

CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC IN THE CLASSROOM

Article 'Commemorate Canada - Manitoba celebrates its 150th anniversary'
Issue July/August 2020

Time:
90 minutes

Developed by:
Canadian Geographic Education

Overview/focus question:
How did Manitoba join Canada? What can you see on the original map of Manitoba? What geographical features are prominent on the original map of Manitoba? Why would a map from 1871 be different than a present-day map? How would you create a map to show important features in the present day?

Subject/topic:
Physical Geography, History, Mapping

Grade level:
Grade 6 - 10

- Learning Goals**
- Students will learn how Manitoba joined Canada.
 - Students will examine the original map of Manitoba to identify different geographical features.
 - Students will learn why waterways were important when this map was created.
 - Students will reflect on the essential geographic features that are important in the present day.

- Materials Needed**
- Print or online copies of “Manitoba celebrates its 150th anniversary” by Angelica Haggert in the July/August 2020 edition of *Canadian Geographic* (pages 26-27)
 - A projector
 - Map of Manitoba worksheet and pencils
 - Computers or devices to access Google Earth



CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC IN THE CLASSROOM

Article 'Commemorate Canada - Manitoba celebrates its 150th anniversary'
Issue July/August 2020



Connection to the Canadian Geography Framework

Concepts of Geographic Thinking

- Spatial significance
- Patterns and trends
- Interrelationships
- Geographic perspective

Inquiry Process

- Ask geographic questions
- Interpret and analyze
- Communicate
- Reflect and respond

Geospatial Skills

- Foundational elements
- Spatial representations

Lesson Description

Minds on:

Students will be shown a map of Manitoba and asked to reflect on what they see, what they consider important and how they would use the map.

Action:

Students will read the *Canadian Geographic* article “[Manitoba celebrates its 150th anniversary](#)” by Angelica Haggert and study the differences and similarities between the original map of Manitoba and a current map. Students will learn the importance of waterways and create their own map showing an important geographical feature for the present day.

Conclusion:

Students will discuss the different features chosen within the class and complete an exit slip explaining their choice.

Lesson Implementation

Minds on

Using Google Earth, pull up a view of Manitoba and ask your students to examine it. Ask students what they notice, what they can see, and what sticks out to them as being important on the map. To deepen discussions, consider going to Map Style > Customized, and then adding/removing layers to learn more about the physical geography, urban landscapes and local weather patterns. Ask students what geographical features they recognize on the map. What features do they think are the most important, and why?

Ask students how they use digital maps in their daily lives and which tools are essential for providing a frame of reference. What kinds of symbols or features are they more or less likely to use? As a class, list some of the major differences between the digital maps we use today and the original hand-drawn, paper maps that explorers of old days used when describing voyages and landscapes. Then, ask them to come up with a few similarities as well.

CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC IN THE CLASSROOM

Article 'Commemorate Canada - Manitoba celebrates its 150th anniversary'
Issue July/August 2020



Action

Have your students read “Manitoba celebrates its 150th anniversary” by Angelica Haggert. Using a projector, display the original map of Manitoba that is in the *Canadian Geographic* article “Manitoba celebrates its 150th anniversary” and give your students a couple of moments to examine the picture and the text.

Hand out the Map of Manitoba worksheet to your students. Using both the map shown in the article about Manitoba and a current map using Google Earth, ask your students to compare the maps by identifying the key geographic features. They should use the features they notice on the original map and the key geographical features you identified as a class at the beginning of this lesson.

After students have had a chance to complete this exercise, review their answers as a class. Next, explain that one of the main features they should have noticed on the original map is the waterways. The waterways, such as rivers and lakes, are the main features depicted on the map in the article.

Give students time to complete the next part of the worksheet, where they are to come up with three reasons why waterways were significant back in 1871 when this map was created. After students have completed this part, take it up as a class. Examples of reasons why waterways were very important could include:

- Canada is unique in having more than one million square kilometres of fresh water , with many lakes and rivers that are interconnected throughout the country.
- It is possible to travel almost the entire country through its waterways.
- Boats and canoes were the primary sources of transportation (before roadways and railways were built) and were used extensively during the fur trade.
- People relied on fresh water for resources such as food (e.g., fish) and pelts (beavers, who live close to fresh water, were prized for their fur).

Finally, students are going to choose a geographical feature they consider most important for present-day maps. Using Google Earth, they are going to create their own map that focuses on their chosen geographic feature, creating a map similar to the original map of Manitoba, but of a location of their choice.

