



A LESSON PLAN TOOL KIT FOR GRADE 4 TEACHERS IN ALBERTA

This tool kit provides lesson plans for in-class and on-site activities using the Province of Alberta's grade 4 Social Studies requirements.

The on-site activities in these learning tools apply the existing curriculum to lessons that can be taught in the unique and beautiful location of the Cave and Basin National Historic Site, Alberta.

SITE DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
<p>The Cave and Basin National Historic Site commemorates the birthplace of Canada's national park system, which began there in 1885. The growth and development of Canada's national parks are celebrated on-site with interactive displays and exhibits. Naturally occurring warm mineral springs can be found inside the cave and outside in an emerald coloured basin.</p> <p>For a full historical background of the site visit the website: http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/lhn-nhs/ab/caveandbasin/natcul.aspx</p>	<p>Banff National Park is located in the province of Alberta in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. It is situated 128 km west of Calgary, 401 km southwest of Edmonton and 850 km northeast of Vancouver.</p> <p>Maps: http://www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/ab/banff/visit/localisation-location/b.aspx</p>
CURRICULUM UNITS	OTHER ATTRACTIONS
<p>Alberta: The Land, Histories and Stories</p> <p>4.1 Alberta: A Sense of the Land</p> <p>4.2 The Stories, Histories and People of Alberta</p> <p>4.3 Alberta: Celebrations and Challenges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banff Park Museum National Historic Site, open May to October http://www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/ab/banff/index.asp Upper Hot Springs http://www.pc.gc.ca/voyage-travel/sources-springs/banff/banff.aspx Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies http://www.whyte.org/
BEFORE YOU GO...	ACCESSIBILITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check the visitors' website for hours of operation: http://www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/ab/caveandbasin/visit/visit1.aspx Be sure to bring a lunch, as there are no restaurants on site. Entrance fee is \$1.90 per student. Be sure to bring pencils, paper and print enough activity attachments for each student. 	<p>Most of the site, including the Cave, is wheelchair accessible.</p> <p>Contact caveandbasin@pc.gc.ca for more information.</p>

TEACHER TIPS

Ask about enhanced experiences, including customized programs and after-hours lantern tours.

caveandbasin@pc.gc.ca

A welcome centre has site orientation and walking trail information.

Check for up-to-date [information](#) on hours of operation and events.

Before you go, watch this [YouTube](#) video for a preview of the Cave and Basin National Historic Site.



ACTIVITY 1 IN-CLASS ACTIVITY

PREPARING YOUR STUDENTS FOR THE CAVE AND BASIN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE - THE BIRTHPLACE OF CANADA'S NATIONAL PARKS

In the classroom, begin with a brainstorming session. Teachers can record student responses to the following inquiry questions in a mind map on the blackboard or chart paper:

1. What kinds of 'parks' are there in Canada?
2. What do people like to do in parks?
3. What is a national park? See if students can name any.
4. Have you ever visited a national park? Which ones?
5. What do you think makes a national park different from other types of parks?
6. What are the benefits of having national parks (i.e. maintaining natural ecosystems, protection for plants, landscapes and animals, etc.)?

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES

1. If you could save anything in your house so other members of your family could see it 100 years from now, what would you save for them to see and why?
2. What is a national historic site? See if students can name any.
3. What types of things would be protected at a national historic site?
4. How does a national historic site help Canadians understand their country?
5. Why are national parks and historic sites important to Alberta and Canada?
6. Why would a government want to protect and make sure people know about these places?

WHERE ARE CANADA'S NATIONAL PARKS AND HISTORIC SITES?

Using a map, such as the one found here, <http://www.pc.gc.ca/voyage-travel/index.aspx>, students can situate themselves geographically to help answer the following questions:

1. Can you locate Alberta on a map? Looking north, south, east and west, what do you see?
2. Can you name the different geographical and geological features found in Alberta (prairie regions, forests, lakes and rivers, Rocky Mountains, oil sands, hoodoos)?
3. Why do you think most national parks are found along the Alberta-B.C. border?
4. By looking at the map of Alberta, can you guess why cities and towns exist where they do?

TEACHER TIPS

Existing for a over a century, [Parks Canada places](#) are protected by law for public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment while being maintained in an unimpaired state.

There are 44 national parks, 167 national historic sites and 4 national marine conservation areas in the [Parks Canada system](#).

[National historic sites](#) are located in all provinces and territories, in urban, rural and wilderness settings.

[Cave and Basin](#) National Historic Site commemorates the birthplace of Canada's national park system.



ACTIVITY 2 ON-SITE ACTIVITY

DISCOVER THE CAVE AND BASIN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE BY USING YOUR SENSES ON A DISCOVERY WALK!

Please note: Students will need the attached checklist titled *Worksheet 2* and a pencil.

This chart will be used as a reference for the in-class Activity 5.

Walk along the 0.4 km Discovery Boardwalk Trail, above the bathing pavilion, to see the cave vent and the location of the former hotel. View the two smaller springs bubbling from the mountainside and the pools filled with pink bacteria, white and green algae, small fish and insects.

