

The Canadian Reader

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



**Free
Sample**

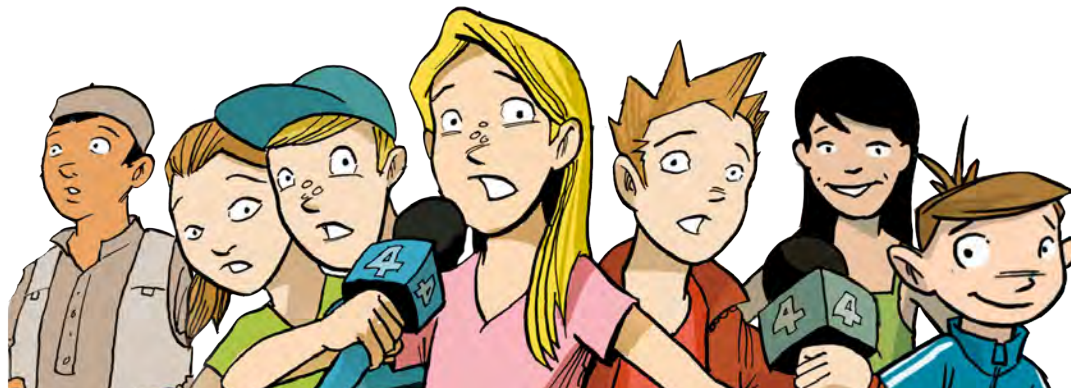


Includes

- A News Story
- Lesson Plan
- Organizer

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

4 Free Article: So Long, Brave Little Hunter
6 Comprehension Check | 7 Language Focus
8 Lesson Plan | 11 Problems-Solutions
12 Map: Vancouver Island



WHAT YOU'RE MISSING

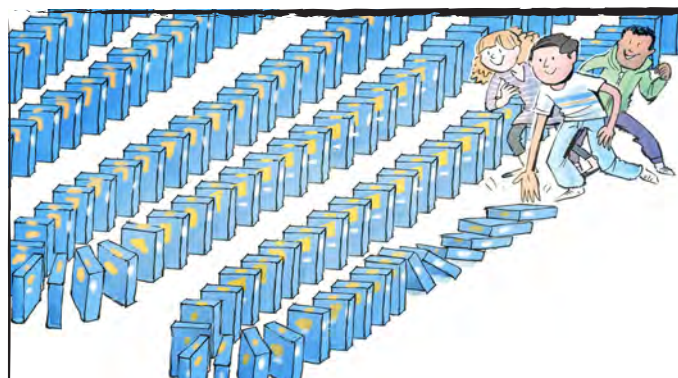
Daylighting Rivers



Look down. There may be a river beneath your feet! Just kidding. You won't be able to see it. But that doesn't mean it's not there. In some of Canada's biggest cities, rivers run . . .

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

Mac and Cheese Topple



Have you ever knocked over a line of dominoes? The first one knocks over the next, which knocks over the next, then the next, and so on. Imagine doing the same thing using boxes of mac and cheese instead. Or, how about . . .

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

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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.

