data-driven*—uses accurate and relevant facts or statistics to tell about the topic).
- Provide art supplies or access to digital tools for creating the infographics.
- Conduct a *Gallery Walk* where students display their completed infographics around the room. Invite students to do a silent walk to view their classmate’s work, leaving sticky notes with positive feedback. [You may wish to organize students into small feedback groups to ensure everyone gets

Lesson Plan

an equal amount of feedback.] You may find it helpful to discuss what positive feedback entails (e.g., I like...because.../Your infographic helps me...).

- Criteria for Assessment:** An effective infographic includes *accurate information*, is *visually appealing*, and *complete* (has all required elements).

Extension:

- Create bird profiles of neighbourhood birds:** Challenge students to research local bird species and individually create a “Bird Profile” that includes appearance, habitat, diet, and interesting facts. Encourage them to use the suggested resources in **Internet Connections** for their research. Compile the profiles into a class reference book.
- Go birding:** Arrange a walking field trip to a local park. Ask students to record their observations in a birding journal entry, noting the types of birds they see, their behaviours, and any questions that arise from their research. If possible, use the Merlin Bird ID app to help identify birds they observe. Alternatively, use the interactive map to print a list of common birds in your region. Make several copies available to the students. Encourage them to find answers to their questions after the field trip.

Internet Connections:

- Learn more about this news story:
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/birding-young-people-sudbury-1.7278826>
- See the most common birds in Canada:
<https://birdwatchinghq.com/common-birds-in-canada/>
<https://www.readersdigest.ca/travel/canada/types-of-birds-in-canada/>
- Use this interactive map to find birds native to your region:
<https://naturecounts.ca/apps/checklist/index.jsp>
- Check out this online birding resource:
<https://www.audubon.org/bird-guide>
- Explore these popular birding apps:
<https://ebird.org/home>
<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>
- Discover the 30 best birding spots in Canada:
<https://learnbirdwatching.com/best-birding-spots-in-canada/>
- Take this free *Birding for Beginners* online course:
<https://www.birdscanada.org/birding-for-beginners-a-new-free-course>

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

Name: _____ Date: _____

Eyes on the Skies!

Birding K-W-L

What I Know (or Think I Know)	What I Want to Know	What I Learned

Map: Southern Ontario

Complete this map assignment to help you better understand the context of the article *Eyes on the Skies*.

Label the following, then colour:

Cities

- Ottawa
- Toronto
- Hamilton
- London
- Windsor
- Montreal
- Detroit
- Cleveland
- Buffalo

Rivers

- St. Lawrence River
- Ottawa River

Provinces

- ONTARIO
- QUEBEC

Island

- Pelee Island

Water bodies

- Lake Huron
- Georgian Bay
- Lake St. Clair
- Lake Erie
- Lake Ontario

Other

- UNITED STATES

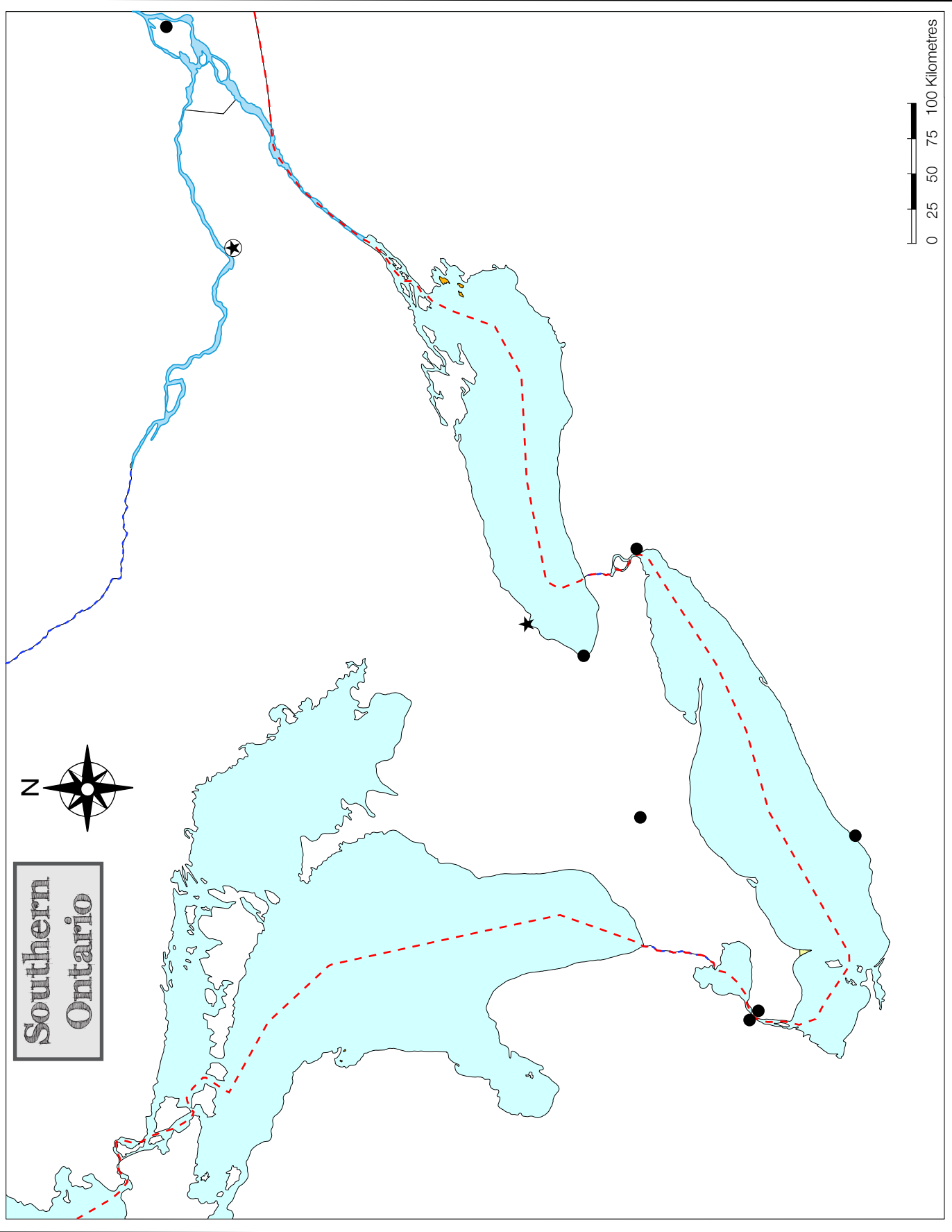
Did You Know?

