



The Canadian Adventure:

an interactive virtual trip across Canada

thecanadianhomeschooler.com

The Canadian Adventure

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This book was created solely as an educational tool.

Introduction

Growing up, my parents bought our family a trailer. Every summer, we hitched it up to our old station wagon and headed off on a grand adventure. We made it all the way west and all the way east (except for Newfoundland & Labrador!) At the time, I probably didn't appreciate that experience as much as I do now, but in retrospect – I'm so thrilled I got to experience and see things across our country that other people never get to see or do.

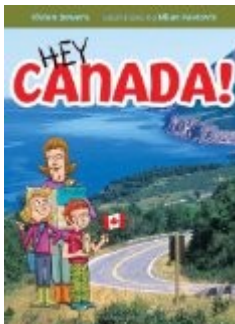
That was my inspiration for this series. To provide a small opportunity to feel that same wonder of Canada as I had. To see the differences from place to place and our history through experience instead of just books. For countless hours, I've scoured through websites, YouTube, Pinterest, my childhood memories, and more to pull together a full Canadian tour experience. A Canadian Adventure.

I invite you to join me on a trip around the great country of Canada. Together we will explore all the diversity, beauty, and uniqueness that makes our country wonderful.

We will start in Newfoundland & Labrador, and make our way west to British Columbia before heading north to the territories. We will visit tourist attractions, look for the little trails behind the scenes, try new foods and experience new things. We might even get messy – who knows?

I hope you and your kids enjoy this as much as I have had putting it together, reminiscing of my family travels and learning about destinations we never made it to. Happy travels.

What do you need?



For a main guide to our adventure, I'm using the book **Hey, Canada! by Vivien Bowers**. This book features 2 kids – Alice and Cal, on a Canadian adventure with their Gran (and Cal's pet hamster). It's just a fun way to explore the country and learn more about the places along the way. If you can get a copy of this book, it would make good reading and reference for our journey.

A computer with internet. Seeing as we can't actually get up and GO to all these places and actually travel around (although if you get the opportunity to actually do so – I recommend it!), the internet is going to be our next best thing. We will be using virtual experiences to discover our country. *{I do recommend not reading comments under videos on YouTube because I only watched the videos, not the comments beneath them.}*

An overview of Canada

Before we get too far, let's start with a **basic** overview of the country. What do you know already? What do you think you are going to see / hear / touch / experience?

1. An Introduction:

If you are following along with the Hey, Canada book - today, read the introductory section "*Get Ready, Canada. We're Coming*" (page 4-5), and take a look at the map on the following page. This is where Alice, Cal, Gran, and Hamster are going to visit - mostly the main cities and towns in each province.

- What big city is closest to where you live?
- What place interests you the most or looks like it might be neat to visit?
- Notice that when they head to the territories there is an airplane instead of a car? Why do you think that is?
- How long do you think it would take to drive from St. John's, Newfoundland all the way to Victoria, British Columbia? Would it be faster to cut through the USA to get there? Go to **Google Maps** and ask for directions from one to the other to see how long they think it would take and what route they say to take.

Watch this video about **Canada by Canadians**. Check out how different and beautiful our country is.

2. The Map.

Print out a copy of the **Canadian map with political boundaries**. Colour each province and territory a different colour and label them with their names. *Remember not to colour any land blue because that colour is for water.* You can colour the lakes and oceans blue if you would like.

Mark off the major cities on your map - at the very least, put the capitals of each province. Make sure to add in Ottawa. **Ottawa is the capital of all of Canada!** You might even want to put a star instead of a dot to mark it off.

When your map is finished, glue/tape/staple it into the front page of your scrapbook. This is going to be our big picture map for our travels. You can use it to keep track of where we are, where we've already been, and where we are going next.

Quebec

Quebec's history and culture is steeped in French heritage. This province is predominantly Francophone – which means that just about everyone speaks French first. Although there is a lot of land in this province, most of the people live near and around the St. Lawrence River.

1. Print out a **blank map of the province**. We will be using it to mark of the places we visit.
2. Read pages 21 – 25 in Hey, Canada! To find out what Gran, Cal, Hamster, and Alice experienced in Quebec.
 - Why is Cal their best bet for communication in Quebec? Do you think if you only speak English that it would be hard to have a conversation in this province?
 - Smoked meat is a tasty Montreal treat. Have you ever had it before? Would you want to try it?
 - If Montreal used to be an Iroquois village named Hochelega, where did the name Montreal come from?

3. **Bienvenue a Québec.**

4. Let's go exploring this province. Be sure to mark places on your map when you have finished.

Gaspésie

- Around the corner from New Brunswick on that section of Quebec that sticks out into the ocean is where we will find the region of Gaspésie. Here we're going to check out **Percé Rock**. This video shows a day in high speed **time lapse around the area**.