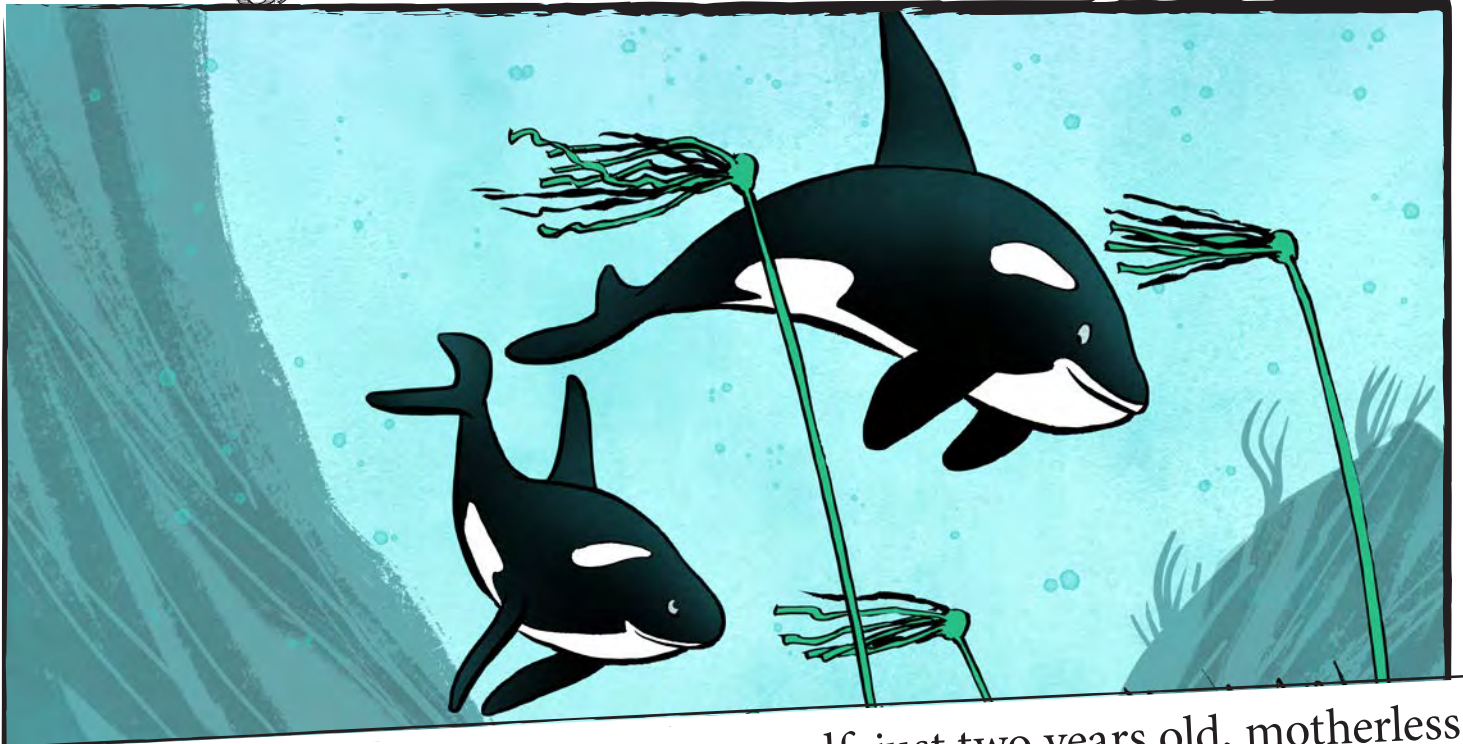
2. **Canadian news stories** – Each of the three articles is leveled and accompanied by Comprehension Check questions, a Language Focus, and a literacy-based lesson plan and supporting materials. Teach the lessons as they are presented, or pick and choose the activities and assignments you'd like to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

So Long, Brave Little Hunter



It was a heart-breaking story. An orca calf, just two years old, motherless and alone. She was trapped in a tidal lagoon, unable to swim out to sea. The plight of “Brave Little Hunter” made headlines around the world.

How the saga began

On March 23, an orca mother and her baby were hunting. They were swimming off northwestern Vancouver Island. The whales swam up an inlet and into a tidal lagoon — a shallow bay. When the tide went out, it became even shallower.

Tragically, the mother became stranded on a rocky beach. Residents of the local community of Zeballos sprang into action. They tried frantically to free her. In spite of these efforts, the whale died.



Ehattesaht is one of the 14 Nuu-chah-nulth nations along the west coast of Vancouver Island.

The baby orca was alone. She wasn't old enough to survive on her own. She would need to head out to sea to find her family.

The problem? Her way out of the lagoon was blocked by a sandbar. Even at high tide, the young whale wouldn't swim over it.

To the rescue

The nearby **Ehattesaht** First Nations community gave the young orca a name. It is k^wiisaḥiʔis (pronounced kwee-sa-hay-is) or Brave Little Hunter.

Along with whale experts and veterinarians, First Nations members monitored the orca. She seemed to be healthy and swimming well. They fed her some seal meat.

They also tried to get Brave Little Hunter out of the lagoon. They tried luring her with meat, whale calls, and violin music. They tried catching her in a sling and airlifting her using a helicopter. They tried herding her with boats. But nothing worked.

Free at last!

The calf stayed in the lagoon for about a month. Then, on a calm, starlit night, Brave Little Hunter crossed over the sandbar at high tide and out into the open ocean. She did it all by herself. Only a few local residents saw her leave.

Once in deeper waters, her behaviour seemed to change. She sped away.

“It’s been a joyful day!” said the Chief of the First Nation later.

A biologist helping with the rescue efforts

called it one of the best experiences of his life. “It was just a great feeling knowing we’ve given her a great chance,” he said.

