

WHAT IN THE WORLD?

LEVEL 1 (GRADES 5 AND UP)

Cod Fishing Moratorium Ends

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SAMPLE EDITION
2024/2025: ISSUE 1



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WHAT IN THE WORLD?

Level 1, 2024/2025: Issue 1

PUBLISHER

Eric Wieczorek

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Janet Radschun Wieczorek

ILLUSTRATOR

Mike Deas

CONTRIBUTORS

Vivien Bowers

Krista Clarke

Rosa Harris

Catriona Misfeldt

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LesPlan Educational Services Ltd.



#1 - 4144 Wilkinson Road

Victoria BC V8Z 5A7

www.lesplan.com

info@lesplan.com

LesPlan

PHONE: (toll free) 888 240-2212

FAX: (toll free) 888 240-2246

TWITTER: @LesPlan

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LesPlan is grateful to the Lkwungen Peoples, the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, on whose unceded land we now live, and do our work.

We welcome your comments and appreciate your suggestions. Please contact us at any time.

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I have had many parents comment to me about how great they think *What in the World?* is, and they look forward to each month's issue coming home... This is a great resource for a small country school to explore the global issues that affect us all.

K. Camelon, Grade 7/8 teacher

Admaston, ON



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**END OF THE COD FISHING MORATORIUM****BEFORE READING**

1. Project a map of Canada.
2. In small groups, have students predict which three provinces or territories have the highest number of workers in the fishing industry. It may be helpful to discuss the factors that could influence which provinces or territories might have the highest number of workers in the fishing industry. (*E.g., is it near water – ocean or lake; are there other jobs there that would attract employees; etc.*)
3. Have each group share their three predictions and the reasons for their decision. Record their predictions on the board.
4. Reveal the answer: Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick. (The compiled data can be found at: <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/stats/cfs-spc/tab/cfs-spc-tab2-eng.htm>)

Province or territory	Total number of fishing industry workers (as of 2022)
Newfoundland & Lab.	15,477
Prince Edward Island	6,125
Nova Scotia	18,357
New Brunswick	11,022
Quebec	4,983
Ontario	1,886
Manitoba	1,205
Saskatchewan	778
Alberta	no data
British Columbia	8,720
Yukon	no data
Northwest Territories	121
Nunavut	no data

5. Finally, invite students to set a purpose for reading the article, referring to the resource page **Setting a Purpose Before Reading** as needed.

Image created using AI <https://ideogram.ai/>



END OF THE COD FISHING MORATORIUM



Some 32 years ago, Canada closed the Newfoundland and Labrador cod fishery. The move wiped out 30,000-plus jobs. It was Canada's biggest layoff ever.

Northern cod, a subspecies of Atlantic cod, had provided Newfoundland with a rich fishing industry for 500 years. Suddenly the fishing boats sat at the dock, empty.

The depletion of the Northern cod is one of the biggest fisheries disasters of all time. The fishery was "the engine of the coastal economy" and "the heart of the social fabric," says Tony Charles of Dalhousie University.

That heart was torn out. The loss of the fishery was also the loss of a way of life. In 1992 Newfoundland's population was about 580,000. The province was already poor, unemployment was high, and the birth rate was Canada's lowest. With the cod

fishery closed, about 60,000 Newfoundlanders left the province over the next ten years.

A 2002 Royal Commission looked at the challenges facing Newfoundlanders after the cod fishery closed. It found that the impact of the cod **moratorium** hurt the province's culture, identity, economics, families, and population.

SOME FISHING RESUMES

Indigenous people and sport fishers have been allowed to catch some cod since 1998. This June, Ottawa said other limited cod fishing could resume. Newfoundland MP Churence Rogers called it a great day.

But others worried. Greg Pretty leads the inshore fishers' union. He believes that letting large offshore fishing boats operate will prevent cod stocks from rebuilding to a healthy level.

"We need to protect our plant workers, our owner-operator harvesters, and the long-term sustainability of our coastal communities," he stated.

THE INDUSTRY'S HISTORY

When English explorer John Cabot first visited the region in 1497, the sea teemed with cod. It was a valuable food source. Salted and dried, it could survive the long journey to Europe. Many boats traveled to the rich fishing grounds. Fishing outposts grew into settlements.

An inshore fishing industry developed. Mostly, these were small family-run operations. Boats used handlines baited with worms or **capelin**. Families pitched in to prepare the catch.

