

FORT CALGARY TEACHER'S GUIDE- *BUILDING CALGARY*

Length: 1 hr 30 min Introduction 20 minutes
(Museum 30 minutes + Log Cabin 30 minutes + Conclusion 10 minutes)

Curriculum Connections:

Science: Topic C: Building Things particularly 1-7 and 1-8

Social Studies:

1.2.2 : Analyze how families and communities in the present are influenced by events or people of the past (ie: In what ways has my community changed over time?)

1.S.2: develop skills of historical thinking particularly “differentiate between activities and events that occurred recently and long ago”

1.S.5: demonstrate skills of cooperation, conflict resolution and consensus building particularly “work and play in harmony with others to create a safe and caring environment”

Program Overview:

During the visit to Fort Calgary, the children will be divided into two groups. One group will be taken into the museum where they will see and discuss various building techniques and materials used in historic Calgary homes and businesses. They will be involved in activities where they will use their bodies to imitate various building materials.

The second group will work together in the construction of a large model (135 cm X 155 cm X 125 cm) log cabin complete with a “sod” roof. The children will switch groups to participate in both activities.

Pre-Visit Lesson Plans:

- Read the excellent book *House on Maple Street* by Bonnie Pryor to learn about how the house on Maple Street changed from a First Nations camp, to a log cabin with sod roof, to a modern day family's home. This book is also available at the Fort Calgary Children's Library to read at lunchtime or can be purchased in our gift shop.
- Discuss building materials used in Calgary buildings: logs, lumber, brick, sandstone, concrete, glass and steel. Use newspapers, magazines or a walk downtown to see construction in action.
- Discuss the pros and cons of the various materials: wood burns, sandstone is not readily available now, brick, glass, steel, concrete are expensive but last a long time.
- Play a game with the children where they imitate inanimate objects with their bodies. Have other students be the builders and “build” the students by moving their body parts for them. i.e. furniture, musical instruments, books, etc.
- Visit many of the interactive, student-friendly Social Studies websites suggested at www.fortcalgary.com.

Post-Visit Lesson Plans:

- Visit *The Kid's Site of Canadian Settlement* under “Activities” > “games” and play the interactive game Sod House Living to review what you remember about sod houses: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/settlement/kids/021013-1003-e.html>.
- Have the students build a log cabin with popsicle sticks, stacking and gluing the sticks in place using the same building techniques learned at Fort Calgary.
- As a class, write and illustrate the story of a family moving across the country to settle near Fort Calgary and building their own home out of logs and sod.
- Draw up “blueprints” for a log cabin that would be better than the one you built at FC.
- Go on a walking tour of downtown Calgary (Stephen Avenue, City Hall, etc.) exploring the various building materials used in Calgary buildings and the changes between the older structures and the new. ie: compare the Calgary Tower to the Hudson's Bay building

Vocabulary

Mounted Police, Blackfoot, Settlers, sod, sandstone, logs vs trees, prairie, Fort Calgary, the past.