Conclusion and Consolidation

Have a class discussion about what different features students chose. Discuss how there is no right answer and that it all depends on where you live and what resources you need.

CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC IN THE CLASSROOM

Article 'Commemorate Canada - Manitoba celebrates its 150th anniversary'
Issue July/August 2020



Once students have completed their maps, ask them to write an exit slip that answers the following questions:

- What geographical feature did you choose to be the most important?
- What location did you choose for your map to represent?
- Why is this feature important to the area you chose?

Extend your geographical thinking

- Students can create a timeline of how maps have changed what they display over the years.
- Students can present their maps and ideas to the class.
- The class can participate in a debate/discussion about the different map features students believe are the most important.

Modifications

- Complete the worksheet as a class or in small groups.
- The maps the students are creating can be a group assignment, and the maps could be created to be much larger.
- Students can complete this activity virtually.
- Students can complete the whole activity independently rather than having class discussions.
- Exit slips can be optional for students.

Assessment Opportunities

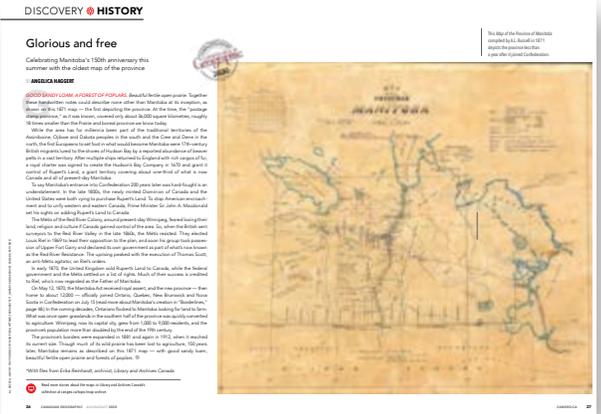
- Assess students' learning based on their participation in conversation throughout the lesson.
- Assess students' learning through the completion of the worksheet.
- Students' learning can be assessed through the exit slips.
- This activity could be handed in for a formal assessment.

Sources and Additional resources

- canadiangeographic.ca/article/eight-facts-about-water-canada
- thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/canals-and-inland-waterways
- indigenouspeoplesatlasofcanada.ca/article/rivers-lakes-and-water-resources/
- canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/water-overview/publications/water-in-canada.html

CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC IN THE CLASSROOM

Article 'Commemorate Canada - Manitoba celebrates its 150th anniversary'
Issue July/August 2020



MAP OF MANITOBA WORKSHEET

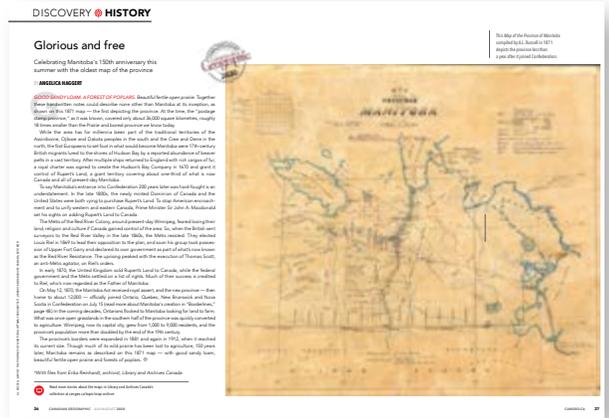
<p style="text-align: center;">Original map of Manitoba Key geographical features:</p> <hr/>	<p style="text-align: center;">Current Google Earth view Key geographical features:</p> <hr/>
<p>Similarities and differences:</p> <hr/>	
<p>I see _____ on the original map that I can find on Google Earth today.</p>	

List three reasons why waterways were important in the 1800s:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC IN THE CLASSROOM

Article 'Commemorate Canada - Manitoba celebrates its 150th anniversary'
Issue July/August 2020



Draw your own map, highlighting a geographical feature that you consider to be important. Make sure to include the following:

- Map title
- Scale
- Legend
- North arrow

CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC IN THE CLASSROOM

Article 'Commemorate Canada - Manitoba celebrates its 150th anniversary'
Issue July/August 2020



Answer the following questions about your map:

1. What geographical feature did you choose to be the most important?

2. What location did you choose for your map to represent?

3. Why is this feature important to the area you chose?