Demand for Newfoundland cod was high in Europe, so the industry expanded. In 1750, Newfoundland's population

DEFINITIONS

CAPELIN: a small marine food fish that lives in northern oceans **MORATORIUM:** a temporary stop an activity by official order



was about 10,000. That grew to 46,000 by 1825.

Early signs of overfishing appeared as catches decreased. So boats tried more efficient methods, like **seine nets**, trawl lines, **gill nets**, and cod traps.

MODERNIZATION

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) controls the nation's fishing industry. Newfoundland joined Canada in 1949, just as new technology was improving. Sonar tracked schools of fish. Huge **factory freezer trawlers** with large nets and big motors fished 24/7. So fishers caught more and more cod. Between 1647 and 1750 they took in around eight million tonnes of cod. It took factory trawlers 15 years to catch the same amount.

The new technology caused Newfoundland's cod industry to surge. In 1968 the catch peaked at 810,000 tonnes. Between 1975 and 1980, the number of fishers went from 15,000 to 35,000. The number of fish processing plants grew from 100 to 175.

FAULTY MATH

Then, the pattern reversed. So scientists tried to keep the stock healthy by setting an annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC).

ABOUT ATLANTIC COD

Atlantic Cod is a groundfish species found as far south as North Carolina and as far north as Greenland. They live and feed near the shallow waters of the continental shelf. They have large heads and three dorsal (back) fins and two anal fins. They are yellow-green, reddish, or olive green-brown, with speckles or spots. They have pale bellies and stripes down the sides. Atlantic Cod typically grow about a metre long but can reach up to 180 centimetres. They mature in 3-7 years.

Cod spawn in winter and early spring. A large female can lay up to nine million eggs. Cod larvae feed on plankton and live near the surface. Juveniles (1-4 years old), settle on the ocean floor and stay in the shallows. Juvenile cod eat shrimp and krill. As they grow, they hunt larger prey including squid and fish. Mature cod venture into deeper waters where they can live up to about 20 years. Cod do not migrate long distances and normally stay within a specific region.

The DFO hoped this would help cod numbers increase in the 1980s.

Meanwhile, large mechanized factory fishing trawlers were vastly overfishing the cod. And Canada couldn't stop foreign vessels from ransacking fish outside its 200-mile fishing territory area.

In the late 1980s, the yearly TAC was set at 250,000 tonnes. Yet fishers reported decreased catches and smaller fish. New data now showed that the DFO had grossly overestimated fish populations. Scientists wanted the TAC to be cut in half, but Ottawa ignored the advice. By 1992, the number of breeding-age Northern cod had fallen

to one percent of its peak. So Ottawa imposed a total ban and the fishery was shut overnight.

A CAUTIOUS BEGINNING

Now, numbers have gone up – a little. Northern Cod is no longer endangered: it's on the 'cautious' list. One expert said that's "like going from being really terribly sick to being just terribly sick."

The 2024 TAC is 18,000 tonnes, a minor change from 13,000. Some 84 percent will go to inshore fishers. Trawlers will be allowed six percent of the catch.

Is increasing the catch the right decision? Time will tell. After all, global warming, microplastics, and pollution also play a role in the fate of the Northern cod. ★

DEFINITIONS

FACTORY FREEZER TRAWLER: large trawling vessels with powerful motors and freezers on board to preserve their catch

GILL NET: a net that hangs in the water to catch fish by their gills

SEINE NET: a type of fishing net which hangs down in the water and is pulled together at the ends to catch fish



END OF THE COD FISHING MORATORIUM

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe the range of Atlantic cod.

2. Where do they live when they are young? Where do they move when they mature?

3. How old is the cod fishing industry in Newfoundland and Labrador? When did it begin?

4. Describe how fishing methods have changed over the years.

5. When did Newfoundland and Labrador join Canada? _____

6. Which government department took over regulation of the cod fishery after this occurred?

7. What does **TAC** stand for?

8. What were the annual TAC targets during the late 1980s? _____

9. What did later DFO projections show? What did scientists say should happen to the TAC quota?

10. What did the federal government announce in 1992 regarding the cod fishery?

11. How many Newfoundlanders were impacted by this decision?

12. What decision did the federal government recently announce regarding Northern cod?



QUESTIONS FOR ONLINE EXPLORATION

Note: The links below are listed at www.lesplan.com/links for easy access.

1. Learn more about the end of the 32-year cod moratorium in June 2024:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/nl-northern-cod-fishery-2024-1.7246735>

What questions do you have?

