

# The Canadian Reader

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



**Free  
Sample**



## Includes

- A News Story
- Lesson Plan
- Organizer

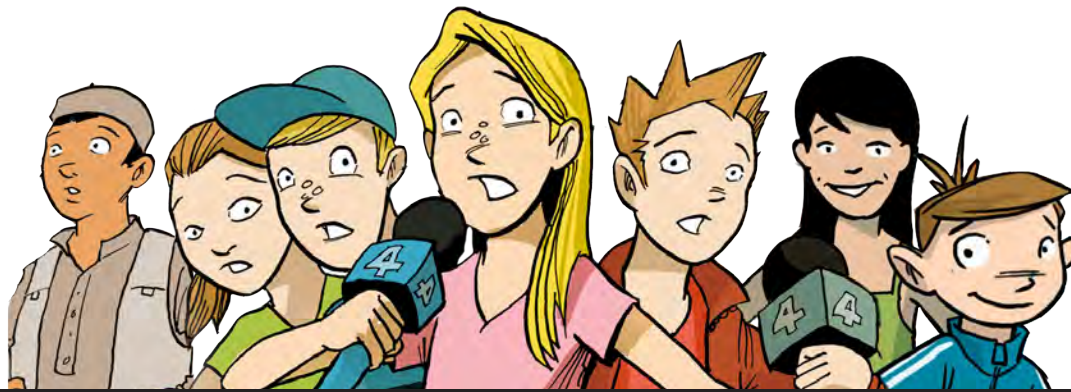
Subscribe to receive 2 additional articles, answer keys, & more!

4 Free Article: One Cool Coin

6 Comprehension Check | 7 Language Focus

8 Lesson Plan | 9 Inuit Nunangat

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- 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.

**Phone** (toll-free): 1-888-240-2212  
**Fax** (toll-free): 1-888-240-2246  
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## 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.

# One Cool Coin



A “cool” new toonie coin is on its way to Canadians. The coins were released November 7. You may already have seen one!

The coin is called Inuit Nunangat. That means Inuit homeland. These special coins celebrate the Inuit culture and way of life.

The Royal Canadian Mint will make three million of the coins. Two million will be coloured.

## Four artists, four regions

Four Inuit artists worked together to design the toonie. One artist came from each of the four Inuit regions.

Mary Okheena is from Ulukhaktok. Ulukhaktok is in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. The region is also called Inuvialuit Nunangat, or Inuvialuit homeland. This region is the farthest west of the four. It has a population of about 12,000.

Charlotte Karetak comes from Arviat, Nunavut. Nunavut means “our land.” Nunavut is the largest of the four

regions. It reaches the furthest north. Its population is about 27,000. Arviat sits on the west shore of Hudson Bay.

Thomassie Mangiok is from Ivujivik, in Nunavik. Nunavik means “the great land.” Nunavik is east of Hudson Bay. It includes northern Québec. Nunavik is home to about 11,000 people.

Tegan Voisey comes from Makkovik, Nunatsiavut. Nunatsiavut means “our beautiful land.” It includes the northern parts of Labrador. The region is about the size of New Brunswick. About 2300 people call it home.

## Long-distance groupwork

The four artists faced one big challenge—distance. “We were separated by hundreds or thousands of kilometres,” Mr. Mangiok

said. They had to deal with Internet issues. Different time zones caused challenges, too.

The artists felt it was important to work together. Inuit Nunangut can't "be represented by one region alone," Ms. Voisey said. Each region is different. The coin celebrates both differences and shared experiences.

## Imagery

The inner circle of the coin shows Nuliajuk, the spirit of the sea. In the coloured version of the coin, the sea is bright blue.

Nuliajuk wears an atigi, or a parka. Her seal tail lets her swim. On the coin, sea creatures swim with her. These include a walrus, a narwhal, and two beluga whales. A seal and an arctic char are also shown.

The outer circle of the coin shows four uluit. These are traditional knives. Ulu handles are made of animal bone. The Inuit always use as much of an animal as possible.

