

Amazing Facts in Canadian History

Grades 4-6

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ISBN 1-55035-731-X

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Revised April 2007

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Published in Canada by:
S&S Learning Materials
15 Dairy Avenue
Napanee, Ontario
K7R 1M4
www.sslearning.com

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AMAZING FACTS IN CANADIAN HISTORY

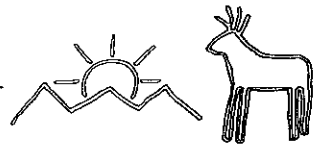


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Introduction

Those who study Canadian history are presented with two problems. The first problem is that some interesting or enjoyable stories are ignored because those who write the history books do not consider them to be important. Some examples are:

Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Jean Chretien do not use their first names.

Louis Riel thought he was a prophet.

Sir John Abbott, who later became Prime Minister, was a good friend of Hugh Allen who tried to bribe the federal government.

Sir John A. Macdonald had to walk to visit his clients because he could not afford to buy a horse and buggy.

Arthur Meighen could recite Shakespeare.

The second problem is that sometimes the facts that are presented as history cannot be truly documented. For example:

It was widely recognized that Robert E. Peary was the first white man to see the North Pole. However, many historians claim that this is not true.

There may or may not be a monster called Ogopogo in Lake Okanagan in British Columbia.

Did St. Brendan actually discover North America before the Vikings while searching for Brazil?

Pre-learning Activities

This book is designed as a series of quizzes that includes many strange and amazing facts of Canadian history. It does not deal with all of the important facts that students learn in school. Instead, by revealing little known facts, it gives a personal, intimate view of the people and events that made Canada what it is today. Each section of this book is designed to be used as a pre-learning activity. Prior to studying an event or a period in Canadian history, one of these quizzes could be used to arouse the students' interest or curiosity and help them to attain a different perspective on what they are about to learn. It should be used as a starting point for discussion.

The answers and the facts to support them are included after each quiz. The details needed to elaborate on the answer enables the student to further understand these historical events. There are also puzzles and logic problems included in this book. There are historical mysteries which ask the students to become historical detectives. The teacher can assign these mysteries to groups of students to solve or can present the mystery to the class and play a game of "Twenty Questions" to help the students figure out the answer. If the twenty questions routine is followed, the teacher should instruct the students on how to ask questions that require a "Yes" or "No" answer, but at the same time giving them the information they need.

The students can also start their own list of strange and unusual facts that they come across in their research throughout the year. They can also illustrate strange and unusual events on a bulletin board devoted to this subject.

Native Peoples

The native peoples of Canada were the first inhabitants of the land now known as Canada. They often refer to themselves as **First Nations**. They lived together in many different tribes, that each had its own customs, language and religion, in every natural region of the country. The native peoples of Canada spoke 53 different languages. They hunted in the forests and on the plains, and fished in the oceans, rivers and streams. The frozen North was home to the Eskimo and Inuit who survived on the tundra. These were the first Canadians who welcomed the Europeans and traded with them. The native peoples adopted the European language, clothing and customs and taught them how to survive in this new land. Later, the Europeans tried to adapt the natives to farming and wage labour. This opened up new opportunities for the natives but it also cost them their traditional way of life.

Here are some strange and little known facts about the First Nations of Canada and their lives before the coming of the Europeans. Since there were so many diverse tribes, some of these facts may only apply to one or a few, and not to all.



- The Plateau people sometimes spent the winter in **pit houses** which were often:
 - on the seashore.
 - on the ice.
 - in the forest.
 - partly underground.
- The Inuit hunters used a _____ when they were hunting seals.
 - kayak
 - spear
 - feather
 - net
- Which of the following did the Inuit use in the spring?
 - snow goggles
 - umiaks
 - ear plugs
 - dog teams
- A game invented by the Inuit was:
 - checkers.
 - cat's cradle
 - basketball
 - baseball
- The natives that farmed used a method of farming called:
 - terracing.
 - irrigation.
 - slash and burn.
 - crop rotation.
- The Micmac people grew:
 - tobacco.
 - potatoes.
 - rice.
 - lettuce.
- Who did the natives believe was responsible for all living things in their present form?
 - the Great Spirit
 - the sun
 - a trickster
 - the moon
- The medicine man of the tribe was called a:
 - chief.
 - shaman.
 - warrior.
 - meat eater.

9. The skins were processed mainly by the:
 - a) children.
 - b) slaves.
 - c) women.
 - d) men.
10. Girls were required to seclude themselves from the boys when they reached:
 - a) fifteen.
 - b) puberty.
 - c) five.
 - d) old age.
11. Men became members of different societies by:
 - a) marrying into that society.
 - b) becoming a great hunter.
 - c) becoming a great warrior.
 - d) purchasing a bundle from that society.
12. The natives who hunted buffalo used the bladder of the buffalo as a:
 - a) water bag.
 - b) football.
 - c) pot.
 - d) mocassin.
13. The main food for the Northwest People was the:
 - a) salmon.
 - b) whale.
 - c) beaver.
 - d) muskrat.
14. A cannibal monster the natives threatened their children with was called the:
 - a) Bogeyman.
 - b) Piranha.
 - c) Windigo.
 - d) Loch Ness.
15. The clothes were sometimes decorated with:
 - a) whalebones.
 - b) porcupine quills.
 - c) leaves.
 - d) flowers.



Answer Key

1. **d) partly underground.** In the winter, the Plateau people lived in pit houses dug into the ground - often in the bank of a creek. The walls were built of logs and sealed with earth and bark. The dome shaped roof was covered with boughs and poles and was insulated with earth and grass.
2. **c) feather** - The hunters would gather at a seal breathing hole in the ice. They would put a feather on the water in the hole. When the feather moved, they knew that a seal was breathing on it, and then they would use a harpoon to kill the seal.
3. **a) snow goggles.** They used snow goggles made from pieces of ivory or wood with long, narrow openings for the eyes to prevent snow blindness.
4. **b) cat's cradle**
5. **c) slash and burn.** The men cleared the land with stone axes and then burned it.
6. **a) tobacco.** The Micmac were the only natives to grow tobacco.
7. **c) a trickster** which was different in each tribe.
8. **b) shaman.**
9. **c) women.**
10. **b) puberty.** They also had to wear a large puberty hood during that period which might last over a year.
11. **d) purchasing a bundle from that society.** The medicine bundles were the focus of religious societies. Men purchased bundles from a junior society from its owners, who in turn purchased a bundle from another society.
12. **a) water bag.**
13. **a) salmon.**
14. **c) Windigo.** The windigo was a cannibal monster who killed humans to satisfy his enormous appetite.
15. **b) porcupine quills.** These were usually dyed different colours.