Point Pelee National Park in Ontario is the southernmost part of the Canadian mainland. It is also one of the best inland locations to observe bird migration. Over 390 species of birds have been recorded in the Point Pelee Birding Area.

Can you locate and label this park on your map?

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

Southern Ontario



DID YOU KNOW...?

CANADA'S PARKS



Many Canadians enjoy spending time in the great outdoors. Often, they end up in one of Canada's many parks.

Parks are areas of land or water set aside to protect the natural environment or to preserve history.



Parks are also places where people can take part in outdoor activities.



Tourists often visit parks.



So do people who want to learn more about the natural world or about history.



Many city parks feature ball or playing fields and playgrounds.



Others serve as historical 'memory books' for towns and cities.



1885 was an important year for parks in Canada. That was when Ontario created the first provincial park.



And that was when the federal government created the country's first national park



Today, there are 48 national parks and national park reserves. They cover 340,000 square kilometres of land. That's about 3 percent of Canada's total area.

About 16 million people visited Canada's national parks in 2022-2023. Many more spent time at parks run by provincial and municipal governments.

Were you one of them?

Canada's Parks

Comprehension Check

Answer the questions below in complete sentences:

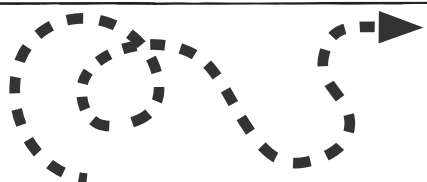
1. What is a park? _____

2. What can people do in parks? _____

3. Name the first provincial park. Where is this park located?

4. Name the first national park. When was this park created?

5. How many people visited Canada's national parks in 2022-2023?



Tell a partner which park you like the most and explain why this park is your favourite.

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. 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?

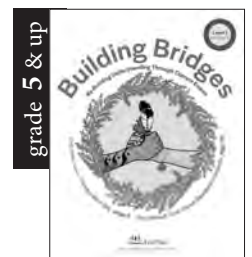
- ✓ PDF/Word resource
- ✓ National and international news stories
- ✓ Key vocabulary
- ✓ Background information
- ✓ Varied assignments that build content-area knowledge and enhance critical thinking
- ✓ Maps and illustrations



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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Wish your students knew more about their country? Help them to learn who's who, what's where, and what's going on in Canada with a subscription to

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 2024 - 2025 school year, and get the September and October issues FREE! (a \$57.50 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

3 Literacy Focus: Reading Strategies Assessment
6 Article: Daylighting Rivers
13 Article: So Long, Brave Little Hunter | 21 Map: Vancouver Island
23 Article: Record-Breaking Mac and Cheese Domino Topple!
30 Comic: Food Banks in Canada | 32 Answer Key

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■ YES, sign me up for the 2024 – 2025 school year and send me the September and October issues FREE*

Promo code: 2Free

* Offer only applies to new subscriptions.

Publication	English	French	Grade Level	Price	Amount
			8 issues (Sept. – May)		
The Canadian Reader*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grades 3 and up	\$172.50	
What in the World?* Level 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grades 5 and up	\$172.50	
What in the World?* Level 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grades 8 and up	\$172.50	
			Online Weekly (Sept. – June 40 issues)		
Currents4Kids*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grades 3 and up	\$172.50	
News4Youth** Level 1, 2 & 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grades 7 and up	\$330.00	
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				ON add 13% HST	HST
				NB, NL, NS & PEI add 15% HST	
				All others add 5% GST	GST
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