2. Listen to two podcasts that review the history of Northern cod fishing.:

<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-122-the-broadcast/clip/16078242-ocean-choice-international-gearing-commercial-cod-fishery> [25:00] (podcast)

<https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=6bkMdoM4AAo> [22:41] (podcast)

What impact did cod fishing have on Newfoundland and Labrador?

3. Review the data that Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) used to reinstate cod fishing in Newfoundland and Labrador:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/2j3kl-new-stock-assessment-model-1.7007858>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/northern-cod-stock-assessment-1.7156719> [2:18]

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/northern-cod-migration-1.7215931>

What did you learn?

4. Hear from fishing producers who advocated for an end to the cod moratorium:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/northern-cod-ffaw-dfo-harvesters-moratorium-1.7186027>

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/audio/1.7185960> [24:59] (podcast)

For what reasons might producers applaud the June decision to lift the cod moratorium?

5. Hear from representatives of Newfoundland's fisheries union, fish harvesters, and the premier of Newfoundland, who are all calling for a reversal on the DFO's decision to end the moratorium on cod fishing:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/ffaw-cod-moratorium-reinstatement-1.7251938>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/cod-moratorium-protesters-1.7259735> [1:35]

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/furey-letter-lebouthilier-1.7254148>

For what reasons might these parties disagree with the June decision to lift the cod moratorium?



END OF THE COD FISHING MORATORIUM

QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER THOUGHT

1. The article tells us that not everyone is happy about the federal government's decision to lift the moratorium on cod fishing. Newfoundland MP Churence Rogers said, "Today is a great day. This fishery is coming back with the hopes of sustaining this industry and our future generations." Others, like Greg Pretty, the union leader who represents inshore fishers, said that cod stocks have not recovered. "We need to protect our plant workers, our owner-operator harvesters, and the long-term sustainability of our coastal communities."

As you see it, what interests might be behind these very different perspectives toward the June 2024 decision? Give reasons to support your response.

2. Professor Tony Charles of Dalhousie's Marine Affairs Program describes the cod fishery as "the engine of the coastal economy" and "the heart of the social fabric." What is your understanding of these descriptions? For what reasons do you agree with Professor Charles? For what reasons do you disagree?

3. DFO (Fisheries and Oceans Canada) recently reclassified Northern cod stocks from 'critical' to 'cautious'. That means the population still needs careful management, but limited fishing can occur.

As you see it, is the decision to lift the moratorium on cod justified by this new classification? Explain.



INFOGRAPHIC

THE IMPACTS OF BOTTOM TRAWLING - BEFORE AND AFTER

SOURCE: BT REPORT

IMPACTS:

- Serial resource depletion
- Damage to seafloor integrity and habitats, leading to changes in fish distribution
- Changing the balance of species abundance
- Disrupting biogeochemical cycles and compounding eutrophication
- Reducing carbon sequestration rates

