



MEET THE MOUNTIES

Length

1 Hour (ECS) / 1 hour 30 minutes (Grade 1)

Intro/Puppet Show	20 minutes
Artifact Handling	20-30 minutes
Ranks & Recruitments	20 minutes (Gr. 1 only)
Picture Hunt/Backyard Play	15-20 minutes

Curriculum Connections

Social Studies

Kindergarten	K.1.4 / K.2.2 / K.2.4 / K.S.1 / K.S.2 / K.S.7 / K.S.8
Grade One	1.1.3 / 1.2.1 / 1.2.2 / 1.S.1 / 1.S.2 / 1.S.5

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Students will be able to identify that the Fort Calgary site is the origin place of their city.
2. Students will recognize the story of the arrival of the NWMP at Fort Calgary in order to help students feel a personal connection to history.
3. Students will be introduced to the museum as a place of learning and exploration filled with artifacts, exhibits and specific behavioral expectations.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Students will be introduced to the story of the Northwest Mounted Police at Fort Calgary by a jackrabbit puppet named Jack. Students will learn about Jack's ancestor and his experience with the arrival of the Mounties. Students will listen to an audio recording of what the prairies might have sounded like when the Mounties arrived.

During the artifact handling exercise, students will be given the opportunity to handle artifacts from NWMP officers. The students will be divided into 4 groups, each with an adult chaperone, and will handle artifacts while sitting around a carpet station. This is a great opportunity for inquiry-based discussions about objects.

Grade one students will be given the opportunity to participate in the ranks and recruitment drills of a NWMP officer. They will learn to salute and march as well as take their oath of allegiance. This portion is approx. 20 minutes long and contributes to a 1 ½ hr program.

Continuing in their groups, students will travel in the museum with their adult chaperones looking for the actual object that matches the image they have in their picture hunt booklet. This is also a chance to explore the museum's exhibits, many of which are interactive.

PREPARING YOUR CLASS

1. Review vocabulary words to prepare students for their visit.
2. Discuss what a community is: living, working, playing, helping, caring and collaboration, based in a discussion of the present community in which the students live.
3. Discuss the definition of First Nations and have the students understand that there are various, separate, and unique First Nations communities living across Canada. You can do so if you compare and contrast the Inuit community with the First Nations/Blackfoot community who lived on the prairies where Calgary is today. Talk about how the geography around these two groups informs the way that they live such as natural resources available, food source, and climate. Discuss with them how are they similar and how they different.
4. Discuss the concept of settling and how the settlers had to make a difficult journey to come to the prairies. Discover where the settlers would have come from originally (France, Britain, Ukraine, etc.) and why they would come all the way to Calgary.
5. Discuss who the NWMP were and what their role on the prairies was. Discuss why they came to the North West Territories and that it was the NWMP that built and help to establish this area for the settlers.

VOCABULARY

Aboriginal Peoples – the descendants of the original inhabitants of North America. First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples have unique heritages, languages, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs

Artifact – any object manufactured, modified or deliberately shaped by humans. Includes tools, weapons, ceremonial items, art objects, garbage, clothing and all food remains

Community – a group of people with commonalities that may include culture, language, values and beliefs, interests, practices and ways of life, history, and/or geographically defined shared space

First Nations – refers to the various governments of the First Nations peoples of Canada. There are over 630 First Nations across Canada with 46 in Alberta

Fort Calgary – the birthplace of the city of Calgary, and the original location of the North West Mounted Police fort built at the confluence of the Bow and Elbow Rivers in 1875

Group – people who are together and connected by shared interests and characteristics

North West Mounted Police – a police force established in 1873 to maintain colonial law and order in the newly acquired North West Territories

Past – the time before now and today

Prairie – a large, mostly flat area of land that has few trees and is covered in grasses

Settlers – a person who has moved to an area and established a permanent residence there

Tipi – the traditional home of First Nations people living on the prairies. It was typically made from lodge-pole pines and buffalo hide. It was constructed so that it was portable so that the First Nations could move their home around the prairies