Quebec City

- The capital city of Quebec.
- Our first place to explore is the **Chateau Frontenac**. It's a fancy hotel. Here's a little information about its **history**. Take a **virtual tour** of what it looks like on the inside. See how the roof is green in all the photos? That's because it is made of copper – which turns green with erosion and weather. If you happen to have any pennies left, try this **experiment** to see learn what happens.

- This area of the city is known as Old Quebec. This is where the French arrived and settled 400 years ago. Take a ride on the **Funiculaire** – which connects the upper and lower part of Old Quebec (so you don't have to use the stairs!) Using the navigation arrows at the bottom of each page, start from **Chateau Frontenac**, and walk through the various sectors of this part of town, ending up at the Plains of Abraham – where the French and British fought for control of the city.
- We've arrived at the Citadel. Take a **virtual tour**. It's unique in design because it is in the shape of a star.
- In winter, the snow and cold here has historically been the incredible. So, to break up those cold days, Quebec throws a huge celebration called "**Carnival**." It has a mascot – a walking snowman named **Bonhomme**. There are ice carving competitions, an ice castle, games, food, and much more.
- Just outside the city, let's stop and visit the **Montmorency Falls** as we head out to see the **Basilique Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré**. This cathedral is a work of beauty – look at all the detail in the artwork.
- This area of Canada has a deep First Nations history. Learn more about the Wendat and the **trading system**. Just north of the city is **Wendake** – where you can explore more about First Nations culture, spend the night in a longhouse, watch a PowWow, and wander through **the museum**.

Montréal

- Take a **two minute tour** of the city.
- Let's start on Mont-Royal. Take a **walk through the park**. You can click on any of the marks on the map for an interactive tour. Check out **the view from the top**.
- Take a **photo tour through Old Montreal**.
- In 1966, Montreal was the home of the Olympics. Today, the area has been converted into a **Biodome, Insectorium, and Botanical Garden**. (This video is Rick Mercer taking a visit.) Take one of the educational **virtual tours through the garden**.

Les Laurentides

- This area is filled with **lakes and mountains** – making it a perfect place to relax. In the summer, you can go hiking or biking or canoeing. In the winter, you can go skiing.

5. The Province of Quebec produces something like 75% of the world's **maple syrup**. Have some pancakes with REAL maple syrup and enjoy this special treat. **Traditional Quebec foods** include **Tortiere**, **poutine**, and **Sugar Pie**. Try one of these yummy foods.

6. Print out a copy of **Crayola's Quebec colouring sheet**, colour in the provincial flag, bird and flower – the **blue flag**.

7. Create a scrapbook entry. Using pictures that you've cut out of the tourism materials or printed off the computer, combined with writing, drawings, and whatever else you'd like to include, make a journal entry to share about Nova Scotia as if you had actually travelled there. Share details about what you saw, where you went, what was amazing, etc. Make it colourful and fun.

8. Additional Ideas

- Get some books or videos from the library about Quebec. Look at the shelves for number 971.4.
- If you know anyone from Quebec, interview them about their favourite things from home.
- Complete some of the activity sheets found **here**.
- In the winter, make some **maple taffy in the snow**.

About The Canadian Homeschooler

My name is Lisa Marie Fletcher. I'm a homeschooling mom from Ontario who has a passion for helping others on their homeschooling journey. I have 4 boys & 1 girl– currently ranging in age from 11 to infancy. We've homeschooled since the beginning and haven't looked back.

When my oldest started school, we chose an American Christian boxed curriculum that came highly recommended by my already homeschooling sister-in-laws. While the program was excellent, I struggled with all the Americana that just didn't fit into my personal preference. I went on a hunt for a Canadian alternative. It was a very hard search, and involved a lot of fine-tooth combing and research.

I decided to start **The Canadian Homeschooler** as a way to share what resources I'd found. After all, there had to be other Canadians looking for the same thing! I wasn't wrong.

From there, the journey has lead to helping try and build a community amongst Canadian homeschoolers through Facebook and Twitter. I am super excited to see us coming together to support and encourage one another.

My heart is still to bring Canadian resources to Canadian homeschoolers – and so I continue to work towards that goal, aiming to help fill the holes in the market and connect the businesses with the people who need their products/services. I'm looking forward to seeing where this path leads.

I'd like to thank my support network for encouraging me towards that goal, including my online community. I hope this book, and everything I have planned for the future, helps our Canadian Homeschooling Community grow bigger and stronger.

Thanks for being part of it.

~Lisa Marie Fletcher