Before bottom trawling

After bottom trawling

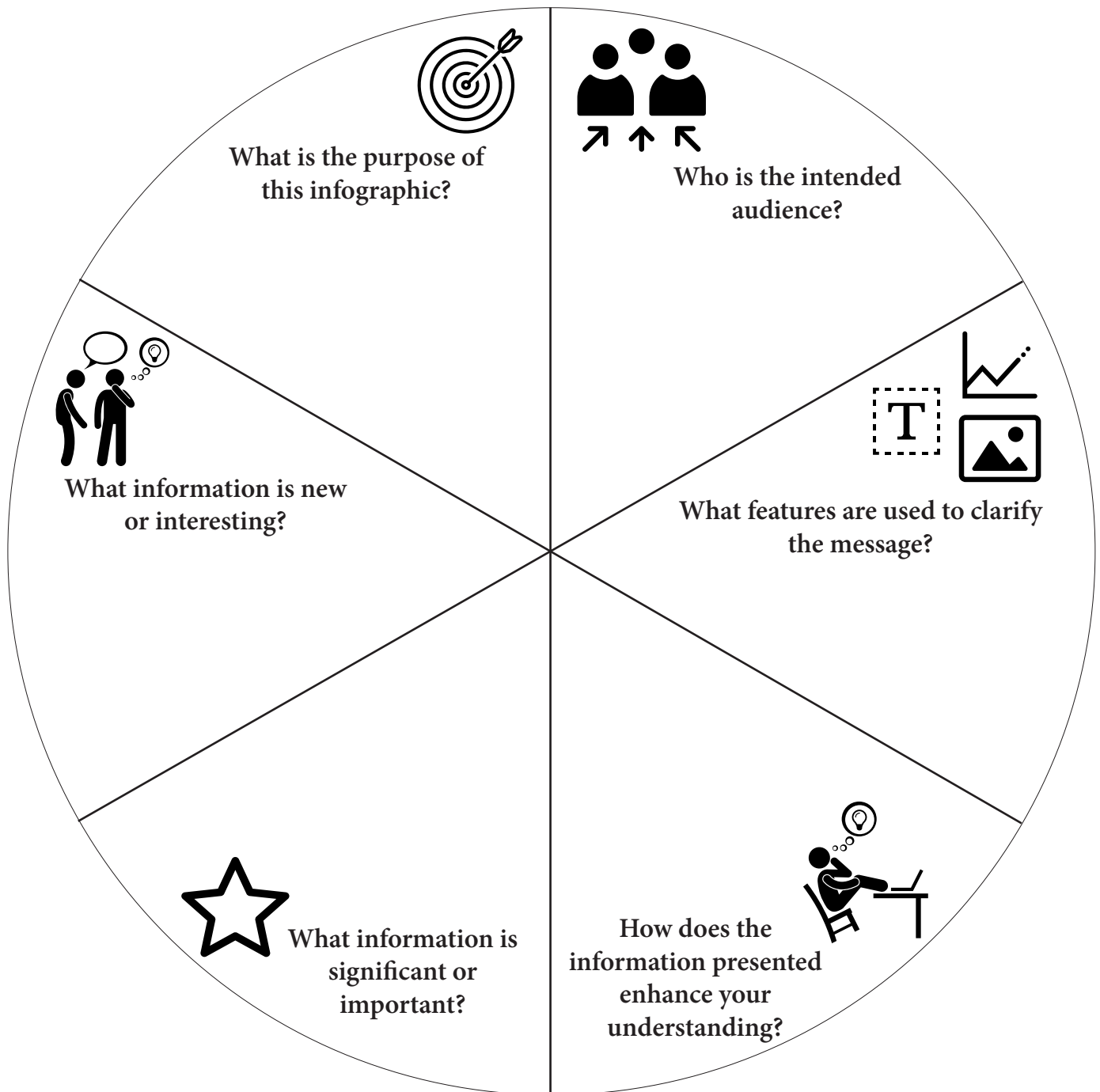
<https://www.wwf.org/newsroom/fisheries/bottom-trawling-is-inhibiting-baltic-sea-recovery-wwf-report-urges-government-action>



