

LM 2.6

Researching Black Canadians

What Black people or other groups have been involved in the history of Canada? Find out about one of these groups, and present your findings in the form of a wall display, research paper, short story, play, monologue, poem, song, or oral report.

Consider the following ideas:

- What Blacks came to Canada with Loyalists?
- Individuals mentioned in the text (pp. 60–62) such as: Josiah Henson, Harriet Tubman, David George, Richard Pierpoint, or Mary Ann Shadd
- Other famous Blacks such as:
 - Olivier Le Jeune (first African-Canadian)
 - Mathieu de Costa (helped establish Port Royal in Nova Scotia)
 - Alexander Ross (“conductor” in the Underground Railroad)
 - Osborne Anderson (helped John Brown attack Harper’s Ferry in West Virginia)
 - Anderson Ruffin Abbott (first Black doctor born in Canada)
 - Charles Mitchell (stowaway child freed in Victoria)
 - Sylvia and Louis Stark (helped start the Saltspring Island community)
 - Mifflin Wistar Gibbs (early leader of the BC Black community)
 - John Ware (cowboy)
 - Elijah McCoy (inventor)
 - Mattie Mayes (prairie settler)
 - Richard Preston (Nova Scotia church and community leader)
- Other organizations and places, such as the Victoria Pioneer Rifle Company (first all-Black militia unit), the Elgin Settlement (successful early Black community in Ontario), or Africville (in Halifax)

Alternatively, you could decide to research a more modern Black Canadian such as:

- Politicians and groundbreakers such as Leonard Braithwaite (first Black elected to Parliament), Wilson O. Brooks (first Black school principal in Toronto), Daurene Lewis (first Black woman mayor in Canada), Emery Barnes (longest-serving member of the BC legislature), Rosemary Brown (first Black woman elected to a provincial legislature), Lincoln Alexander (first Black elected to the House of Commons and first Black lieutenant-governor in Canada for Ontario), or Michaëlle Jean (first Black Governor General of Canada)
- Artists such as Measha Brueggergosman (opera singer), Rita Cox (storyteller), Oscar Peterson (jazz pianist), k-os (recording artist), Lillian Allen (poet and children’s author), John Alleyne (dancer), Claire Prieto (filmmaker), Wayne Salmon (photographer), or Neville Clark (visual artist)
- Sports figures such as Tammy Sutton-Brown (basketball player), Perdita Felicien (hurdler), Harry Jerome (runner), Ferguson Jenkins (baseball player), Jarome Iginla (hockey player), or Mike Smith (decathlete)

Cinquain Poetry

Cinquain poetry invites students to analyze a character, topic, theme, concept, or controversial issue. This writing strategy may be used after an investigation of primary or secondary sources.

Instructions:

To create a cinquain poem, students name a topic and then describe the topic by completing each line in the format shown below.

Summarize Basic Elements

Name:

Two adjectives:

Three Verbs:

Simile ("like a..." or "as a..."):

Synonym for the first line:

After reading a primary source recorded when Susan B. Anthony tried to vote in the nineteenth century.

Susan B. Anthony

Progressive, Intelligent

Enlightening, Crusading, Pioneering

As Visionary as our Founding Fathers

Righteous!

STUDENT SAMPLES

After reading the textbook about Marco Polo's adventures

Marco Polo

Curious, adventurous

Respected, well-traveled, learned

As knowledgeable as a sage

Traveler

Student Sample about History

History

Ancient, Contemporary

Discovering, Debating, Evaluating

History is like an Energizer Battery,
it keeps going and going and going...

Life