Each ulu (knife) represents one of the four regions. "Our uluit are made slightly different in each region," Mr. Magniok said. Yet, they are the same tool. "We Inuit have different dialects and practices, but we all live the same way," the artist added.

The other side of the coin shows King Charles III. Canadian artist Steven Rosati created the King's image.

## Coming together

Ms. Karetak hopes the coin will make Canadians think. "We live in such a beautiful territory," the artist said. She wants people to respect the land and animals and all that nature can offer.

Finally, she hopes the coin will remind Canadians to respect each other.



As you see it, what is the importance of these "cool" new toonies?



The Inuit homeland covers about 40 percent of Canada's land mass and over 70 percent of its coastline!

# One Cool Coin

## Comprehension Check

Answer the questions below in complete sentences:

1. When were the new toonie coins released?

---

2. How many coins will the Royal Canadian Mint make?

---

3. Which artist is from Ivujivik?

---

4. List three challenges faced by the artists.

---

---

5. Which sea creatures swim with Nuliajuk on the coin?

---

---

6. What image is shown on the outer circle of the coin?

---

---

# One Cool Coin

## Language Focus



Connect the words with their definition.



to show high regard for something or someone

homeland

an area of land that has common features

culture

a difficult task or problem

region

a place where a person feels they belong

distance

how far one thing is from another

challenge

customs handed down from one generation to another

traditional

a system of shared beliefs, values, and customs

dialect

a way of speaking that is common to a particular place

respect

Now use three of these words in your own sentences.



1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson Plan

### Before Reading:

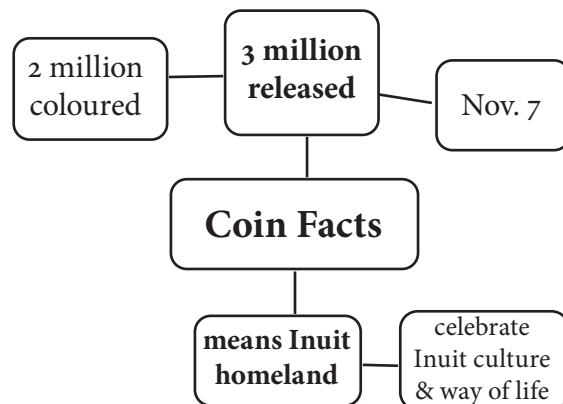
- Using appropriate technology, project a map showing the Inuit homeland (see **Internet Connections**). Invite students to do a *close read* of the map: *What do they notice about the layout? Legend? What can they learn about the area highlighted on the map?*
- Write the title of the article on the board, chart paper, or overhead projector. Facilitate a **Think-Pair-Share** discussion, asking partners to make predictions about the article based on the title and map. Then, write each of the headings, one at a time, on the class chart, directing pairs to revise their predictions with each new text feature. Record final predictions on the class chart.
- Next, challenge pairs to generate and write down 3 questions they have about the article. Record several on the class chart.

### During Reading:

- Encourage students to highlight or underline important information about the Inuit Nunangat as they read and look for answers to their questions.

### After Reading:

- As a class, revisit students' predictions and questions. Put a "✓" next to predictions that were affirmed and write an "A" next to questions that were answered.
- Distribute to each student, or pair of students, a copy of **Inuit Nunangat** (p. 27). Have them use the information in the article to complete the web. Encourage them to distinguish the main ideas and details, as they add facts and branch out from each of the categories. You may wish to model how to make notes using key facts from the introduction, such as:



- When students have finished their webs, project images showing the front and back view of the coin (see **Internet Connections**). Invite students to do a *close read* of the coin: *What do they notice about the design? The images? The use of colour? What else do the images represent about the Inuit and their culture and way of life?*



## Lesson Plan

- Finally, ask them to draw an overall conclusion about what makes these coins so “cool” by responding to the following sentence starters on the back of their organizer:
  - *3 things that make Canada’s new toonie so cool are...*
  - *These coins show us that the Inuit...*
  - *They help us understand that Canadians should...*
- Criteria for Assessment:** A strong conclusion *identifies specific, relevant reasons; clearly explains why the reasons are important; and includes a logical ‘so what’ (what we should understand about respecting each other and the land).*