Students will walk through the historic site and note down observations based on their sense experiences using the senses chart.

ACTIVITY 3 ON-SITE ACTIVITY

TIME TRAVEL THROUGH THE CAVE AND BASIN'S PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Please note: Students will need a pencil and a paper divided into a triptych with the three sections labelled *past, present and future*.

This triptych will be used as a reference for the in-class Activity 6.

THE PAST

In the South Belvedere, there are two murals depicting aspects of the "discovery" of the Cave and Basin. Ask students to look at the two murals, the one by Don Frache and the one by Roland Rollinmud. The Don Frache mural depicts CPP rail workers viewing the Cave and Basin for the first time and the Roland Rollinmud mural depicts the First Nations history at the site.

Use the guiding questions below to help your students develop ideas of the past and sketch concepts:

1. What story do you think is being told in each mural?
2. How are the murals similar and how are they different?
3. For a long time, only the mural of Frank McCabe and brothers William and Tom McCardell was shown, depicting the discovery of the Cave and Basin. Why do you think this has changed?

PRESENT AND FUTURE

Ask students to think about the past, present, and future of the Cave and Basin National Historic Site as they tour it. When they see something of particular interest to them, they should make a sketch of what they see. Each sketch should address one of the following about the national historic site:

PAST: Former uses of the area by animals or people.

PRESENT: Things they have seen during this current trip to the national historic site.

FUTURE: Ideas of how the park may be used in the future, or how it needs to be preserved for future use.

TEACHER TIPS

What is that **smell**? The warm waters dissolve minerals such as pyrite and gypsum found in the surrounding rock. The rotten egg odour is produced when sulphate reducing bacteria breaks down those dissolved minerals in the water before it surfaces.

Plan on checking out the [interpretive media exhibits](#) for the full story on the birthplace of Canada's park system.

An argument (between Frank McCabe, the McCardell brothers and the Government of Canada) over who owned the hot springs led to the creation of a growing system of protected [parks, historic sites and marine conservation](#) areas that we enjoy today across Canada.

In 2010, Roland Rollinmud was commissioned to create a mural that would tell the story of the Stoney Nakoda First Nations' connection to the Cave and Basin. The Stoney Nakoda's used the thermal waters as a sacred, spiritual place for generations, prior to its discovery by the McCardell brothers and Frank McCabe.





ACTIVITY 4 ON-SITE ACTIVITY

EYE SPY WITH MY NATURE EYE

Please note: Students will need the attached checklist titled Worksheet 4 and a pencil.

This chart will be used as a reference for the in-class Activity 6.

Explore the 0.5 km Marsh Boardwalk Trail to find out more about the natural history of this area.

Look for the plant and animal life that live in the wetlands. Have students observe and complete the "Eye Spy with My Nature Eye" chart provided.

ACTIVITY 5 IN-CLASS ACTIVITY

LOOKING AT THE CAVE AND BASIN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE THROUGH A DIFFERENT LENS

Please note: Students will need their Worksheet 2 chart from the on-site activity.

Have a post-visit discussion by asking students to take a historical perspective and do the following:

1. Imagine you were hiking along Sulphur Mountain in 1885 and you came across the warm thermal waters of the Cave and Basin, as it was without any man-made additions. With a partner, discuss what your first thoughts might have been. Would they be different from your thoughts about the site today?
2. Based on what you imagine seeing that first time at the Cave and Basin, why do you think this landscape needs to be protected?
3. Ask students to write a "What am I?" question for two objects or persons they recorded using the Activity 2 Worksheet. Students can describe their mystery with a classmate who will then try to guess what it is.

ACTIVITY 6 IN-CLASS ACTIVITY

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE CAVE AND BASIN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE WITH OTHERS!

Please note: Students will need their Activity 3 sketches and Activity 4 (Worksheet 4) chart.

This final activity will allow the students to use all of the information they have gathered at the Cave and Basin National Historic Site and create a final product for teacher evaluation.

Ask students to create a poster or pamphlet for visitors to the Cave and Basin National Historic Site. Use the sketches and chart from Activity 3 and Activity 4. Students can select a theme or demonstrate their understanding of the full scope of the park.

TEACHER TIPS

The Marsh Boardwalk Trail is a 0.5 km trail. Here you will find more about the natural history of this area.

Google "archival images Cave and Basin National Historic Site" for a fascinating glimpse of Cave and Basin over the years!



WORKSHEET 2

**DISCOVER THE CAVE AND BASIN USING
YOUR SENSES ON A DISCOVERY WALK**

SEE	
HEAR	
SMELL	
TOUCH	



WORKSHEET 4

EYE SPY WITH MY NATURE EYE

WHAT	WHERE	DESCRIPTION: COLOURS, SIZE, QUANTITY, ETC.
TREES		
MARSHES		
MOUNTAINS		
MOSS		
WATER		
ALGAE		
ANIMALS		
FLOWERS		
OTHER		