Go home, Brave Little Hunter

Whale experts hope the young whale’s family will hear her calls and reunite with her.

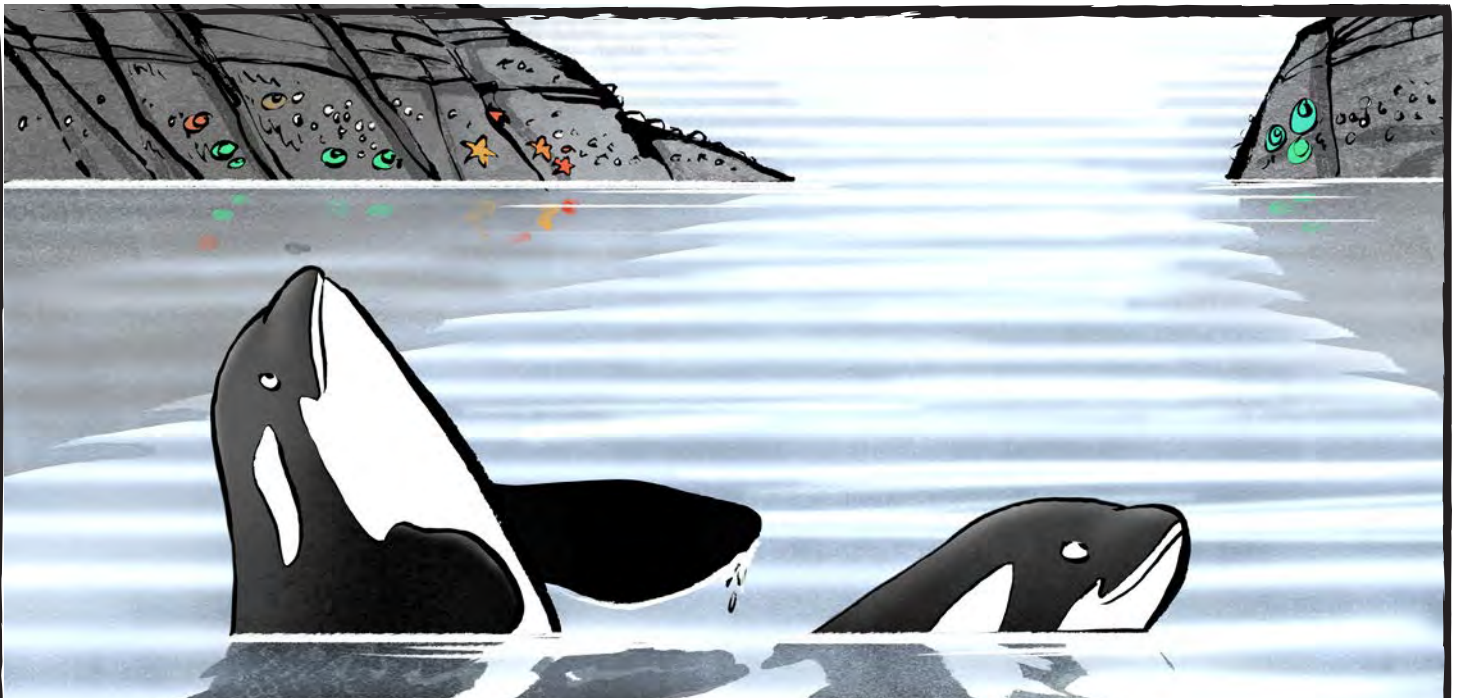
“She’s a two-year-old calf. Normally she would be very dependent on mom and the family group,” said one.

She can’t survive on her own. But her rescuers don’t want her to become used to people, either. It’s time for them to back off.

“Now it’s up to her. We’re very confident that she will meet up with her pod.”



As you see it, what is the importance of this story?



Brave Little Hunter comes from a pod of Bigg’s orcas. They are also called ‘transient’ orcas because they are frequently on the move.

So Long, Brave Little Hunter

Comprehension Check

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

_____ 1. The baby orca's way out of the lagoon was blocked by a sandbar.

_____ 2. The baby orca was named Brave Little Hunter.

_____ 3. The baby orca was lured out of the lagoon with meat.

_____ 4. The baby orca stayed in the lagoon for about a month.

_____ 5. The baby orca is five years old.

_____ 6. The baby orca can't survive on her own.

So Long, Brave Little Hunter

Language Focus

A *comma*, along with a *conjunction* (**and, but, or, for, nor, so**), is used to join two independent clauses (clauses that have a subject and a verb and can stand alone – complete sentences).