### Extensions:

- Learn more about Inuit Nunangat:** Students may be interested in learning more about Inuit Nunangat: the geography of the four regions, the Inuit culture and language, the artists, and/or the significance of the coin. Encourage them to choose a topic and use the suggested websites in **Internet Connections** to conduct their research. You may wish to have students turn their findings into an illustrated Q & A ‘lift the flap’ book (a ‘how to’ video is also found in **Internet Connections**) or add on to their web.
- Design a family coin:** Using the new toonie as inspiration, students may wish to design and colour their own family coin, including images to represent their homeland, family members, and values (things that are important to their family). Invite students to share their renderings and the stories behind their coins in a Talking Circle.

### Internet Connections:

- Find out more about this news story:
  - <https://globalnews.ca/news/10851921/royal-canadian-mint-canada-toonie-inuit-art/>
  - <https://nunatsiaq.com/stories/article/mint-unveils-new-toonie-commemorating-inuit-storytelling-and-culture/>
  - <https://canadiancoinnews.com/new-2-coin-celebrates-vibrant-inuit-culture/>
  - [https://www.toronto.com/news/heres-the-story-behind-canadas-newest-toonie-celebrating-inuit-culture-and-when-you-may-start/article\\_cb308d90-5b2c-5a89-ba9b-158db7254893.html](https://www.toronto.com/news/heres-the-story-behind-canadas-newest-toonie-celebrating-inuit-culture-and-when-you-may-start/article_cb308d90-5b2c-5a89-ba9b-158db7254893.html)
- Learn more about the Inuit homeland and the people by exploring these links:
  - <https://www.mint.ca/en/shop/themes/inuit-nunangat>
  - <https://www.mint.ca/en/discover/canadian-commemorative-circulation-program/2024/celebrating-inuit-nunangat>
- See the coin:
  - <https://www.mint.ca/en/shop/coins/2024/celebrating-inuit-nunangat-coloured-special-wrap-roll>
- For teachers:**
  - Map of Inuit homeland:
    - [https://www.itk.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/InuitNunaaat\\_Basic\\_o.pdf](https://www.itk.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/InuitNunaaat_Basic_o.pdf)

## Lesson Plan

Click to see front and back close-ups of the coin:

<https://www.mint.ca/en/shop/coins/2024/celebrating-inuit-nunangat-coloured-special-wrap-roll>

