

# FORT CALGARY

## FORT CALGARY TEACHER'S GUIDE-CALGARY: A PRAIRIE COMMUNITY

**Length:** 1hr 30 min.

Intro/Map	approx. 20-25 minutes
Culture: NWMP/Settlers	approx. 20 minutes
Culture: Missionaries/First Nations	approx. 20 minutes
Conclusion	approx. 15-20 minutes

### Curriculum Connections:

- 2.1.1 acknowledge explore and respect historic sites and monuments
- 2.1.1 appreciate how a country's physical geography shapes identity
- 2.1.3 investigate the cultural and linguistic characteristics of a prairie community in Canada
- 2.2.1 appreciate how stories of the past connect individuals and communities to the present
- 2.2.2 appreciate how Aboriginal and Francophone peoples have influenced the development of the student's community
- 2.2.3 appreciate the importance of collaboration and living in harmony
- 2.2.6 analyze how the community being studied emerged
- 2.2.7 examine how the community being studied has changed

### Program Overview:

Students will start by helping the facilitator to build a giant topographical map of the Calgary prairies using props to represent the various communities that settled and the landforms/natural resources that were already present. The entire class will wear and/or hold costumes and accessories from one of the founding communities of Calgary's Past (First Nations, NWMP, Missionaries and Settlers). The class will then divide into two groups and will learn how to say "hello" in at least two languages common to the early people of Calgary. Each group will handle artifacts to learn about the unique cultural characteristics of the four communities with a focus on celebrations. The facilitator will guide the students in a group discussion based on inquiry and critical thinking. They will discuss similarities and differences in cultural characteristics based on their own observations and will discover ideas of continuity and change through history. The students will then switch activities. The conclusion consists of a review and a discussion about Calgary today by returning to the map.

### Pre-Visit Lesson Plans:

- Introduce or review mapping skills, particularly the cardinal directions and the idea of topography
- Orient children to the concept of the past and the recent past ie: related to the story of your family
- Have a discussion about what a community is: living, working, playing, helping, caring and collaboration, based in a discussion of the present community in which the students live
- What is a celebration? Brainstorm with your students all the celebrations that they have participated in (ie: Birthday, Weddings, Easter, Hanukkah, Ramadan). Discuss what it is that makes it a celebration (food, music, people, fancy clothes, etc...)
- Discuss the detailed and vibrant picture book *Home* by Jeannie Baker (Greenwillow Books: 2004) How does Tracy's community change as she grows up? What stays the same? What was the best change that happened? The worst? How does change in our community make a difference in our lives? Have you noticed any changes in your community from when you were little to now? Family life? School? This book is also available at the Fort Calgary Children's Library to read at lunchtime or may be purchased in our gift shop
- Compare and contrast the Inuit community with the First Nations/Blackfoot community who lived on the prairies where Calgary is today? How does the geography around these two groups inform the way that they live? How are they similar? How are they different?

### Post-Visit Lesson Plans:

- Greetings in various languages – Practice simple phrases from the Mother Tongues of your own unique students
- Discover the different homelands of your class, some of the celebrations observed, and the ways they are celebrated. Are there food recipes that can be prepared and served for the class? Have a diversity celebration!
- Discuss the similarities and differences between the Aboriginal and the European way of life to expand on concepts of cultural diversity and identity in Calgary's past.

### Vocabulary:

NWMP/Mountie, First Nations/Blackfoot, Missionary, Settlers, a celebration, the past, church, tipi, buffalo, Bow and Elbow rivers