Example: It was a fun party. Now we are tired!

It was a fun party, but now we are tired!

Add a comma and conjunction to connect each set of sentences.

1. The baby orca was alone. She wasn't old enough to survive.

2. She seemed to be healthy. They fed her some seal meat.

3. They tried herding her with boats. She was trapped.

4. Do you like orcas? Would you rather study whales?

Can you join other independent clauses from the article together using a comma and a conjunction?

Lesson Plan

Before Reading:

- Using appropriate technology, view the video in the For Teachers section of **Internet Connections**. It shows how the plight of Brave Little Hunter started. Project or create a class-size version of the organizer **Problems-Solutions-Results** (p. 11). As a class, complete the first row together.

	Problems	Solutions	Results
<i>Mother orca</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Got stranded on a rocky beach in a lagoon & died 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draped her with towels & sheets to stop her skin from burning • Kept her wet to stop her skin from drying out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drowned

- Depending on the students' knowledge of this event, ask them to fill out as much of the remaining chart as they recall. Or, if you prefer, distribute a copy of the organizer to each student, or pair of students, to complete before reading the article. If students have little knowledge of this event, read the title of the article and headings aloud and ask them to make predictions—what will they learn about Brave Little Hunter in the article?

During Reading:

- As students read the article, have them underline or highlight important information that speaks to the problems, solutions, and results for the orca calf.

After Reading:

- Direct students to complete the chart, using evidence from the article. Then, invite students to complete a **RAFTS** activity in response to this news story. [See **Internet Connections** for a detailed explanation of this strategy.] Give students the choice of role, audience, format, topic, strong verb from the following chart:

Role	Audience	Format	Topic	Strong Verb
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brave Little Hunter • Ehattesaht First Nations • biologist, whale expert, or veterinarian • her family pod 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rescuers • Brave Little Hunter • General public • Orca's mother 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • letter • diary • comic strip • podcast 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • problems • solutions • results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • convincing • thanking • reassuring • educating • requesting

Lesson Plan

- **Criteria for Assessment:** An effective response *includes accurate details, offers plausible interpretations* of the events (likely to be true given the facts in the article), and *meets its goal* (strong verb).

Extensions:

- **Create a trading card:** Encourage students to use the links in **Internet Connections** to learn more about Bigg's orcas. Then, have them create a 'trading card' that summarizes important details about this species—appearance, behaviour, diet, population and range, and family structure.
- **Make a large timeline:** Divide the class into small groups. Assign each group one of the videos in the **Internet Connections** section "Watch the story of Brave Little Hunter Unfold". Task them with watching the video and recording the main events of their assigned video. Ask them to create a symbol for each of the main events. Then, as a class, collectively build a timeline showing the young orca's story.

Internet Connections:

- Find out more about this news story:
https://youtu.be/ExiRPYpA2jM?si=l77_jwJ7bP97B9Kt
<https://youtu.be/ZaUsCwpCZcA?si=v9U4Vu113lH1W3Wq>
<https://www.mapleridgenews.com/news/brave-little-hunter-active-as-push-to-return-orca-calf-to-family-continues-7336365>
<https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/in-efforts-to-save-brave-little-hunter-orca-a-community-pulls-together-8514720>
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2024/04/30/baby-orca-rescue-canada/>
- Watch the story of Brave Little Hunter unfold:
March 24th. Race is on to reunite orphaned orca calf with pod off B.C. coast:
<https://youtu.be/CIToJ5kwgeU?si=UIQ-YOGKxR2nC2mF>
April 4th. Dramatic rescue of stranded B.C. orca calf being considered: "Anything's on the table":
<https://youtu.be/mupmL4y72zY?si=-9TPWk6xrW52wOMa>
April 12th. Stranded baby orca rescue attempt off B.C. coast "close but unsuccessful":
<https://youtu.be/vuPZ-bl34Ro?si=pvKdUs39ngEOw7oP>
April 14th. Efforts to free trapped orca 'Our Brave Little Hunter' continue in B.C.'s Zeballos:
<https://youtu.be/usVhtTPTzKs?si=-XoYzR-AOLtDcX6T>
April 19th. Drone captures harrowing footage of a baby orca trapped in a B.C. lagoon:
https://youtu.be/Lit1kqteEEo?si=Z2w1xE1l_jnyllBe
April 20th. B.C. orca rescue: Trapped 'Baby Little Hunter' spotted eating for 1st time in 27 days:
<https://youtu.be/2p4ziQxDtko?si=vePqTJTplUUNGveV>
April 26th. B.C. baby orca: Stuck in lagoon for weeks, killer whale calf is finally free:
https://youtu.be/V6-SOp6CRXo?si=bt2O_xGNScAehXgw