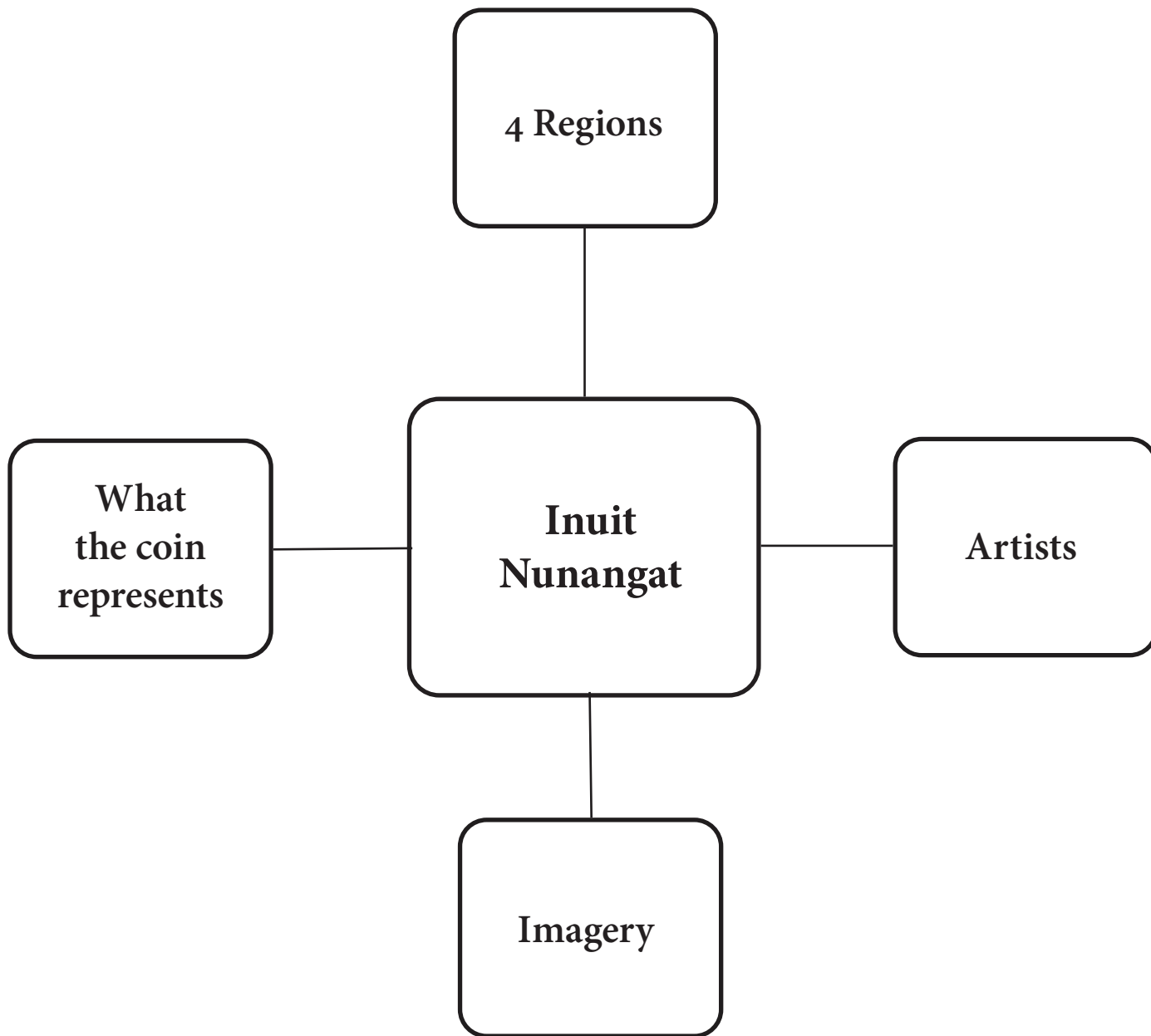
- How to make a 'lift the flap' book:

<https://youtu.be/8jTugSGwQR8?si=ai7ynUOuWodiim2>

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

# One Cool Coin

## Inuit Nunangat



# Map: Inuit Nunangat

Complete this map assignment to help you better understand the context of the article *One Cool Coin*.

Label the following, then colour:

## Provinces

- Alberta
- British Columbia
- Manitoba
- New Brunswick
- Newfoundland and Labrador
- Nova Scotia
- Ontario
- PEI (Prince Edward Island)
- Quebec
- Saskatchewan

## Territories

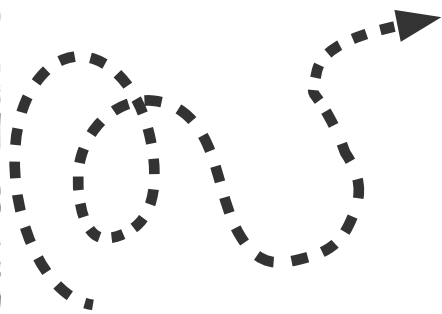
- Northwest Territories
- Nunavut
- Yukon

## Other

- Greenland
- United States (x2)

## Water Bodies

- Pacific Ocean
- Arctic Ocean
- Atlantic Ocean
- Hudson Bay



## Did You Know?

There are four regions in Inuit Nunangat: Inuvialuit, Nunavut, Nunavik, and Nunatsiavut.

Locate and colour each region on your map, then complete the key with your chosen colours.

