

CHAPTER 7: THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES

A. COMPREHENSION

1. Which of the three Prairie provinces is about three times more populated than either of the other two?
2. Which province is bordered on the northeast by Hudson Bay?
3. What is Alberta's most important industry?
4. Which two large cities in Alberta contain about two thirds of Alberta's population?
5. Which city in Saskatchewan is named after the delicious wild berries of the same name?
6. Which province is the largest producer of wheat in Canada and one of the largest wheat producers in the world?
7. What Métis hero was hanged as a traitor for standing up for his people?
8. Which religious group originally from Germany now has a strong presence in southern Manitoba?
9. What are the names of Winnipeg's two universities?
10. Which Prairie city has a huge floodway built around the city to protect the population from frequent flooding?

B. VOCABULARY RECOGNITION

Fill in each blank with a word from the list below.

buffalo	monotonous
dynamic	oil sands
glaciers	primary
humid	respite
inevitable	unpredictability

1. First Nations peoples living in the Prairies depended on the _____ for food and shelter for generations before white European colonizers came and settled on the land.
2. It is surprisingly _____ in Winnipeg due to the presence of the large Lake Winnipeg nearby.

3. It is very _____ to do the same thing again and again with no variety.
4. Grain farming is the _____ industry in Saskatchewan, although the oil industry is gaining in importance as development continues.
5. Workers and students alike need a _____ from time to time to relax and recharge.
6. Calgary is considered to be a very _____ city willing to try new and different things.
7. The _____ of the weather in the Prairies seems to be increasing, with warmer winters and more damaging tornadoes becoming more frequent.
8. The western boundary of Alberta is home to several large _____ whose ice is many thousands of years old.
9. If you live in a small town, it is _____ that you will meet someone you know when you go shopping, while in the city, this is less likely to happen.
10. The _____ are a mixed blessing for Canada. On the one hand, they bring a lot of money into the economy. On the other hand, they leave an ugly landscape behind their harvesting and use vast amounts of fresh water that cannot be regained.

C. WORD FAMILIES

At least one word in each word family below is from the text. Use your dictionary to find meanings and usage for the others if you need to do so.

VERB	NOUN	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB
	approximation		
bounded			-----
-----		legendary	-----
-----			roughly
symbolize			

Use each of the 16 words above in a sentence below:

1. His _____ of the distance between Edmonton and Calgary was off by over 100 kilometres.
2. Three hours is the _____ time it takes to drive between the two cities.

3. Can you _____ the number of days it would take an individual to drive from Vancouver to Toronto?
4. They give _____ the same amount of money to their church each month.
5. Saskatchewan is _____ by Alberta on the west and Manitoba on the east.
6. The _____ prisoner was humiliated by having to wear handcuffs during his flight.
7. The _____ between Canada and the United States is closely guarded to prevent illegal crossing of people or goods from one country to the other.
8. Wayne Gretzky has become a _____ in Canadian hockey.
9. The Sasquatch (or Bigfoot) is a _____ monster that some believe lives in the mountains.
10. The children were asked not to play so _____ with their baby sister.
11. The _____ of an unfinished hardwood floor can give you bad slivers if you walk on it barefoot.
12. The dishwasher's hands had become very _____ due to the amount of time they had spent in soapy water.
13. The red maple leaf on a white background is _____ of Canada.
14. Canadians were not pleased when the _____ of the Mountie was sold to the Disney corporation to be used on souvenirs.
15. The cross _____s Christianity, while the Star of David _____s Judaism.
16. The victory of Barack Obama in the American presidential election was _____ important to Black Americans.

D. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- » Cities need money to build rapid transit. They argue that provincial tax money should be used to support these expensive projects. What are some good reasons for everyone, urban and rural, to support this undertaking?
- » Tourism is an important industry in many parts of Canada, the Rocky Mountains being no exception. It is a mixed blessing: it brings dollars into the community to have people staying in hotels, eating at restaurants, and buying gas and souvenirs, for example. But it also brings garbage and air pollution and disturbs the calm of an otherwise beautiful natural setting in the Rockies. The government decided to allow a commercial enterprise into Jasper National Park which will build a huge observation deck and charge a large admission fee. The tourists will love it. The locals do not, and fear the consequences. What do you think?
- » The small family farms of past years are slowly becoming few in number. They are being replaced by large agri-businesses and the third- and fourth-generation children of farming families are seeking their fortunes in the cities. Agri-businesses use pesticides and herbicides, which are highly effective and fast-acting, in the cultivation process. However, they are also harmful to the land and many think they are also harmful to those of us who eat what is grown on land sprayed with those chemicals. More and more people want organic produce and are willing to pay more to get it. How can we encourage farmers to keep their family farms and grow the kind of healthy food we know is good for us?
- » Saskatchewan is the home of Tommy Douglas, the father of medicare in Canada. It is also the birthplace of a large cooperative movement that continues to shape the heart and soul of the people of Saskatchewan even today. This movement was born in the Great Depression, when money was very scarce and people had to help one another to survive. Can you think of examples in the world today where people are transforming bad situations into good ones through cooperation on small and large scales?