

# LESSON PLANS

## THE GREAT MARCH WEST: NEW BEGINNINGS

**Recommended grades:** 1 – 4

**Time required:** 30 minute class lessons (can be combined for older students)

**Materials:** Map of Canada - 1873, 'North-West Mounted Police: A Brief History', Game Instructions, Printed Game Board, Pieces and Dice (From PDF's)

### INTRODUCTION

Who were the North-West Mounted Police? Why are they so important to our story of Alberta? In the form of a game board, students will observe archival photos and read authentic stories around the beginnings of the North West Mounted Police. The students will follow the NWMP's 'Great March West' and discover how they built forts and established law and order in the Canadian west!

### OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will have learned:

- A brief history of the North-West Mounted Police. Why they were formed and their role in the building of the west, Alberta and Calgary.
- The areas of Canada that the NWMP policed and their importance in nationalism as a whole.

## **OBJECTS**

*Please Print for Use in Activity*

- Map of Canada – 1873 (Included on Page 7)
- NWMP History and Game Instructions (Pages following)
- In PDF form on the website you will find the following:
  - Game Board
  - Game Pieces
  - Information cards for use in the game
  - Men
  - Dice

# *THE NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE*

## *A BRIEF HISTORY*

*On May 23, 1873, a new law was passed. Sir John A. Macdonald and the Government of Canada would begin the formation of the North-West Mounted Police.*

*During that time, the Northwest Territories took up most of Canada and the west was full of whiskey traders and criminals that were taking advantage of our land and our people. Knowing we had trouble in the west, Prime Minister John A. MacDonald decided to put together a national police force. He would name them the 'North West Mounted Police'. The police force was being formed to bring law and order to the west and to establish relationships with the First Nations... the original inhabitants of the land.*

*They began their trek across our great land at Fort Dufferin, Manitoba on July 8, 1874, with policemen, riding wagons, drovers and cattle.*

*Having never travelled to this area before the N<sup>W</sup>M<sup>P</sup> didn't realize the treacherous task they were about to undertake and were not prepared for the trip. Without enough food or water, and horses that were not made to work, the troops quickly realized they were in for the journey of their lives!*

*97 days later...*

*The troop finally arrived at the Oldman River. This would be the location they would build their first Fort in the west... Fort Macleod. From here the N<sup>W</sup>M<sup>P</sup> would become the law of the land and bring order, friendship and protection to the natives, farmers and ranchers in this massive area now known as Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon and The Northwest Territories!*

## GAME INSTRUCTIONS

- 1) Split into 2 teams and choose a game piece. (Approx. 5-6 per team)
- 2) Decide which team will go north to Fort Edmonton and which team will go west. When you pass through 'Roche Percee' the teams will go in two different directions.
- 3) Beginning the game at Fort Dufferin, the men will be moved by a roll of the die.
- 4) If you land on:

● ~ Find the name of the fort and read the description out loud to both teams.

 ~ Read the story attached to the flag out loud to both teams.



~ Collect the game piece and read the description out loud to both groups. Keep the piece for scoring later.

(See KEY in top right of game board)

- 5) The first team to arrive at Fort Calgary gets '1 EXTRA POINT'...
- 6) BUT...the team with the most points and therefore the 'Highest Ranking' WINS!

# ACTIVITY PROCEDURES

## THE FORMATION OF THE NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE AND THEIR 'GREAT MARCH WEST'

*Find and print the 2 PDF files (Please print in colour if possible):*

- NWMP Game Board
- NWMP Game Pieces
  
- The game board will come on 4 pages; tape the edges together to create one large playing surface.
  
- Cut out and tape the game pieces, die and fort descriptions.
  
- Have the game cut out, taped and ready to go before instructing the class; this way they have a reference while explaining the rules.

1. Together as a group, introduce the North-West Mounted Police by reading the '*Brief History*' and showing the students the '*Map of Canada – 1873*'.

The North-West Mounted Police were formed in 1873 in order to bring stability to the Canadian west. They quickly became well known nationally and internationally for their role in the development of western Canada. In 1920 the NWMP were brought together with other police forces from across Canada and that year they formed the 'Royal Canadian Mounted Police'. Continuing with the very distinguishing colour of red, we still recognize the RCMP in their scarlet jackets as Canada's Police Force. Now a national icon, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police bring law and order to all of the 10 provinces and 3 territories of Canada.

## **THE GAME**

The goal of the 'Great March West' game is to allow students a fun and interactive lesson plan about the North-West Mounted Police.

Once the game board and pieces are ready to go, read the 'Game Instructions' to the class and split the students into groups of 5 - 6. Two teams will play on one board. (*Depending on the class size - It is recommended that 2 copies of everything are printed or that the groups take turns playing the game*)

As the game continues the students will be teaching one another as they read the information provided on the game board and cards.

Be sure both teams arrive at Fort Calgary before declaring a winner. The winner will be the team with the most points when they arrive at Fort Calgary!

Good Luck!