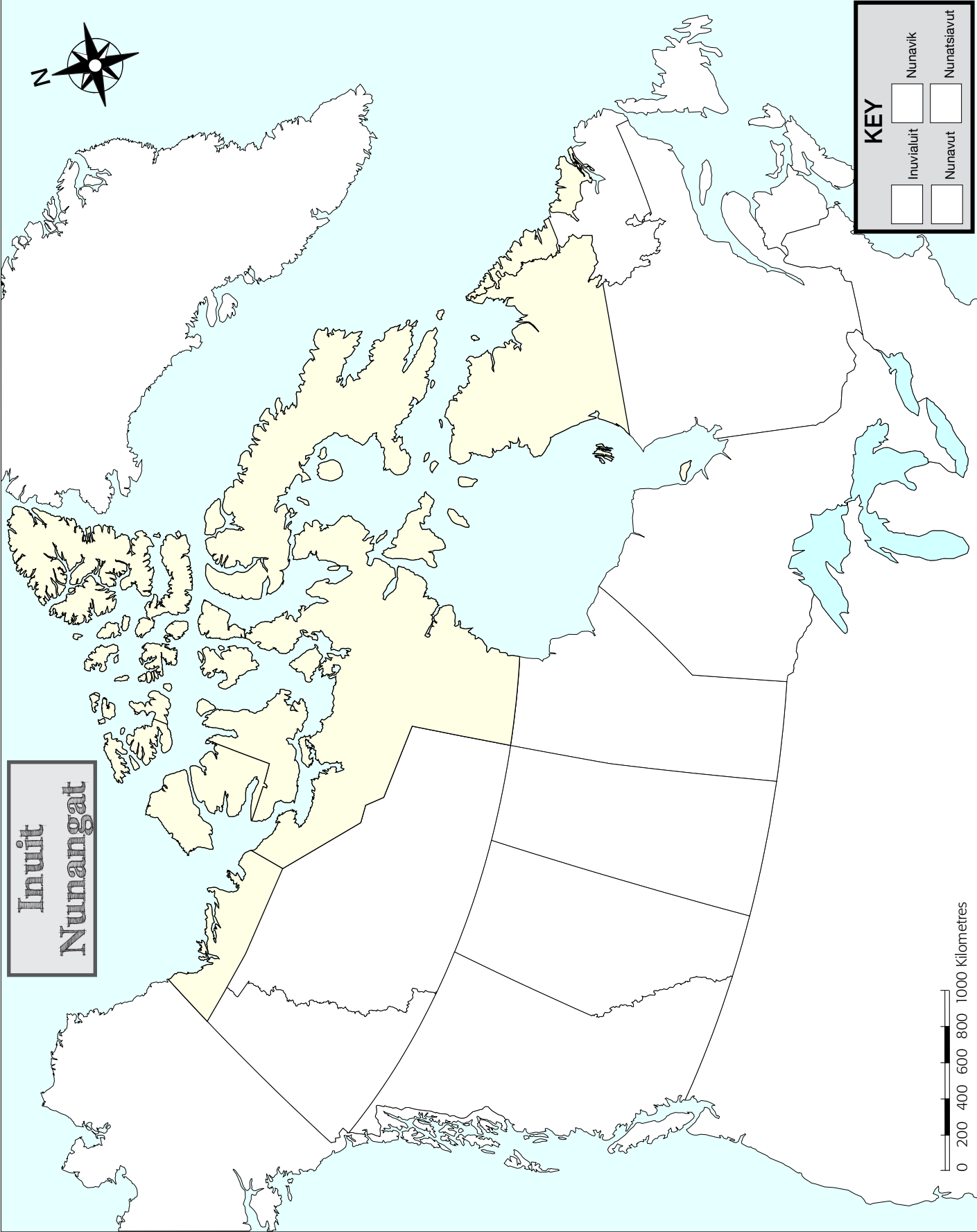
A good map is complete, accurate, and visually appealing.



**KEY**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Inuvialuit	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nunavik
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nunavut	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nunatsiavut

**Inuit  
Nunangat**





The Canadian dollar is the currency of Canada. It is divided into 100 cents.