Lesson Plan

- Learn more about Bigg's orcas:

<https://thewhaletrail.org/wt-species/transient-orcas/>

<https://georgiastrait.org/work/species-at-risk/orca-protection/killer-whales-pacific-northwest/west-coast-biggs-transient-killer-whales/>

- See where you can view the Bigg's orcas in B.C.:

<https://thewhaletrail.org/regions/british-columbia/>

- For Teachers:

Community races to save orca calf after mother drowns:

<https://youtu.be/ExiRPYpA2jM?si=NrYo5KS6w92J91Cc> [2:58]

RAFTS Strategy:

https://www.learnalberta.ca/content/ieptlibrary/documents/en/is/rafts_strategy.pdf

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

So Long, Brave Little Hunter

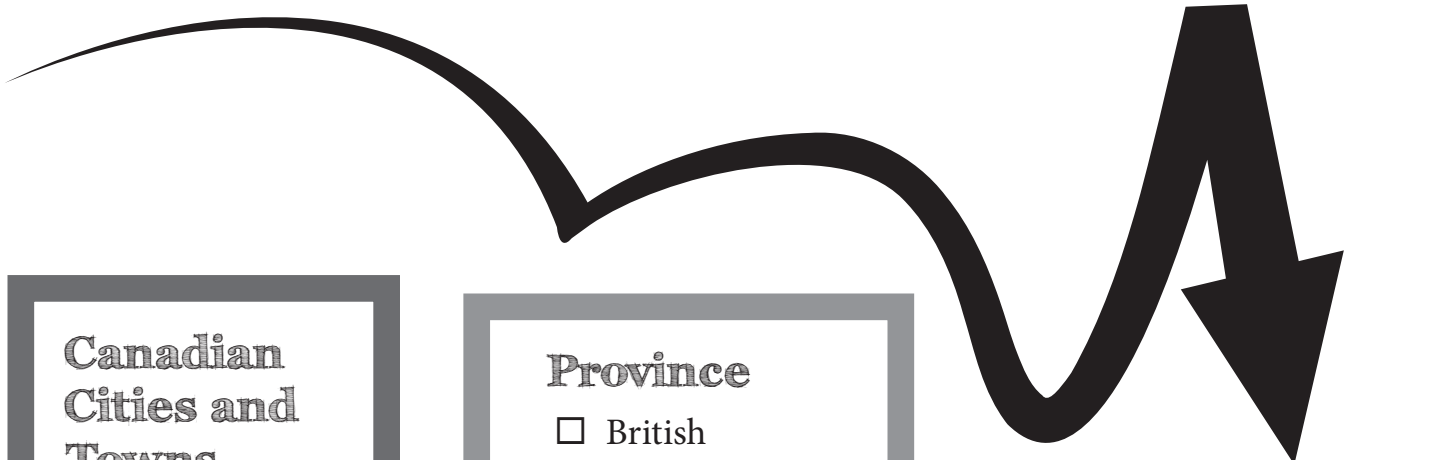
Problems and Solutions

	Problems	Solutions	Results
Mother Orca			
Brave Little Hunters			

Map: Vancouver Island

Complete this map assignment to help you better understand the context of the article *So Long, Brave Little Hunter*.

Label the following, then colour:



Canadian Cities and Towns

- Victoria
- Vancouver
- Nanaimo
- Port Alberni
- Tofino
- Powell River
- Campbell River
- Port Hardy