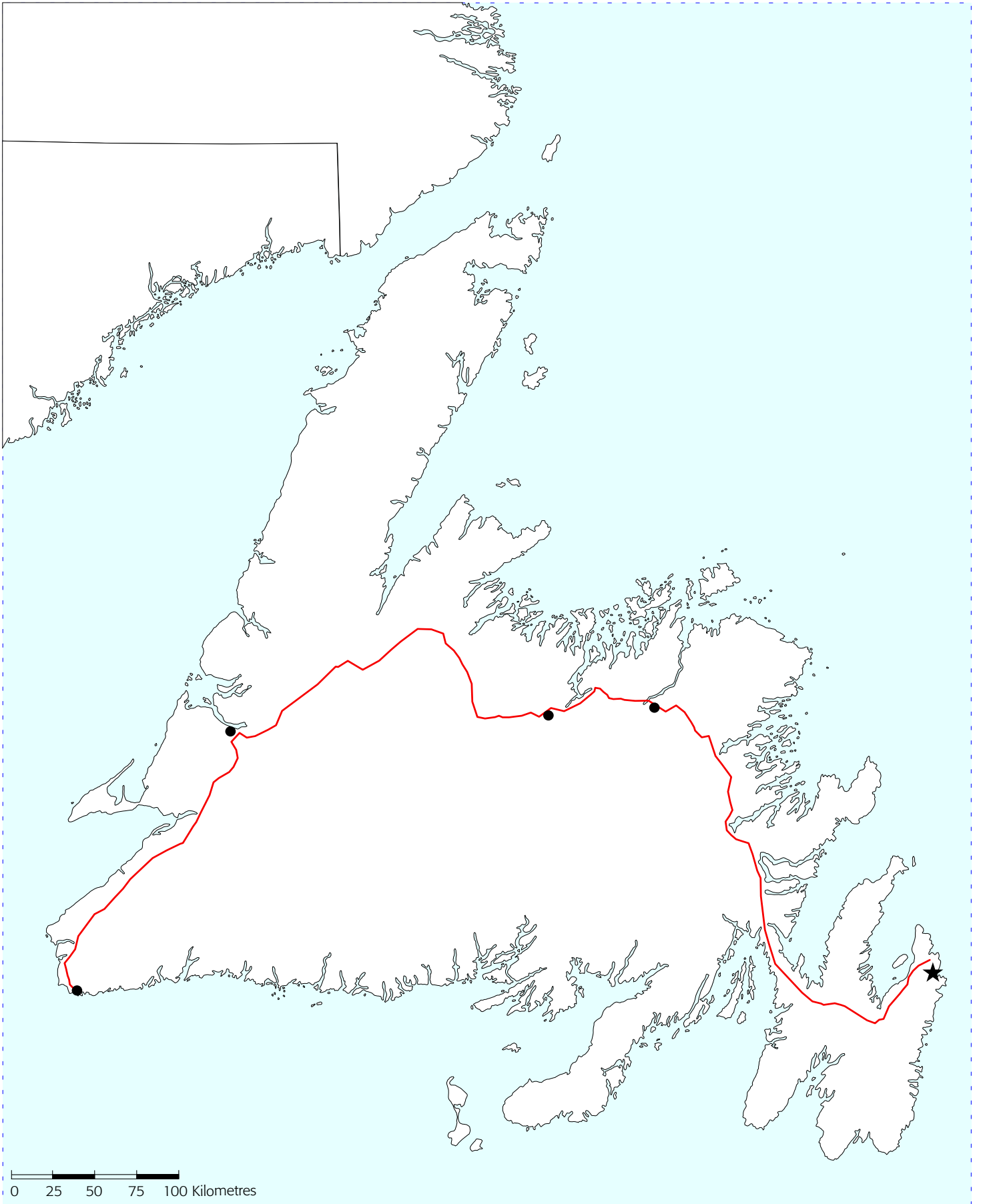


END OF THE COD FISHING MORATORIUM

ANALYZING AN INFOGRAPHIC



What questions do you still have about the topic presented?





SETTING A PURPOSE BEFORE READING

There are a number of reasons we read, and setting a purpose for reading – knowing WHY we are reading – helps us to focus on important information and to better understand and remember what we read. It also helps us decide HOW we will read the text.

We don't read all texts for the same purposes or in the same way. For example, we read an instruction manual for a new Blu-ray player for a different reason than we read a book or a website. How we will read it – the strategies we use – will also differ. We are more likely to skim to find the information we need in a manual. Once we find what we need, we might read the instructions carefully to figure out what to do. Then, we stop reading, put the manual down, and carry out the steps. We may have to reread if we get confused or forget what to do.

This is a very different approach than the one we would use to read a book. When we read a book, we usually read cover-to-cover. We read carefully so we don't miss any details because we want to understand the whole story. Sometimes we make connections or create images in our minds as we read to help us better understand what we are reading. Depending on its length, we may put the book down before we finish reading it but we will start reading where we left off.

Good readers are flexible and responsive. This means that they match their reading strategies to their purpose for reading. What types of text do you read? Why do you read them? What strategies do you use to read each of these texts? The chart below is a summary of the main purposes for reading and what each entails.

Purpose for reading	What it looks like
For enjoyment	Usually student-selected. Allows students to choose a variety of genres and forms. Allows students to pursue what interests them while developing reading skills.
To experience something new	Students make connections between their personal experiences and those of people around the world.
To learn more about themselves and others	Students reflect on what they've read and express opinions and perspectives. Students develop a sense of their personal values and make sense of the world around them.
To gain information	Students use the features of informational texts to gather, analyse and apply what they've learned.
To understand issues	Students develop a sense of perspective. Students pose questions, acknowledge other points of view, critique the opinions presented and support opinions with evidence.
To appreciate writing	Students respond to text in ways other than written answers to apply what they've learned in new contexts.
To appreciate use of media to communicate	Students respond to a variety of media formats (e.g., infographics, political cartoons, videos, etc.) and react to how the format supports the meaning of the message.

* Chart adapted from: A Guide to Effective Literacy Instruction, Grades 4-6, p. 11.