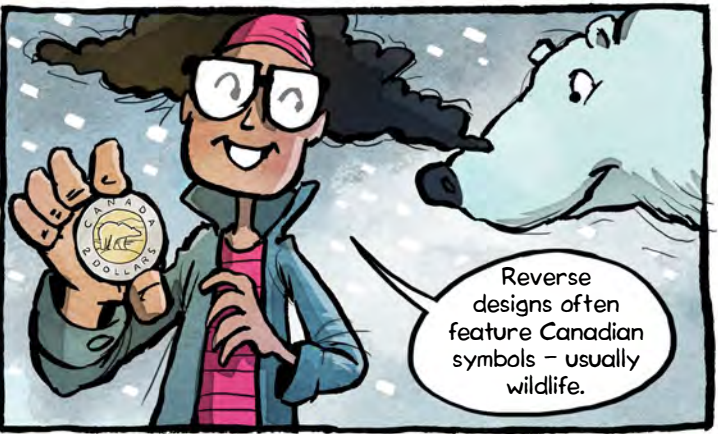
All of the coins in circulation - the ones that we spend - are made at the Royal Canadian Mint in Winnipeg. Over one billion coins are minted here each year.



The effigy of the British monarch has appeared on every Canadian coin since 1708.



An effigy is a likeness or image of a person.



Reverse designs often feature Canadian symbols - usually wildlife.



Canadian banknotes are printed on polymer plastic by the Canadian Bank Note Company in Ottawa.



A portrait is featured on one side of the notes...



...and a cultural or thematic image on the other. All wording appears in English and French.

# Canadian Currency

## Comprehension Check

Mark the statements **T** (True) or **F** (False). If a statement is false, write the word or words that make it true on the line below.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The Canadian dollar is the currency of Canada.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. All of the coins in circulation are made at the Canadian Bank Note Company.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The Canadian Bank Note Company is located in Winnipeg.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Canadian banknotes are printed on paper.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. All of the wording on banknotes is in English only.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Canadian banknotes are printed in Ottawa.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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### *What in the World?*

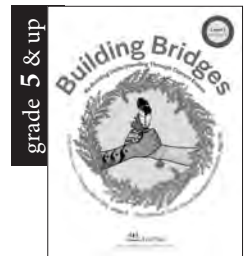
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# Students Can Work In Word/Google Docs...



## 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:

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- 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.

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- 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](http://www.libreoffice.org)

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*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.*

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*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: Visualizing  
6 Article: A Glaring Problem  
13 Article: A Wonderful Webb of Fashion  
21 Article: Dinosaur Discovery | 28 Map: Northern B.C.  
30 Comic: Remembrance Day in Canada | 32 Answer Key

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<b>Currents4Kids*</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grades 3 and up	\$115	
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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...  
 Ask questions before, during, and after they read...  
 visualize: As they read, they make pictures or movies in their head...  
 make inferences: They fill in, in their heads, what is not written or shown on the page...  
 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.

**Lost Viking Settlement?**  
 It's a thousand-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? The Canadian archaeological finds the last figured it out!  
 They tell stories. Some of these stories eventually come down to these pages. Archaeologist Brigitte Fréchet has used the story of Vinland to help us understand the life of a Norse explorer. She has even been to the site of the Vinland site in Newfoundland. She has even been to the site of the Vinland site in Newfoundland. She has even been to the site of the Vinland site in Newfoundland.

**Sunscreen by the Squirrel**  
 Though Wright was not really a squirrel he died. David Goodfield was 90, and the father of a busy family was not granting love ahead of them. But their child of mischief, it's a form of love. Their child of mischief, it's a form of love. Their child of mischief, it's a form of love.

**The Canadian Reader Answer Key**  
 The map shows the location of Vinland in Newfoundland. The map shows the location of Vinland in Newfoundland. The map shows the location of Vinland in Newfoundland.

**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 kilometres. Celebrations were held across Canada to mark this milestone.  
**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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