

Early Settlers in the Ottawa Valley



School Program Teacher Overview *Canadian Museum of Civilization*

Introduction

The Early Settlers Program has been designed to provide an interactive experience which will enhance your study of the Ottawa Valley's first European settlers. During their exploration of the challenges faced by these pioneers, your students will take part in roleplaying activities, interact with a historical character, and learn about important topics such as early resource industries and daily life in a lumber camp. Please divide your group in two prior to your Museum visit.

Goals

Our primary goal in this Program is to capture your students' imaginations and bring history to life. However, we have also ensured that the Program actively supports your curriculum by fostering an appreciation of early European settlement in the Ottawa Valley, as well as the contributions made by settlers to the development of Canada.

Program Content

From the Museum's unique vantage point on the banks of the Ottawa River, your students will journey back in time to the Canada Hall, where they will enter our recreation of an Ottawa Valley lumber camp. One of the highlights of the Program is an interactive encounter with the camp's shanty cook, Rolland, who offers up a hearty meal and tales of camp life. Your students will also have a unique opportunity to explore the material culture of nineteenth-century rural life as they handle authentic artifacts and take part in a tableau vivant, making them a living part of a historical scene. From thought-provoking games to entertaining activities, the Early Settlers Program ensures that history is made both relevant and meaningful to your students.

Duration, Times and Reservations

- 90 minutes
- Tuesday to Friday: 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- To make your reservation, please call Group Services at (819) 776-7014

Grade Levels

- Ontario — 3–8
- Quebec — Cycle 2 to Secondary 2



Specific Learning Outcomes

In addition to providing a general appreciation of the challenges faced by early European settlers in the Ottawa Valley, this Program offers your students experiences which will deepen their knowledge and understanding in a number of specific areas. Through this program, your students will gain:

- Knowledge of the geography, prehistory and natural resources of the Ottawa Valley.
- Knowledge of the origins of immigrants to the region, and the lives they led during the nineteenth century.
- An introduction to the many challenges settlers faced, both en route and upon arrival.
- An understanding of the importance of the timber trade in the development of the Ottawa Valley.
- An ability to describe the work and daily lives of lumberjacks in the lumber camps.
- An understanding of the valuable contributions made by women and children, who were forced to fend for themselves when the men were away in the forests.



Curriculum Links

In order to support Ontario and Quebec curricula, this Program has been tailored to enhance your classroom content. Specific curriculum links for some levels are outlined below.

Ontario

Grade 3 — Social Studies; Heritage and Citizenship — Pioneer Life

- Early settlers and their origins, including descriptions of their lives and contributions to the region.
- Changes that have occurred in these communities since the days of the early settlers.

Grade 3 — Social Studies; Canada and the World Connections — Urban and Rural Communities

- The distinguishing features of urban and rural communities.
- Relationships between communities and their natural environments.
- Similarities and differences among people, places and environments.

Grade 4 — Social Studies; Canada and the World Connections — the Provinces and Territories of Canada

- The physical features of various regions within the provinces and territories.

Grade 7 — History; British North America

- The origins and development of English settlement in Canada during the late eighteenth century.
- Strategies used by early settlers to help them adapt to their new land.

Grade 7 – Geography; Natural Resources

- How Canada's natural resources have contributed to its economic development.
- Factors that affect the use and value of natural resources (e.g., supply and demand, technology).
- How human activity (e.g., canal-building) affects people and the environment.

Grade 8 — History; Confederation

- Overview of the diverse groups and individuals who contributed to the formation and growth of Canada.

Grade 8 — History; Canada — A Changing Society

- How diverse groups and individuals have contributed to the historical, cultural, and economic development of Canada.

Quebec

Cycles 2 and 3 — Social Sciences; Geography, History and Citizenship Education

- Competency 1: understanding of the organization of a society and its territory.
- Competency 2: interpretation of changes in a society and its territory.

- Competency 3: awareness of the diversity of societies and their territories.

Secondary 1 — General Geography;

- Module 5: elements of human geography.

Preparing Your Class

In order to ensure that your class gets the most out of this unique educational experience, we encourage you to consider the following pre-visit activities:

- Explore our virtual exhibition of the Canada Hall online at www.civilization.ca.
- Study a map of the Ottawa Valley on which waterways are clearly identified. Discuss how these might have been used in the lumber industry.
- Research streets in the region named after people associated with the lumber industry (e.g., Sparks, Booth, Wright, Gilmour, Eddy).
- Study old photographs of the Ottawa Valley (e.g., the depiction of the Parliament Buildings on the old one-dollar bill).

Post-Visit Activities

To help fix the lessons your students have learned during their Museum program, you may want to consider some of these follow-up activities:

- Have your students investigate their own family trees and do a bit of research into one of their countries of origin. Ask them to share five interesting facts about this country with the class.
- Ask each student to write a letter from a lumberjack to his family, describing living conditions in the camps and the lumberjack's concerns about his family and his farm.
- Ask your students to research the lives and stories of historical figures from the Ottawa Valley such as Samuel de Champlain, Philemon Wright, Colonel John By, Jos Montferrand, J.R.Booth and E.B. Eddy.
- Have your students design an Ottawa Valley collage using old magazines, newspapers, coloured cardboard and pencils. Each element of the collage must symbolize the history, geography and people of the region.

Evaluation

In order to ensure that our Programs remain helpful and relevant to your curriculum and to your students, we encourage all teachers to send in a post-Program evaluation. Evaluation forms will be provided onsite, and we hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to provide us with important feedback on your Museum experience.