Province

- British Columbia

U.S. Cities

- Seattle
- Olympia
- Bellingham

Fresh Water

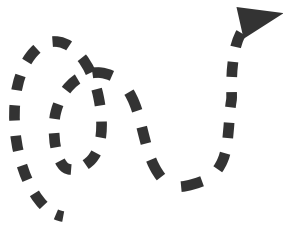
- Fraser River

Salt Water

- Pacific Ocean
- Salish Sea

Other

- United States
- Vancouver Island

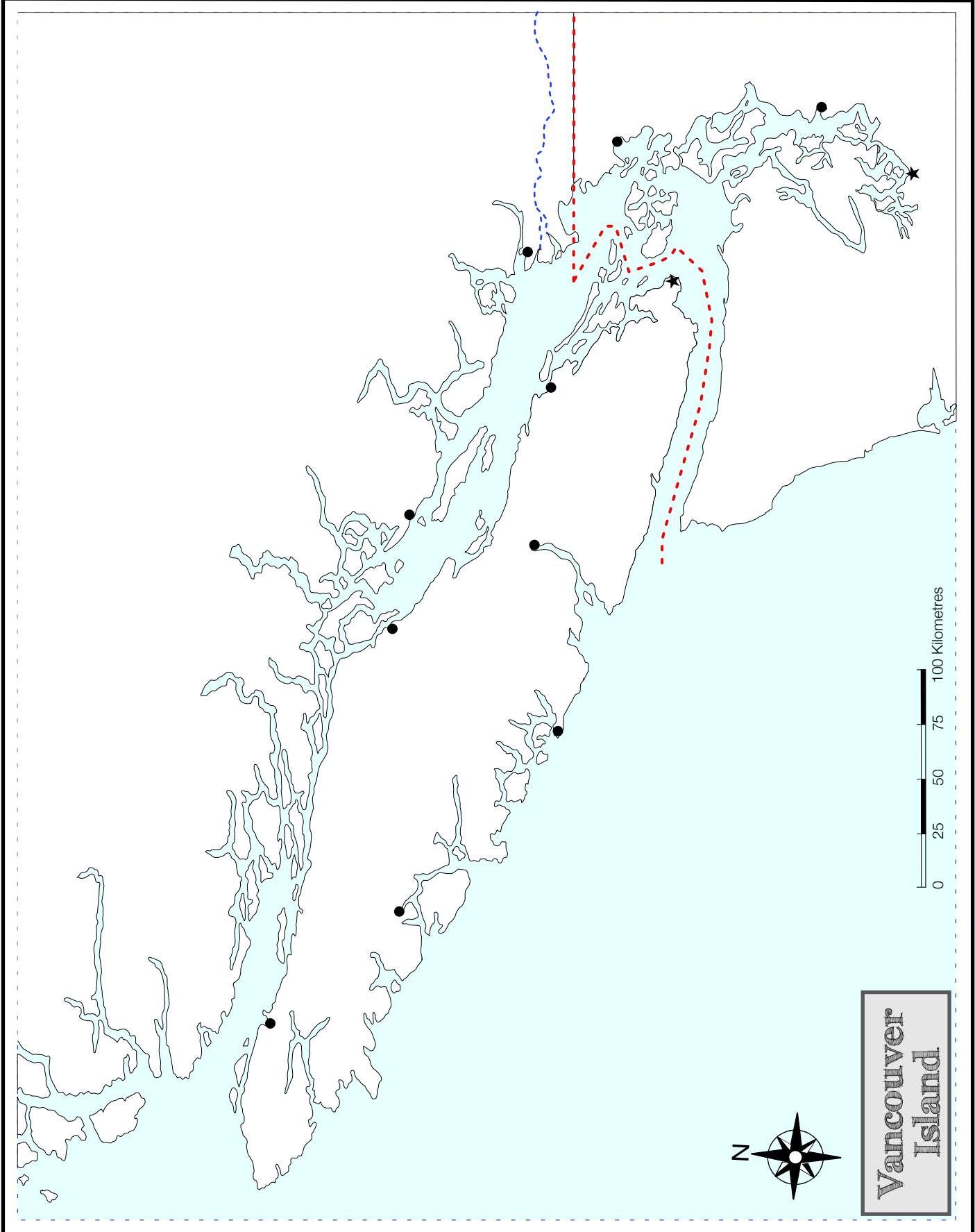


Did You Know?

Brave Little Hunter was trapped near the community of Zeballos on northwestern Vancouver Island.

Can you find and label this town on your map?

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



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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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?

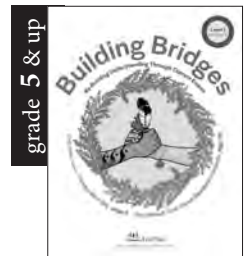
- ✓ PDF/Word resource
- ✓ National and international news stories
- ✓ Key vocabulary
- ✓ Background information
- ✓ Varied assignments that build content-area knowledge and enhance critical thinking
- ✓ Maps and illustrations



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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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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* Offer only applies to new subscriptions.

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THE CANADIAN READER

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