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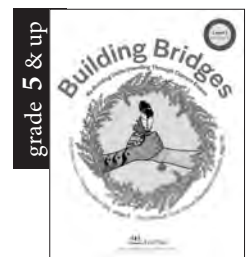
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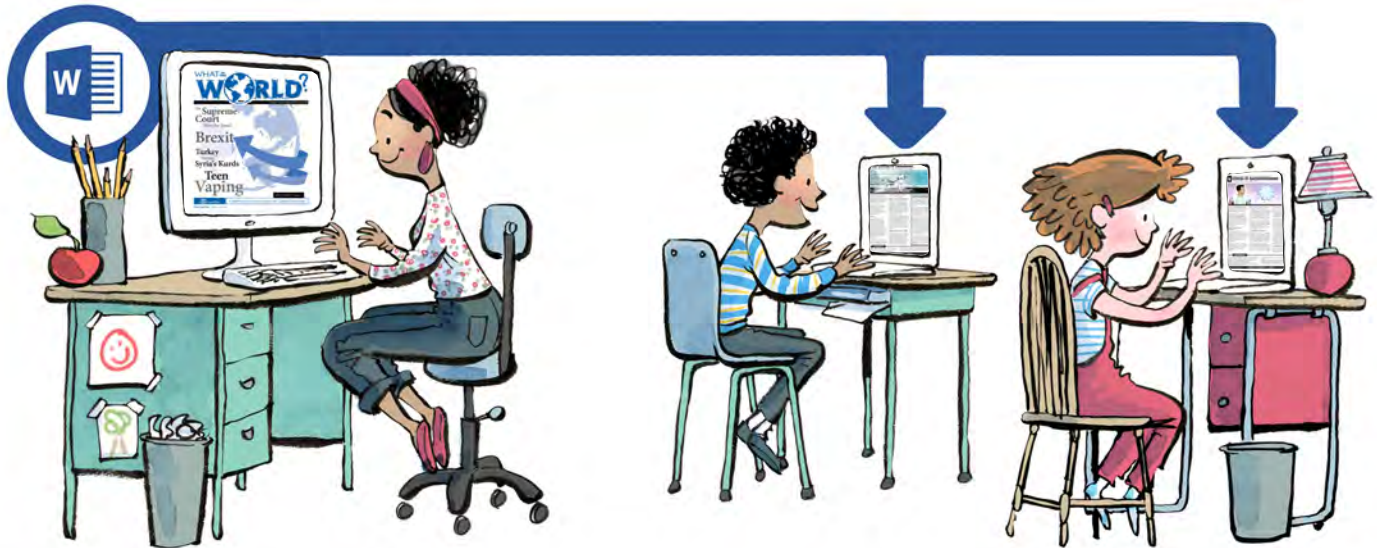
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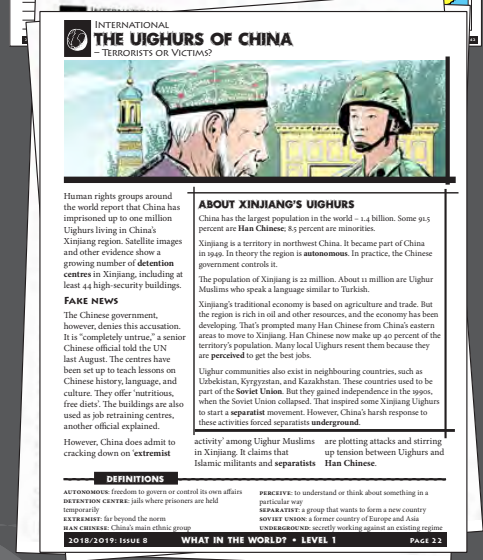
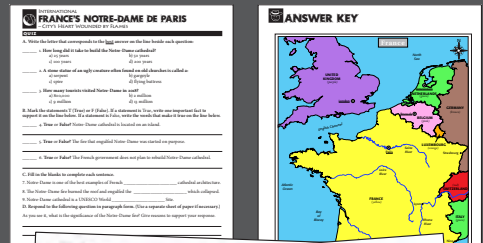
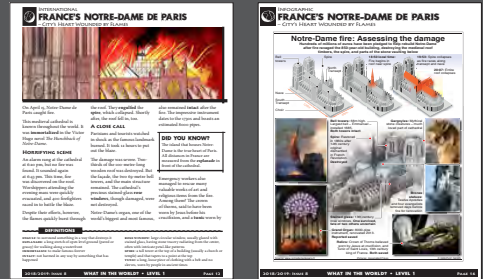
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